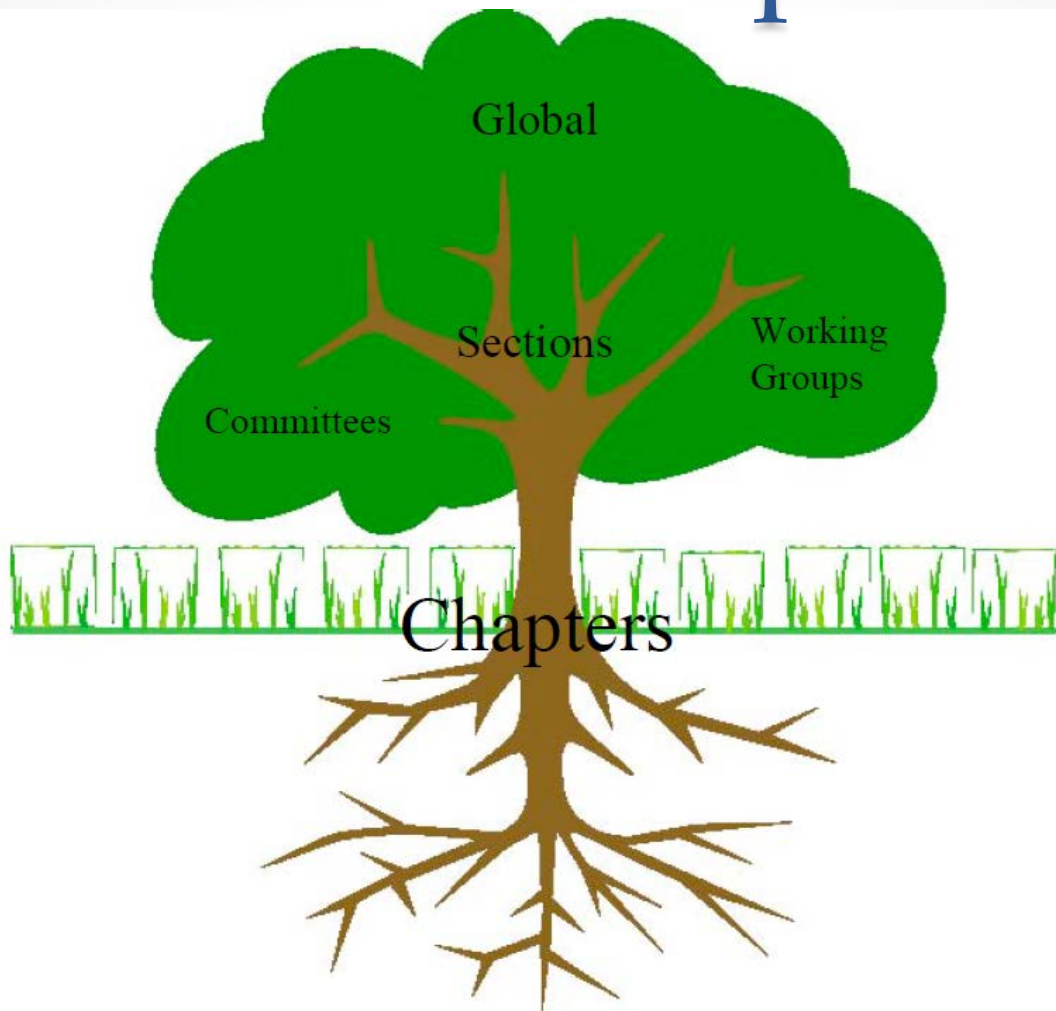


# Capacity-building for SCB Chapters



ICCB 2013  
Baltimore, Maryland  
Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>

# Workshop description

## **Capacity building for SCB Chapters Marit Wilkerson, Adina Merenlender, and SCB Chapters Committee**

SCB Chapters provide a crucial role as the grassroots branch of the global Society. They serve to actively connect conservationists locally through educational programs, volunteer activities, regional conservation meetings, policy action, and more. This workshop will provide an opportunity to exchange of ideas with other Chapter leaders and active members on how to run and sustain a local chapter, conservation initiatives, local policy action, and stewardship projects. This workshop is geared toward strengthening the skills, knowledge sets, and competencies (i.e. capacity-building) of all attendees. We will have guided discussion on chapter logistics, vision, and activities; as well as ways to strengthen the continuum among chapters, sections, and the global society. The format will include presentations by chapter members and experienced leaders followed by stimulating discussion.

You do not have to be a current Chapter member to attend! All ICCB attendees are welcome. And if you are a current Chapter member, your attendance and participation are specifically requested, no matter your current level of Chapter involvement.

For up-to-date information on the workshop content and related Chapter activities, please visit: <http://scbchapters.weebly.com/chapters-news--events.html>

Date: Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>

Time: 8:30AM-12:30PM

Cost: \$10

Location: Chesapeake Room 1, Sheraton Hotel

*Adina Merenlender is the outgoing Chair (Liaison to Board of Governors) for the SCB Chapters Committee. She is also an Cooperate Extension Specialist and Adjunct Professor at University of California, Berkeley. <http://ucanr.org/sites/merenlender/>*

*Marit Wilkerson has been Conference Coordinator for the SCB Chapters Committee since early 2012. She is finishing up her PhD with the Graduate Group in Ecology at University at California, Davis. <http://maritwilkerson.com/>*

# Agenda for Chapters Workshop 2013

8:30 – *Welcome and summary of workshop purpose*

## **I. General Chapter Session – Common challenges, how to confront them, and success.**

8:40 - Promoting involvement. Alysha Cypher, Chapters Committee & Western Pennsylvania Chapter.

8:55 - Celebrating student research, enhancing communication, and re-igniting membership. Stephanie Schuttler, Missouri Chapter.

9:10 - Guided Discussion of Turning a Club into a Chapter. Samantha Harvey, Western Pennsylvania Chapter.

9:30- Fundraising. Jessa Madosky, Chapters Committee.

9:50-10:05 *Break*

## **II. Interrelations- Promoting collaborations across institutions and regions.**

10:05 - European Chapter Initiative – a bottom-up approach to promote conservation biology in Europe. Barbara Mihók, Hungary Chapter.

10:25 - Challenges and opportunities for the formation of a regional chapter across institutions and communities: experiences and questions from the formation of a new SCB chapter in Sydney, Australia. Sandra Vogel\* & Oliver Manlik, Sydney Chapter.

## **III. Outreach – Bringing SCB and society together.**

10:40 - CPSCB, citizen science, & forest restoration. Andy Gregory, Colorado Plateau Chapter.

## **IV. Projects – Successes and challenges of conservation projects.**

10:55 - Beyond plants in the ground: creating opportunities and wider linkages from a habitat restoration project. Kerry Charles and Catarina Silva, Victoria Chapter.

11:10 - New directions: Development of a pollinator diversity baseline in Canada's first national urban park. Ilona Naujokaitis-Lewis, Toronto Chapter.

# Agenda cont.

11:25-11:35 *Break*

## **V. Policy – Successes and challenges of getting involved in policy.**

11:35 - Policy Committee Activities in the Davis Chapter. Rosemary Hartman, Davis Chapter.

## **VI. Research Communication – How chapters can enhance communication between scientists.**

11:50 - HSU's Biodiversity Conference: highlighting the importance (and excitement) of research and education in the exploration and protection of life on Earth. Bobby Shearer, Humboldt Chapter.

12:05 - Designing a chapter research symposium: lessons from the Montana chapter. Kellie Carim, Montana Chapter.

12:25 – *Brief wrap-up and thank you's*

12:30 – *Adjourn*

Directly after the Workshop, you are invited to an informal lunch at Lumbini Restaurant located at 322 N Charles St, just up the road from the Sheraton. This will be an excellent opportunity to socialize with Chapter members in your area and all across the world!

# Abstracts for Chapter Workshop

## I. General Chapter Session

### 1. Title: Promoting involvement

Type: Presentation

Presenter: Alysha Cypher, PhD student at Akron; Chapters Committee Representative & Conservation Studies Liaison of Western Pennsylvania Chapter, [adc51@zips.uakron.edu](mailto:adc51@zips.uakron.edu)

Section: North America

In an ideal world, everyone who attends your first meeting of the year would continue with the chapter. They would also get involved by contributing new ideas and working to accomplish them. Unfortunately, one of the greatest challenges faced by the leaders of any organization is exciting your members enough to stay and get involved. It is not uncommon for the officers of the chapter to be the only active members. While this can work, it puts a lot of pressure on very few people to accomplish very big ideas. So how do you recruit new members, retain their interest, and inspire them to contribute ideas and accomplish them? Through experience, I have found that utilizing a combination of methods including leadership opportunities, encouragement, deadlines, and group bonding can lead to a fairly large group of active individuals. Utilizing these methods benefits more chapter members and increases your chapter's capacity for conducting projects, events, and outreach.

### 2. Title: Celebrating student research, enhancing communication, and re-igniting membership

Type: Presentation

Presenter: Stephanie Schuttler, Postdoctoral Fellow at University of Missouri; President of Missouri Chapter [schuttlers@missouri.edu](mailto:schuttlers@missouri.edu)

Section: North America

The Missouri Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology centralizes major chapter activities at the Missouri Natural Resources Conference (MNRC). For the past nine years, we have hosted an annual student poster contest, and have given a cash prize to first place winners the past two years. We organize and host a workshop on various conservation themes and also hold our annual meeting at MNRC. Additionally, we have published our newsletter, The Glade, since 1998; it features original content articles on conservation issues in Missouri and has a circulation of over 200 resource professionals, students, and recent graduates. These are noteworthy accomplishments, yet we are striving to improve our organization by increasing member activity throughout the year. Some of the ways we are considering to recruit new members and allow existing members to be more active participants is through the initiation of a summer activity, and increasing year-round communication with members through social media including blogging, emails and Twitter. I will discuss the successes of our chapter activities and include and invite discussion on areas where our chapter is looking to improve including acquiring and developing more active roles for members, increasing membership, and increasing communication between members throughout the year.

# Abstracts cont.

## 3. Title: A Guided Discussion of Turning a Club into a Chapter

Type: Guided discussion

Presenter: Samantha Harvey, Undergraduate student at Clarion University; President of Western Pennsylvania Chapter, [S.harvey@eagle.clarion.edu](mailto:S.harvey@eagle.clarion.edu)

Section: North America

Becoming a chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology is the best thing that any group of conservation biologists can do to help raise their participation in world-wide conservation efforts. This discussion will focus on the many hurdles any biology club may face along the way to becoming a SCB chapter. We will pool from the personal experiences of a biology club that recently became a chapter. Followed by a discussion of the choices that were made, and how to possibly improve upon them in enhance further development of the new chapter.

## 4. Title: Fundraising

Type: Guided discussion

Presenter: Jessa Madosky, Professor at Warren Wilson College; Chapters Committee Representative, [jmadosky@warren-wilson.edu](mailto:jmadosky@warren-wilson.edu)

In this guided discussion/mini-workshop, we will examine what has worked for different chapters in seeking funds to support chapter activities. We'll talk about grants, small scale on and off campus fundraisers and online fundraising. Come with your ideas, questions, success stories and cautionary tales to share with other chapters leaders.



# Abstracts cont.

## II. Interrelations

### 1. Title: European Chapter Initiative – a bottom-up approach to promote conservation biology in Europe

Type: guided discussion

Presenter: Barbara Mihók, Researcher at Ecological Research Centre of the Hungarian Academy of Science; SCB-ES Coordinator & Secretary of Hungarian Chapter, [barbaramihok@gmail.com](mailto:barbaramihok@gmail.com)

Section: Europe

In 2011, the SCB Europe Section launched an initiative of SCB chapter establishment in European countries led by the Membership and Chapter Committee. As a result, two chapters have been formed so far in Hungary and Switzerland. Further chapter establishments are also currently ongoing in Italy, Israel and UK. The initiative is seemingly taking off.

As chapters have been mostly active in N-America, experiences regarding their functioning derive mainly from the US. European Chapters are far from the Executive Office and the global Chapter Committee both in terms of geographical distance and infrastructure. European Chapters and the promotion of their establishment face some specific challenge: the diversity of the home countries in the continent, the lack of well-established administrative and financial framework and the premature status of the network itself in Europe. We therefore could benefit from discussion among other long established chapters and SCB EO staff.

In addition to the introduction of the European chapter activities and sharing experiences we would like to raise and discuss the following questions:

- How are the US chapters, NA section and the EO connected?
- What are the successful ways for the chapters to fundraise? How the US chapters administrate their finances in relation to the SCB global finances?

### 2. Title: Challenges and opportunities for the formation of a regional chapter across institutions and communities: experiences and questions from the formation of a new SCB chapter in Sydney, Australia

Type: Presentation

Presenter: Sandra Vogel, PhD student at University of New South Wales; Treasurer of Sydney Chapter, [sandra.vogel@unsw.edu.au](mailto:sandra.vogel@unsw.edu.au)

Section: Oceania

Many regional SCB chapters are, at least initially, centered on a single institution with a narrow focus group—often undergraduate and graduate students of a particular university. Some of those chapters have subsequently broadened their scope. This (initial) concentration on one institution within a smaller region and narrow focal group has obvious logistical and organizational advantages.

When we, a handful of graduate students from different universities in Sydney met at the Oceania conference last year, we recognized the opportunity of launching a new chapter in the larger Sydney region that would encompass various institutions and communities. Sydney is not only surrounded by an amazing diversity of wildlife and fauna, but it is also the home of many institutions that are actively pursuing conservation research. However, there is relatively little cross-institutional exchange. Thus, one of our (ambitious) aims of starting the Sydney-SCB chapter is to act as an umbrella group, providing a platform for exchange and collaboration of researchers, conservation practitioners, students and other people in the region.

We soon realized it is not easy to be all inclusive and cross-institutional, especially not as a new chapter. Although most of the board members are based at one university, from the start it proved to be a challenge to schedule board meetings for everyone, including those at different places and institutions (and different schedules). With this talk, I will present our experiences of forming a new chapter that hopes to serve a variety of institutions in a larger region. Our experiences also raise questions that we hope will provide some food for thought to other potential and existing chapters: What is the right balance of being inclusive and cross-institutional without losing focus? How much should a new chapter try to cover without biting off more than it can chew?

# Abstracts cont.

## III. Outreach

### 1. Title: CPSCB, citizen science, & forest restoration

Type: Presentation

Presenter: Andy Gregory, Postdoctoral Research Scholar at Northern Arizona University; Vice President of Colorado Plateau Chapter, [andrew.gregory@nau.edu](mailto:andrew.gregory@nau.edu)

Section: North America

The City of Flagstaff, AZ is located amidst the Coconino National Forest, the largest Ponderosa Pine Forest in the world. Climate-induced drought, beetle kill and catastrophic fire are increasingly threatening this unique ecoregion.

In 2012 the citizens of Flagstaff approved the "Forest Health and Water Supply Protection Project" (Proposition 405), a \$10 million bond to support forest restoration work within key watersheds on the Coconino National Forest and State of Arizona lands. These restoration actions ensure that ecosystem services provided by the forest to the city of Flagstaff would be ensured under a rapidly changing climate. The Bond represents the first citizen-financed, USFS collaborative forest restoration initiative of its kind.

In conjunction with Proposition 405 the Colorado Plateau Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology (CPCSCB) has initiated a high school civic science educational initiative. Our goal is to increase CPCSCB membership among students, while promoting conservation biology in the local community through applied student learning and civic engagement. To accomplish this, CPCSCB is in the process of establishing local partnerships with the Arizona Department of Fish and Game, and the Proposition 405 group (City, US Forest Service and local non-profit science partners) to provide long-term monitoring of the effects of 405 on biodiversity and forest health. We plan to create a long-term, field science program focused on local high school students that tracks changes in restoration treatment areas. CPCSCB members will be tapped to serve as instructors and data handlers. Finally, we plan to promote civic engagement opportunities for high school and college students at Flagstaff City Council Meetings, at the annual meeting of the CPCSCB, and in time at the North American Chapter meeting of SCB, or perhaps even the ICCB.



# Abstracts cont.

## IV. Projects

### 1. Title: Beyond plants in the ground: creating opportunities and wider linkages from a habitat restoration project

Type: Presentation

Presenter: Kerry Charles, MSc graduate, Victoria University; Catarina Silva, PhD student, Victoria University; President and Vice-President of Victoria University of Wellington (VUW) Chapter, respectively, [kerrycharles@gmail.com](mailto:kerrycharles@gmail.com)

Section: Oceania

Habitat restoration projects are ideal chapter activities as they provide a focal point for hands-on conservation work, while providing opportunities for wider benefits and linkages. One of the main projects of the SCB chapter based at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand is habitat restoration at a forest/wetland site called Kumutoto near the university campus. Involvement in the project provides chapter members with real-world, hands-on habitat restoration and monitoring experience but the project also provides other potential opportunities including use of the site as a teaching space for university and school level education and for graduate research projects. Through this project the chapter has also developed wider community linkages with NGOs, the local council and other community groups. In this presentation we will discuss opportunities and linkages that can be created by a chapter driven restoration project. We will present an overview of the Kumutoto restoration project to provide a case study of how a habitat restoration project can provide invaluable opportunities and community linkages for SCB chapters.

### 2. Title: New directions: Development of a pollinator diversity baseline in Canada's first national urban park.

Type: Presentation

Presenter: Ilona Naujokaitis-Lewis, Phd Candidate at University of Toronto; President of Toronto Chapter, [ilona.naujo.lewis@gmail.com](mailto:ilona.naujo.lewis@gmail.com)

Section: North America

Since its inception less than 10 years ago, the Toronto Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology has grown from a strictly academic-based audience to a more diverse membership base, including participants from the general public, industry, and local conservation organizations. Recognizing a need to be actively involved in local conservation, in 2012 we initiated the 'SCB-TO goes Rouge' project, which aims to develop pollinator diversity baselines in Rouge Park and increase community awareness of pollinator conservation issues. Rouge Park is to become Canada's first National Urban Park and an understanding of pollinator diversity is essential especially as the park is focused on restoring large portions of the park. Results from the first year of survey efforts, which resulted from 500+ volunteer hours, show that Rouge Park currently supports a diversity of bee and butterfly species. However, the highest diversity was associated with sites of intermediate time since restoration. The success of this multi-year project is a function of the commitment of our volunteers, our collaboration with Rouge Park, outreach to the local community, and the ongoing dedication of our Chapter Board members. In light of the successes, I will discuss some of our strategies aimed at dealing with the challenges of volunteer retention and balancing our diverse Chapter goals with limited human resources.

# Abstracts cont.

## **V. Policy**

### 1. Title: Policy Committee Activities in the Davis Chapter

Type: Presentation

Presenter: Rosemary Hartman, PhD Candidate at University of California, Davis; Chair of the Policy Committee of Davis Chapter, [rosehartman@gmail.com](mailto:rosehartman@gmail.com)

Section: North America

The Davis Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology is comprised of several committees which lead a variety of projects and activities including restoration, teaching in elementary schools, nature hikes, museum days, and information on conservation-related policies. In this presentation I will describe the activities of this last committee. The policy committee formed as a partnership between biology and law students at University of California, Davis, and has two main activities: voting guides and policy briefs. During national and local elections, members of the committee conduct research on initiatives and propositions that have conservation implications. They compile information concerning these issues and produce a conservation voters' guide that is distributed to the community. The committee takes an official position on some of these initiatives and propositions, approved by the parent organization. The policy briefs are short, scientifically-informed papers that are sent to legislators in Sacramento, California outlining the conservation implications of specific issues. These papers are also approved by the parent organization before being distributed. Topics that are currently being pursued by this committee include local, statewide, and national issues: drinking water source and a plastic bag ban for the City of Davis, hydraulic fracturing in California, and the Keystone XL Pipeline.

# Abstracts cont.

## VI. Research Communication

1. Title: HSU's Biodiversity Conference: highlighting the importance (and excitement) of research and education in the exploration and protection of life on Earth

Type: Presentation

Presenter: Bobby Shearer, Undergraduate student at Humboldt State University; President of Humboldt State University Chapter, [rls511@humboldt.edu](mailto:rls511@humboldt.edu)

Section: North America

The Biodiversity Conference was established in 2011 as a fun way to elevate ecological literacy levels amongst the already environmentally-focused communities of California's North Coast. The Bio Conf brings together educators, researchers, and representatives of NPO's and environmental government agencies to discuss with us how their respective fields of work explore and protect biodiversity. Geared towards academia, but open to the general public, Bio Conf includes a series of presentations covering a variety of ecological topics. Students and the public are invited to join an exciting weekend of learning more about the world around us, ways to get involved locally and how each of us play important roles in the health of the ecosystems we are part of. Bio Conf is completely free, with no registration required. Each year yields over 10 hours of video footage which is aired on local television and made available online and in libraries. Check out [Humboldt.edu/biodiversity](http://Humboldt.edu/biodiversity) for details on the 2012 event.

This presentation will discuss the history and the future of what is now an annual event at HSU. It will emphasize the planning process, format details, long and short term goals, and how HSU Society for Conservation Biology has taken ownership of an event that features everything from fire ecology demonstrations to marine life touch tanks.

2. Title: Designing a chapter research symposium: lessons from the Montana chapter

Type: Guided discussion

Presenter: Kellie Carim, PhD candidate at University of Montana; Vice-President & Treasurer of Montana Chapter [kellie.carim@gmail.com](mailto:kellie.carim@gmail.com)

Section: North America

The most successful and consistent events that the Montana chapter has held over the past five years have been our annual research symposia, which take place over one to three days every fall. These annual meetings bring together conservation scientists and practitioners from academia (students and professors), government agencies and non-governmental organizations to share research and learn about conservation science in Montana and the U.S. Northern Rockies/Transboundary region. For these meetings, we solicit abstracts from around our chapter's region, invite plenary speakers to give lectures on key topics in conservation biology and regional conservation work, and build in plenty of time for networking with colleagues during formal and informal breaks and receptions. During this guided discussion, we will present some of the key elements that go into planning a research symposium, some of the challenges we have faced, and some of the ways we are working on improving and changing our symposia into the future. We will discuss picking a theme, picking a venue, selecting plenary speakers, advertising, funding, and other elements of organization. We will also discuss some of the ways we have tried to expand our symposia, including changing the location and adding a field trip. This discussion will be designed to inform other chapters thinking of planning a local meeting.