

## **REPORT FROM BRASIL, July 15-19 2005**

This year's SCB conference in Brasilia was a resounding success! The conference was informative, beautiful, and fun, and will certainly leave a permanent mark on all who attended.

Local chapters had 3 activities at the conference this year: a chapter information booth, a dialogue with the North American section, and the annual chapter business roundtable. Many thanks to all of you who participated or contributed to these activities.

Below is the report on these activities. Please take extra note of 5 special items (underlined) regarding:

- 1) Hosting of the annual Chapter Information Booth (this could be you!)
- 2) The new resources for chapter support available from the SCB North American Section
- 3) Chapter representation at regional conferences
- 4) Request for assistance from 4 potential new chapters in Latin America
- 5) Exciting new chapter activities at the 2006 San Jose conference (your chapter is invited to be involved in these)

Best,

Fiona  
Chair, Chapters Advisory Committee

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### **I) Chapter Information Booth**

The first booth we've ever had for local chapters, and this will become an annual activity. It generated a lot of interest in current and potential chapters, and all handouts quickly disappeared (we xeroxed more). Chapters who contributed posters, flyers, or newsletters included: Bolivia, Berkeley, Colorado Plateau, Davis, Minnesota, Missouri, and Toronto. The SCB executive office donated a large world map on which we marked all the locations of active, inactive, and forming chapters. We also attached a list with all your websites or chapter contact information. The chapter Guidebook and other relevant materials were also available.

This year's booth host was Bolivia Chapter (thanks Alejandra and Jose)--every year it would be great to have a nearby chapter host this booth or table!

### **II) Chapter-Section Dialogue**

Good news! Steve Trombulak (president, NA Section), Alan Thornhill (Executive director, SCB), Paul Beier (Chapter-BOG liaison, 2003-2005), and Fiona Nagle (chair, Chapters Advisory Committee) started an on-going dialogue regarding potential relations between local chapters and regional sections. Steve was very enthusiastic! He really wants to hear from North American chapters about what they want and need in terms of building their SCB community and providing chapter members with professional development resources. Steve's email is [trombulak@middlebury.edu](mailto:trombulak@middlebury.edu).

We hope to continue this dialogue and open it up to other regional sections as more international chapters begin to form.

- 1) For starters, chapter support from North America Section includes:
  - A) The section offers to financially sponsor a special or keynote speaker for a chapter meeting, symposium, etc
  - B) If a chapter is forming or needs revitalization, the section can sponsor a speaker for a presentation and "chapter pep talk".
  - C) The section may have a small amount of money available for other chapter support. If you have a project that needs extra funding, please contact Steve for the status of these funds.
  - D) In return for chapter support, Steve encourages chapter members to also become section members. Regional policies and initiatives that affect local areas can really use the chapters' involvement and voices, especially on voting matters. More section information at:  
<http://www.conbio.org/SCB/Activities/Sections/NAmerica/>
  
- 2) Regional conferences of various organizations occur around the world, and SCB chapters now have an opportunity to represent themselves at these meetings. Alan Thornhill has offered to support and collaborate with chapters on hosting an SCB Information Booth at these meetings, and sections can be involved as well. This is an excellent opportunity for chapters to promote their group, create an educational forum, have free access to the conference, and strengthen their links to SCB and sections.  
If there are any meetings in your area in which your chapter would like to participate, please contact Fiona for more information ([finagle@umn.edu](mailto:finagle@umn.edu)). Chapters might also be contacted by Fiona or Alan about participating in conferences in their area.

### **III) Chapter Business Roundtable**

14 people attended the meeting, representing 9 active and future chapters. Experiences, concerns, and a really good Brazilian pizza were shared, and some excellent news, ideas, and projects came out of it.

#### **1) Chapter Activity, 2004-2005**

The SCB Board of Governors has chartered 46 local chapters, 22 of which are currently active. North America is home to 20 of these active chapters. The two active chapters outside North America are in Bolivia and East Africa.

Chapter "home ranges" vary from a single university to multi-state (Colorado Plateau Chapter encompasses parts of 4 U.S. states) or multi-country (East Africa Chapter encompasses 6 countries).

Most chapters are about 80% graduate students, but this also varies (Colorado Plateau has more professionals, Maine and Bolivia have more undergraduates).

Chapter Updates:	New (2)	University of Maine; East Africa (Nairobi)
	Forming (2)	Iowa State University; Ohio State University
	Sisters (2)	Davis-Bolivia; Berkeley-East Africa
	Inquiries (8)	Bhutan; China; Columbia; Oregon; Pakistan; Philippines; Slovenia; Southern California

Oldest Continuously Active Chapter: Colorado State University, chartered 1991 (14 years ago!)

#### **2) Sister Chapters**

A sister chapter is a formal relationship between two chapters that allows for the exchange of information and resources, as well as the coordination of projects and activities. Being sister chapters is a

great way to strengthen both chapters' activities and resources, generate enthusiasm among members, and expand the reach of conservation efforts.

SCB fosters these partnerships, such as between North American and international chapters, between established and forming or new chapters, and between neighboring chapters. Such partnerships now exist between Berkeley and East Africa, between Davis and Bolivia, and between Davis and Berkeley (these two formed this very successful partnership on their own awhile ago). At the meeting there was discussion of a potential new sister relationship between Minnesota and Iowa.

### 3) Highlight: Latin American Chapters

The *Bolivia chapter* has been active for 8 years. The chapter is mostly undergraduate biology students, 20-30% of whom are international SCB members. The chapter has been organizing very successful short courses on conservation biology in La Paz for undergraduate biology students, inviting local professionals to give the presentations. A small fee is charged, and this money is used to support their chapter's environmental education efforts, particularly in low-income grade schools. There members present environmental education symposia to the young students using supplies which have been either donated or purchased with donated funds.

Five other international SCB members attended the meeting with alot of enthusiasm for starting 3 new chapters: *Brasil, Argentina, and Peru*. Two other SCB members (Alfonso and Patricia) were unable to attend the meeting but are interested in starting a chapter in *Mexico*. Claiton (Brasil), Natalia and Luis (Argentina), and Shirley and Marcos (Peru) hope that by starting SCB chapters in their countries they can promote environmental education among the general population and decision-makers. They also see SCB chapters as a great way to bring together conservation professionals who currently work mostly in isolation from one another, and also to provide much-needed professional development for students.

Any active chapters interested in helping, mentoring, or sistering with these new chapters, please contact Fiona Nagle ([finagle@umn.edu](mailto:finagle@umn.edu)) for more information. They ask for as much of our help as possible!

### 4) New Resources for Chapters

- a) SCB will provide a new chapter with a **\$200 grant** in each of its first 2 years (application online).
- b) Any chapter in which at least two-thirds of chapter members are students can now apply for a **grant of up to \$150** to cover student memberships to the SCB-main (normally a \$10 membership fee). Application deadline is April 2006.
- c) *The Guide to Starting & Running a SCB Chapter* is now available on-line at <http://www.conbio.org/SCB/Activities/Chapters/>
- d) A **chapter officer listserv** is now up and running. This listserv is monitored by Fiona Nagle, and is open to any list member for posting. Contact Fiona at [finagle@umn.edu](mailto:finagle@umn.edu) for more information or to post to the listserv.
- e) *Kat Powers*, who works at the SCB office, provides logistical support to local chapters. For example, chapters can talk to Kat about obtaining web space from SCB. The SCB office only asks that content remain up-to-date (< 9 months old) in exchange for free website hosting. Contact Kat at [kpm@conbio.org](mailto:kpm@conbio.org).
- f) A *Guide to Running a Large Meeting* (eg symposium, conference) will soon be available from the SCB executive office
- g) SCB can provide awards for papers and presentations at chapter conferences
- h) SCB executive office can host individual chapter listservs (maybe for a nominal fee). Contact Alan Thornhill for more information: [athornhill@conbio.org](mailto:athornhill@conbio.org)

## 5) Tips from the Roundtable

- a) Chapters are advised to focus on accomplishing just 1 or 2 things in a 3 year timeframe, such as organizing a local-scale annual meeting or publishing a newsletter.
- b) Chapters should reevaluate their goals approximately every 3 years.
- c) A well-developed mission statement is vital for chapter focus
- d) Individual chapter listservs: university-based chapters usually can be hosted by their institution; non-university chapters can be hosted by a local ISP or the SCB executive office (see 4h above).
- e) A chapter chat room is suggested for chapters with members who are spread out or unable to meet frequently enough

## 6) International SCB 2006 Annual Meeting in San Jose, California USA

- a) There was discussion of holding a *Short Course* and a *SCB Chapters Symposium* to address the following topics:
  - Chapter meetings/ leadership
  - Strategic planning
  - How to Hold a Local Symposium
  - Environmental Education – SCB Local Chapter Style
  - Advocacy versus Science – SCB Local Chapter Style

Ingrid Hogle (Davis) and Jerry Niemi (MN) are putting together proposals for these courses/symposia (\*DUE 10/15\*). If anyone would like to participate or contribute, please contact them at: [ibhogle@mindspring.com](mailto:ibhogle@mindspring.com) OR [gniemi@nrri.umn.edu](mailto:gniemi@nrri.umn.edu)

### b) Inherit/Conserve

This is an SCB program benefiting researchers, chapters, and countries in need by redistributing used equipment such as field gear, textbooks, lab materials, etc. Donated items are encouraged from SCB members and chapters! Several chapters have already expressed interest in assisting with this project for next year. More on this later....

c) Berkeley and Davis are planning to raise funds to help bring sister chapter members from Bolivia and East Africa to the San Jose conference. Free local lodging is also being explored. Other chapters are welcome to help with this effort, or to similarly assist other leaders/members of new international or sister chapters.

## 7) Advisory Committee Turnover

Paul Beier's term has ended as Chapter-BOG Liaison, and he is moving on to become secretary of the SCB Board of Governors. Thanks for all the hard work the last 3 years, Paul!

Tom Sisk of Northern Arizona University (Tucson) is now the new BOG Liaison until 2008. Welcome, Tom! He can be reached at [thomas.sisk@nau.edu](mailto:thomas.sisk@nau.edu)

Lisa Delissio, one of the original Chapter Advisors, has stepped back from the committee this year for personal reasons. Lisa was an invaluable member of the team and will be greatly missed.

Ingrid Hogle (Davis) and Eric Martin (Texas A&M), two enthusiastic chapter supporters, have joined the Chapters Advisory Committee. They are welcome additions! ([ibhogle@mindspring.com](mailto:ibhogle@mindspring.com) ; [elmartin@tamu.edu](mailto:elmartin@tamu.edu))

Kat Powers of the SCB executive office is the official Executive Office Chapter Advocate. She's our main contact person if you need anything from DC. ([kmp@conbio.org](mailto:kmp@conbio.org))