

SOCIETY FOR CONSERVATION BIOLOGY – BERKELEY CHAPTER

Minutes for: TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2006

Agenda:

1. Attendance & Membership
2. Conferences & Other news
3. Field Trip Details
4. Endangered Species Act Advocacy
5. East Africa Chapter Update
6. Strawberry Creek Restoration
7. Guest Speaker: Eric Edlund

1. Attendance & Membership

It was our largest meeting yet, with 36 people in attendance including twelve new members!

Most attendees have now paid fees (\$10), but if you haven't we would totally appreciate it. This will be the last fee-plea for the year.

2. Conferences & Other news

The Regional SCB Symposium is coming up soon on February 4th at San Francisco State University. Exciting plenary speakers will be Dan Simberloff and David Suzuki, and at least one Berkeley SCB member will be giving a presentation. The deadline for abstracts is past, but we encourage all interested parties to go. If you are giving a presentation, SCB Berkeley will give you a full refund of your \$10 member fee. Furthermore, if you want to go to the regional symposium but are prevented by the registration fee (\$25), please contact our Treasurer, Pauline (pkamath@nature.berkeley.edu), and she will arrange for the chapter to cover your fees.

We would like as many people from our chapter to attend as possible because next year we will be holding the symposium here at Berkeley. Consequently, the more people that are familiar with it, the easier it will be to plan it.

If you haven't registered yet, please do so at:

http://userwww.sfsu.edu/~gscb/BACBS_main.htm

The International SCB Conference will be held June 24-28 in San Jose, and registration is now open. If you're looking to cut down on the fee, there are numerous volunteer opportunities available at the conference.

If you volunteered with Lynn Huntsinger to review abstracts for the conference, you should have received the abstracts now. If you have yet to receive any, or if you still

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want to help in reviewing, please email her (buckaroo@nature.berkeley.edu). More information about the San Jose conference can be found on their website:

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

Just as a heads up, we have a number of exciting speakers planned for the rest of the semester. The tentative schedule is looking like this:

February: Karsten Heuer, documentary filmmaker of “Being Caribou”

March: Jon Gelbard, from the Bay-area non-profit Conservation Value

April: Pete Copollilo, field biologist in Tanzania for Wildlife Conservation Society

We are also considering facilitating a Wilderness First Aid course in the late spring or early summer, which could be especially useful preparation for summer field work.

3. Field Trip Details

The next field trip will be held on Monday, February 6th and will visit Año Nuevo State Reserve to see the elephant seals that breed there every year (www.anonuevo.org). It should be incredibly exciting to see such large and dynamic creatures up close and on their breeding grounds. The trip is being coordinated with Justin Brashares’s wildlife ecology course. We apologize for the Monday date, but Año Nuevo is incredibly popular and reservations to see the elephant seals are hard to come by. We will be leaving Berkeley at 7 am on Monday and the trip will cost \$5. We want participants and drivers, so if you would like to come, please email Morgan (mtingley@nature.berkeley.edu) who will arrange details. The trip is likely to be slightly-longer than half day – you should expect to be back in Berkeley by early or mid-afternoon.

4. Endangered Species Advocacy

First, congratulations were given to chapter member Jackie Patt who got an advocacy letter on the ESA published in the *Daily Californian*. Way to go Jackie!

Second, the Union for Concerned Scientists is still looking for biologist signatories for their position statement on the ESA. If you would like to sign, you can at their website (www.ucusa.org).

Third, Cole (with the help of other chapter members) has written a position statement on the ESA to represent the entire chapter in presentation to California Senators Boxer and Feinstein. Cole read the letter to the assembled masses and comments were received. There were some questions as to whether the letter should reference both the Pombo bill and the Crapo bill, or whether only the relevant senate legislation should be mentioned. It was decided that this matter should be investigated further. Barring that small matter, a straw poll was taken and the letter was unanimously approved by the chapter. Cole will finish work on the letter and send it to our senators. The letter will also be distributed to chapter members so out-of-state individuals can write personal letters to their own

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senators. Finally, we plan on sending the letter out to other SCB chapters around the country in the hope that they follow our example. Thoughts? Send them to Cole (cburton@nature.berkeley.edu).

5. East Africa Chapter Update

Mike updated us on the East Africa initiative. Their chapter is currently up to 35 members and are in the process of assembling a reference library. Over the past few months we have collected numerous journals and books to donate to their library, and we now have over 10 (large) boxes of journals and books ready to ship. We are currently discussing with the International SCB group in order to work with FedEx to get these boxes shipped to Kenya for little or no cost.

We are also trying to help fund one or two members of the East Africa chapter to come to Berkeley over the summer for an Environmental Leadership conference and other events. We're looking for creative fundraising ideas and interested people who can help organize the fundraising. One hope is to possibly have a benefit concert held on the Berkeley campus. If you have any great musical or event planning contacts, particularly if they (i.e. the music) are East African themed, then please let Mike now (mwasserm@nature.berkeley.edu).

6. Strawberry Creek Restoration

Tim Doherty provided an update on the restoration project. There were two big events since the last meeting. One, in December, cleared cape ivy from the restoration area. The second, last week, planted a whole variety of vegetation now that the soil has finally received enough water. Tim is actively trying to secure more money for the efforts and is working to find a sustainable source of seeds from natural sources (a watershed nearby).

Tim is also trying to set up a monthly work-time for the restoration area. Times were discussed with the group and it was decided that Thursdays from 3-4 pm work. Tim will send out announcements via the SCB mailing list, but if you're interested in becoming more involved he would love to hear from you (tdoherty@nature.berkeley.edu).

Tim introduced the group to Tom Klatt, who is the leader of the University's Fuel Reduction Project. He is in charge of the University's plan to remove large invasives (e.g. eucalyptus spp., Monterey pine) from the University's land on-campus and in the Berkeley hills. The project has hopes to aid conservation efforts of the Alameda whipsnake, to reintroduce redwoods, and a variety of other conservation goals. Tom is excited to gain student collaborators and we hope maybe he can take us on a guided hike later in the spring. He can be contacted over email (tklatt@berkeley.edu).

7. Guest Speaker: Eric Edlund on Conservation and GIS

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We were pleased to have Eric Edlund with us for the meeting. Eric is the director of Berkeley's new Geospatial Imaging and Informatics Facility (GIIF), found in room 111 Mulford Hall. More information about GIIF can be found at their website:

<http://giif.cnr.berkeley.edu/>

Eric gave a brief presentation introducing the field of Conservation GIS, its applications, how you can get involved at Berkeley, and how GIIF is here to help. If you are interested in downloading Eric's presentation (17.2 Mb .ppt file), you can at:

<http://giif.cnr.berkeley.edu/documents/consgis.ppt>

Two main points from the presentation are worth mentioning here. First, the Society for Conservation GIS is having their conference on June 24 – 28th in San Jose, proceeding and in collaboration with the SCB international conference. If you are registered for the SCB conference, then you are free to attend the SCGIS conference as well.

Second, GIIF is brand new, fully functional, and exists to aid and add capability to the work of students, researchers, and faculty. Because it is new, it is currently an underused but highly valued resource. If you are at all interested in learning GIS or enhancing your research through GIS, then this spring is a great time to use the GIIF resources before everyone catches on. If you have questions for Eric, he would be happy to receive your email (edlund@nature.berkeley.edu) or you can find him in 111 Mulford.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

** END MINUTES **

Respectfully submitted,
Morgan Tingley, Secretary