

AIBSnews

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AIBSnews

APRIL 2006/VOLUME 56 NUMBER 4

Exciting Program Updates for the AIBS Annual Meeting in May

"Biodiversity: The Interplay of Science, Valuation, and Policy" is the theme of the 2006 AIBS annual meeting, to be held 24–25 May 2006 at the Westin Grand Hotel in Washington, DC. Plenary lectures and discussion groups of scientists, policy experts, economists, and journalists will approach the topic from several interwoven perspectives.

Plenary speakers are

- Stephen Bocking (Environmental and Resource Studies Program, Trent University, Canada): "Defining Effective Science for Biodiversity Policy"
- Jamie Rappaport Clark (Defenders of Wildlife): "The Endangered Species Act under Attack: The Dynamic Interplay between Science and Policy"
- Daniel Esty (Law School and School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Yale University): "From Science to Policy: Biodiversity Protection, Metrics, and Results"
- Shahid Naeem (Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology, Columbia University): "Applications of Biodiversity Research to Human Well-being"
- Richard B. Norgaard (Energy and Resources Group, University of California, Berkeley): "Values and Valuation in a Rapidly Changing World"
- Stephen Polasky (Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior, University of Minnesota, St. Paul): "Valuing Ecosystem Services"

Panels and discussion groups will be held throughout the day on 25 May. The first discussion group, entitled "Communicating about Science in Public and Policy Arenas," will be led by Chris Mooney, Washington correspondent for *Seed* magazine and author of *The Republican War on Science*, and Matthew Nisbet, of the School of Communication at The Ohio State University. The second discussion group, "Valuing Ecosystem Services," will be led by plenary speakers Daniel Esty, Richard B. Norgaard, and Stephen Polasky. The third group, "The

SPECIAL PROGRAM CONTENT

Chris Mooney, author of The Republican War on Science, will lead a discussion session entitled "Communicating about Science in Public and Policy Arenas." Co-leader is Matthew Nisbet, School of Communication, The Ohio State University, who will speak on "Framing Science: Understanding the Battle over Knowledge."

Endangered Species Act: Science Influencing Policy and Policy Influencing Science," will be led by Jamie Rappaport Clark, a plenary speaker, and J. Michael Scott, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, University of Idaho.

Attendees interested in working toward expanding career, professional development, and service opportunities in the biological sciences for women, minorities, and persons with disabilities are welcome to register for the Diversity Luncheon. Participants will have the opportunity to talk with the AIBS leadership, interact with members of the AIBS Human Resources Committee, and network with others who want to create a more diverse scientific community. The guest speaker for the Diversity Luncheon is Robert Stanton, former director of the National Park Service.

In addition, the annual meeting will be preceded on 23–24 May by an AIBS business meeting for the general membership, combined with a meeting of the AIBS Council of member societies and organizations, to discuss AIBS activities, plans, and priorities.

All sessions will take place in the Westin Grand Hotel, 2350 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037 (three blocks north of the Foggy Bottom Metro station, on the edge of Georgetown). Special room rates are available until 21 April.

The early registration fee for individual AIBS members is \$100; for non-members, \$150 (which includes membership in AIBS and a subscription to *BioScience* for one year); for govern-

ment employees, \$90; for educators, \$80; for students, \$75.

Register now! Early registration ends 2 May, and attendance is limited to 200.

New AIBS Board Members Take Office

AIBS welcomes three new Board members to the Spring 2006 AIBS Board meeting this May, chaired by 2006 President Kent E. Holsinger, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Connecticut. Douglas J. Futuyma, Department of Ecology and Evolution, State University of New York, comes to the Board as president-elect for 2006 (president in 2007). He is joined by Eric S. Nagy, Department of Biology, University of Virginia, and Terry Yates, University of New Mexico, both of whom have been elected to three-year terms.

Departing the AIBS Board this year, with our best wishes and sincere appreciation, are Joel Cracraft, American Museum of Natural History, immediate past-president, 2005; and Board members Christopher Haufler, Department of Ecol-

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ogy and Evolutionary Biology, University of Kansas, and Mary McKenna, Department of Biology, Howard University.

AIBS Names 2006 Emerging Public Policy Leaders

The AIBS Public Policy Office is pleased to announce that Cornell University PhD candidate Madhura Kulkarni and University of Maryland (Baltimore County) PhD candidate Christopher Hofmann were chosen from an impressive and highly competitive applicant pool to receive the 2006 AIBS Emerging Public Policy Leader Awards. This is the fourth year that AIBS has recognized graduate students poised to make a contribution both in the biological sciences and in science policy.

The pair received an expense-paid trip to Washington, DC, where they participated in a two-day congressional visits event sponsored by the Biological and Ecological Sciences Coalition and the Coalition on Funding Agricultural Research Missions. They met with congressional leaders, listened to briefings by key government officials, and attended a reception honoring Representatives Vernon J. Ehlers (R-MI) and Rush Holt (D-NJ) for their work on behalf of science. Additionally, the recipients received a one-year membership in AIBS and a subscription to *BioScience*.

Kulkarni is working toward a doctorate in biogeochemistry and environmental biocomplexity. She earned her undergraduate degree in biology from Duke University in 1999 and her master's degree in marine, estuarine, and environmental sciences from the University of Maryland in 2003.

Her doctoral research concerns nitrogen pollution management. She has received several awards and grants, including a NASA Earth Systems Science Fellowship and a National Science Foundation (NSF) Integrated Graduate Education and Research Training Fellowship.

Kulkarni has held various teaching assistant, grant review, and workshop-planning positions, and last year she headed her program's Graduate Student Association. In 2000, the City of Cincinnati named her "Volunteer of the Year."

How to Contact Us

BioScience

Advertising:
jrasanen@aibs.org
703-379-2480, ext. 224

Online:
www.aibs.org/bioscienceonline

Permissions:
permissions@aibs.org

Publisher:
rogrady@aibs.org
202-628-1500

Submission Inquiries:
tbeardsley@aibs.org
202-628-1500

Subscriptions:
admin@aibs.org
703-790-1745

AIBS

ActionBioscience.org:
editor@actionbioscience.org

Education Office:
smusante@aibs.org
202-628-1500

Executive Director:
rogrady@aibs.org
202-628-1500

Meetings and Conference Services:
sburk@aibs.org
703-790-1745

Membership Records:
admin@aibs.org
703-790-1745

Membership Services and Benefits:
droyston@aibs.org
202-628-1500

Public Policy Office:
rgropp@aibs.org
202-628-1500

Science Office/NEON/IBRCS:
bwhee@aibs.org
202-628-1500

Scientific Peer-Review Services:
sglisson@aibs.org
703-674-2500

Web/IT Services:
jwagener@aibs.org
703-674-2500



Hofmann is working toward a doctorate in biology. He earned an undergraduate biology degree in 2000 from Towson University, where he graduated *summa cum laude*. Like Kulkarni, Hofmann has received a variety of awards and grants, including two NSF fellowships.

He is a coauthor of a review chapter in a forthcoming volume entitled *Bird Coloration*, to be published by Harvard University Press. In his spare time, Hofmann serves as the student member of the American Ornithologists' Union Committee on Public Responsibility.

Two PhD candidates received honorable mentions this year: Holly Menninger, who studies behavior, ecology, evolution, and systematics at the University of Maryland; and Mindy Richlen, who studies marine science at Boston University.

Revised NEON Reports Available Online

The NEON Integrated Science and Education Plan (ISEP) and the NEON Networking and Informatics and Baseline Design (NIBD) have been delivered to NSF and are now posted in the documents section of the NEON Web site, www.neoninc.org.

The ISEP describes NEON in the context of understanding ecological complexity and advancing ecological theory. It also details the science questions that NEON will address, the observatory's instrumentation and standardized deployment approach, and the NEON national-level education program. The second document, the NIBD, describes the cyberinfrastructure that NEON will support. The NIBD includes technical details regarding embedded cyberinfrastructure for distributed instrument control and reliable data transport; data curation and archiving; data analysis, integration, modeling, and visualization; and NEON portals and collaboration environments.

Because the development of NEON is funded by a cooperative agreement with NSF, the reports as written and posted on the NEON Web site may undergo additional changes at NSF's discretion. NSF will distinguish the elements

of the observatory design and infrastructure that will be included in initial deployment from those that will be considered for future phases of NEON. Community comments on both of the NEON reports are being reviewed by the NEON Project Office and will be provided to the appropriate NSF officials.

Recent Articles Online at www.actionbioscience.org

Original article in English

- "Flowering Plants: Keys to Earth's Evolution and Human Well-being," interview with Pamela Soltis, curator of the Laboratory of Molecular Systematics and Evolutionary Genetics, University of Florida, Gainesville

Spanish translations of previously posted articles

- "Más Conceptos Erróneos a Evitar en la Enseñanza sobre las Plantas"

[More Misconceptions to Avoid When Teaching about Plants], by David R. Hershey, biology education consultant

Recent Public Policy Reports Online at www.aibs.org

Public Policy Report for 13 March 2006

- Budget roundup
- The FY 2007 budget request for Energy's Office of Biological and Environmental Research
- NOAA research programs in the president's FY 2007 budget
- AIBS announces 2006 Emerging Public Policy Leaders
- Senate committee approves ARPA-E legislation
- SC Board of Education rejects antievolution proposal
- Interior Secretary Gale Norton steps down

- American Society of Mammalogists–AIBS Graduate Student Policy Internship
- New in *BioScience*: "The Cost of Doing Business: Should the United States Create Incentives for STEM Labor?"
- From the *Federal Register*

Public Policy Report for 27 February 2006

- Proposed budget for NASA science programs raises concern on Capitol Hill
- EPA FY 2007 budget request down, again
- Global competition a "reality," says new report
- Victory for science in Ohio, but threats remain around the country
- Graduate student opportunity: ASM–AIBS Public Policy Internship
- From the *Federal Register*



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For more information, contact: Henry R. Owen, Ph.D.
President of Phi Sigma Honor Society
Department of Biological Sciences
Eastern Illinois University
Charleston, IL 61920 USA

or visit our web site at: www.phisigasociety.org