

SOCIETY FOR CONSERVATION BIOLOGY – BERKELEY CHAPTER

Minutes for: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2005

Agenda:

1. Attendance & Membership Fees
2. Conference & Other news
3. Brief Updates (trips & events)
4. Strawberry Creek Restoration
5. East Africa Chapter
6. Endangered Species Act (and other advocacy)

1. Attendance & Membership

22 people were in attendance for this meeting.

Most attendees have now paid fees (\$10). Thanks!

Even if you can't make meetings (and thus eat our pizza) there are still several reasons you should pay your dues. First, while available, paying dues gets you a free SCB Berkeley t-shirt. Second, if you are planning on going to the regional meeting (see below) this February, your \$10 will go towards your conference fees. Third, your fees are put to good uses (see our main activities below, particularly items 4 and 5). If you have missed meetings and want to pay your dues, please email our Treasurer, Pauline (pkamath@nature.berkeley.edu).

Additionally, while it is not required, we also encourage our members to join the International SCB organization. Student fees are \$25 per year, or \$45 with paper subscription to *Conservation Biology*. Membership in the parent SCB organization will get you a much decreased fee for the international SCB conference being held this summer in San Jose. Our chapter will be applying for a grant from the parent organization to try to get us money to help you all with membership fees to the international group. Stay tuned for more information. However, if you want to join now, please go to:

<https://www.conbio.org/Membership/>

2. Conferences & other news

The Regional SCB Symposium will be held this year on January 5th at San Francisco State University. Plenary speakers will be Dan Simberloff and David Suzuki. We encourage all members to consider speaking or presenting posters. The deadline for abstracts is January 5th.

The International SCB Conference will be held June 24-28 in San Jose. This presents a unique opportunity for many of us to go to a large, important international conference but stay close to home. The abstract deadline is January 10th. There are opportunities for

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members to volunteer and there will also be local chapter sessions. Stay tuned for future involvement possibilities. If you want more information see:

<http://www.conbio.org/2006/>

In other news, the Berkeley Chapter was recently written up in the International SCB Newsletter! It mentioned our involvement with the East Africa Sister Chapter and our fundraising plans for that venture. Go us! To access the newsletter, go to:

<http://www.conbio.org/SCB/Publications/Newsletter/Archives/2005-9a-November/>

We are also looking for members with past experience with the regional symposium. If you had any involvement with the past symposiums, please let Cole know (cburton@nature.berkeley.edu).

3. Brief Updates

- Webmaster Tim Dechant announced that the website is now updated and sometime after Christmas should have a new and much improved design. We have lots of great ideas on future content, but if you have some too, please email Tim (dechant@nature.berkeley.edu). If you don't have it bookmarked, the address is:

<http://nature.berkeley.edu/consbio/>

- Morgan is organizing a group to update and decorate the glass case display for SCB on the ground floor of VLSB. The scheduled decorating event will take place next Tuesday, the 22nd, meeting at the VLSB case. If you're interested in contributing and haven't yet let Morgan know, please email him (mtingley@nature.berkeley.edu). If you want to help out, try to go take a look at the case before next week so you can get some ideas.
 - The field trip to Hawk Hill took place with great success on October 29th. Many people attended and while the fog continually threatened all sightings, the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory reports that 243 hawks were seen that day.
 - We're looking for suggestions (and trip organizers) for upcoming SCB field trips. Ideally, we do one trip a month. A survey of meeting attendees led to the following suggestions: Ano Nuevo or Point Reyes for elephant seals, Santa Cruz Island for a long-weekend away, whale watching trip to the Farallones, restoration efforts of Hayward Marsh, and Mavericks at low tide for great tide-pooling. Other ideas? Let us know.
- * An SCB movie night will be held on Thursday, December 8th instead of the normal monthly meeting. Unless "Grizzly Man" or "March of the Penguins" are out yet, we may end up watching the hugely popular "Cane Toads". However, if you have other great conservation-themed movies, please email one of the officers.

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* Pauline announced that the bank account was currently at over \$3000. As we are expecting to hold the regional conference next year and regain revenues, we have some flexibility this year in our finances.

4. Strawberry Creek Restoration

Tim Doherty (tdoherty@nature.berkeley.edu), the new creek restoration coordinator provided an update on his efforts. Plants have now been purchased and are awaiting planting, however planting has been delayed into early December due to delays in the start of the rainy season (not that we're complaining). A quick poll of interested parties and available dates for planting led to setting the potential date as December 7th or 8th. Tim will send out an announcement to the list as the time grows nearer.

Tim also told the group that they are hoping to order a permanent educational sign to be made which can be installed along the creek in a visible area. The sign would be educational in nature and would provide information on Strawberry Creek ecology and the restoration efforts. Tim is hoping the SCB will contribute \$150-200 to help pay for the sign, an idea which was met with general support. Funding will be voted on following the submittal of a formal proposal.

5. East Africa Sister Chapter

Mike updated the group on the status of our sister chapter. He has been in contact with the president of the East Africa Chapter who is very enthusiastic about our support and ideas. They are trying to build a research library, and over the past month we have collected multiple boxes of journals and books, and even a computer, and we are working with trying to find “free” or discounted shipping methods. Donations are currently being stored (generously) in the Brashares lab, so please email Cole if you have donations to drop off.

A number of other ideas were floated on how to interact with our sister chapter. The journal *Conservation in Practice* is having a two-for-one deal right now, and the idea was presented of purchasing a subscription for the sister chapter (using SCB funds). The additional copy would be placed in the CNR student lounge so undergraduates could read it at leisure. The idea was voted on and approved unanimously.

The East Africa Chapter is looking to send two members to the San Jose SCB Conference, and hopefully at least one of those participants will also attend the Environmental Leadership Conference the prior week here at Berkeley. We are hoping to fund the travel costs of our sister members and so are looking for great fundraising opportunities. If you have any ideas or would like to help out with the sister chapter in any way, please email Mike (mwasserm@nature.berkeley.edu).

6. Endangered Species Act (and other advocacy)

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Cole impressed everyone by presenting a draft position letter on the proposed ESA changes. Sonja suggested that via insider knowledge, it is far more effective to send one letter as a unit than many letters. It was suggested that our California senators do not need much convincing on the issue, so it would be great if we could present our position to others. It was suggested that we may want to write Op-eds or letters to editors of proper venues. Additionally, Cole suggested that it would be great if we could work with SCB chapters elsewhere in the country (e.g. “red states”) to write letters to their senators. An advocacy “task force” was assembled and will work further on this issue. If you would like to participate, please contact Cole (cburton@nature.berkeley.edu).

The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 pm.

**** END MINUTES ****

Respectfully submitted,
Morgan Tingley, Secretary