Holding a Regional Conservation Biology Conference

Rodd Kelsey
University of California, Davis
Davis Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology
Why Hold a Meeting?

• Chapters are central to developing SCB’s local, grassroots influence

“Develop a strong identity, messaging, and promotional activities that will strengthen the SCB’s visibility and reputation. Develop the means to maintain and reinforce the society’s identity and messaging across global, regional, and local programs.

- SCB Strategic Plan 2006 - 2010
Why Hold a Meeting?

• Chapters increase their visibility and influence in a number of ways:
  – Restoration projects;
  – Educational outreach; and
  – MEETINGS
Chapter Benefits

• Recruitment
  – May be especially effective for new chapters

• Fund-raising

• Address local issues
  – Publicity
  – Problem-solving

• Networking/Collaboration
Chapters in U.S. and Canada

• 38 Chapters (26 active or forming)
  - Southeast – 5
  - Northeast/Mid-Atlantic – 9
  - Midwest – 7
  - Southwest – 7
  - Northwest/West – 10

• 27 States and 3 Provinces
International Chapters

• 10 Chapters (9 Active or forming)
  - Asia – 4 (Bhutan, China, Pakistan, Philippines)
  - Europe – 1 (Slovenia)
  - Africa – 1 (East Africa)
  - Latin America – 4
    (Bolivia, Northwest Argentina, Peru, Mexico)
Who’s involved

• 8 Chapters have organized meetings
  – 13 Universities involved (plus many agencies and NGO’s)
Meeting Sizes

- Four single-day symposia and three multi-day conferences
  - 3 with local focus
  - 4 with regional focus
- Attendance: 50 – 500
- Speakers/Talks: 5 – 50
Topic focused Meetings

Fish Farming Panel Discussion
5 Member Panel
Monday March 13th, 2000

Bringing researchers and practitioners together
Missouri Natural Resources Conference
**Local / Regional Conferences**

The Colorado Plateau Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology and Prescott College Present

**A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR BIODIVERSITY: CONSERVATION ON THE COLORADO PLATEAU**

March 11-13, 2005
Prescott College Crossroads Center
Prescott, Arizona

The Society for Conservation Biology, Toronto Chapter
"Lessons and Successes for Biodiversity Conservation in the GTA and Southwestern Ontario"

7th Bay Area Conservation Biology Symposium 2005
Saturday, January 22, 2005
8:20 am – 6:00 pm
Stanford University

A cooperative conference with the Society of American Foresters, the American Fisheries Society, the Society for Conservation Biology, and The Wildlife Society

SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
“Interdisciplinary work: Defining our legacy”
National Conferences

10th Anniversary of Rio Earth Summit
Five days of plenary presentations
Fifty workshops
500 delegates from Canada and around the world
Resulted in Kingston Declaration – submitted to Canadian representatives to World Summit on Sustainable Development
Traditional Session Topics

- Conservation Genetics
- Biodiversity Patterns
- Managing human modified landscapes
- Community Ecology
- Biogeography and landscape Ecology
- Invasive Species
- Behavior and Conservation
- Restoration Ecology
- Conservation Planning & Management
Alternative/Regional Session Topics

• Timber investment management organizations and real estate trusts
• Genetically modified organisms
• Changing demographics in Minnesota: implications for natural resources
• Conservation Issues in the Bay Area
• Fish Farming
And on that exciting note...
Collaborate

Co-sponsor meetings with other society chapters, NGO’s or agencies

Sustainable Natural Resources Management Conference

• Minnesota chapter of SCB
• Society of American Forestry
• American Fisheries Society
• The Wildlife Society
Share the Load

Rotate Institutions

- Share annual duties with other local universities

Bay Area Conservation Biology Symposium

- U.C. Davis
- U.C. Berkeley
- San Francisco State University
- Sonoma State University
- Stanford University
Go beyond the same-old meeting paradigm

– Social/Interactive gatherings to foster personal relationships and one-on-one interaction

– Alternate meetings with different formats in different years

Colorado Plateau Chapter

• Small, biennial weekend retreats

• Biennial meetings co-convened with U.S.G.S.

• Biennial Chapter meetings
Untapped Opportunities

Regional/Section Meetings

– Host meetings in region/country when International meeting is abroad

Focused workshops

– Target specific needs for local conservation issues.

– Train local consultants and agency personnel

– More active in local, on-the-ground conservation.
Planning

One year
- Topic
- Venue
- Keynote Speakers
- Committees

6 months
- Budget
- Fund-raising
- Accommodations
- Call for Abstracts
- Abstract review
- Advertising/Website

One Month
- Meeting program
- Catering
- Supplies
- Set-up

“Start Early”
Keynote/Plenary Speakers

- Peter Kareiva – The Nature Conservancy
- Tyrone Hayes – U.C. Berkeley
- Donald Kennedy – Editor of Science
- Dan Simberloff – University of Tennessee
- David Suzuki – David Suzuki Foundation
- Jim Boyer – Tropical Forest Foundation
- Brian Czech – Center for Adv. Of Steady State Economy
- Michael Soule – Wildlands Project, U.C. Santa Cruz
- Jayne Belnap – U.S.G.S
Committees

- Plenary Speakers
- Talks/Scheduling
- Rooms and Space
- Audio/Visual
- Program
- Registration
- Souvenirs

- PR/Web/E-mail
- Banquet
- Fundraising
- Accomodations/Directions
- Day of committee
Costs/Registration

- Costs vary greatly depending on meeting type and size
  - Regional Symposia: $5,000 - $33,000

- Profit has varied from $0 to ~$3,000

- Registration fees vary:
  - Students: $20 - $65
  - Other: $30 - $150
## Example Costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>% Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facilities</td>
<td>$295</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td>$1,378</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Supplies</td>
<td>$650</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plenary speakers (expenses)</td>
<td>$978</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing</td>
<td>$387</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc. Supplies</td>
<td>$287</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-shirts/Mugs</td>
<td>$1,187</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,163</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Upcoming Chapter Meetings

• Colorado Plateau Chapter Annual Conference & Meeting October 13-15, 2006

• Iowa State University Chapter – 2007?

• Northwest Argentina – November 2006

• Bay Area Conservation Symposium – early 2007