The bulletin is published twice a year by the Canadian Society of Ecology and Evolution. Its purpose is to disseminate news and information to members of the Society. All members are invited to submit articles, news, reports and announcements of upcoming events. Short summaries of new research initiatives are also welcomed. Submissions can be in either language. Please submit your contribution by email to the Editor.

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**Photo:** Mary Reid
A Spring of Science Discontent

My initial six months as President of the Canadian Society For Ecology and Evolution (CSEE) can be encapsulated by the meteorological phrase traditionally ascribed to the month of March: ‘In like a lamb, out like a lion’. The post-December doldrums of January and February provided time to familiarize myself with relatively straightforward tasks associated with society committees, funding requests, and logistics associated with the 2012 Evolution Congress.

All that changed in March when a former employee of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (previously Department of Fisheries and Oceans, or DFO) leaked a document to the media that portended significant changes to the fish habitat protection provisions of Canada’s Fisheries Act. However, rather than proving to be a single momentous change to one of Canada’s key legislative means of protecting the environment and biodiversity, it was to be the first of a stunning and debilitating set of changes to federal statutes and governmental scientific capacity.

In response to the weakening of environmentally related legislation and reduced scientific capacity, the CSEE was the first among scientific and academic societies to write to the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and to the Prime Minister, expressing profound dissatisfaction with the proposed changes and the means by which they came about.

In effect, the end result is a significant weakening of the ability of government science to provide the best scientific advice to decision-makers and the best scientific knowledge to society. This is an issue for which I have had some personal experience. In 1997, based on my time at DFO as a postdoctoral researcher in the early 1990s, I was lead author of a paper entitled, “Is scientific inquiry incompatible with government information control?” My conviction that science can, indeed must, contribute effectively and independently to government decisions that affect society has been further shaped by working as a member of, and chairing, NSERC Grant Selection Committees, Royal Society of Canada Expert Panels, and the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC).

It was with this conviction in mind (and my hands truly shaking as never before – ask my students!) that my first six months as president ended with a 3-minute verbal contribution to the extraordinary rally organized by (among others) CSEE members of the University of Ottawa, scientists in support of the Experimental Lakes Area, and the Council For Canadians. Despite some initial collective timidity and uncertainty, the assembly of 2,000 individuals in front of the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill was a watershed event for the CSEE, for scientists, and hopefully Canadian society for whom the rally was ultimately held in benefit of.

Communications with Parliamentarians

During the first six months of 2012, as President of the CSEE, I had occasion to discuss environmental and biodiversity issues with MPs from the Conservative Party, Green Party, Liberal Party, and New Democratic Party.
As President of the CSEE, I was invited to appear before two parliamentary standing committees. The first was the Senate Standing Committee on Fisheries & Oceans in March 2012, and the second was the House of Commons Standing Committee on the Environment & Sustainable Development in May 2012. The Senate Committee’s work at the time was concentrated on ocean ecosystem changes in eastern Canada, notably interactions between Atlantic cod and grey seals. The Environment Committee was seeking feedback for the National Conservation Plan (NCP) announced in the 2011 Throne Speech. The Report of the Environment Committee on the NCP was tabled in the House of Commons on 19 June 2012.

On 13 March 2012, I was introduced by Member of Parliament (MP) and House of Commons Deputy Speaker Bruce Stanton as President of the CSEE to a group of about 40 MPs, Senators, and associated staff for a talk on 'Ocean Biodiversity' in Centre Block, Parliament Hill. The 20-minute presentation was part of the inaugural event for a new, all-party Oceans Caucus.

**Interactions with the Media**

Between mid-March and end of June 2012, I delivered more than 15 media interviews in which I was identified as CSEE President. The venues included the CBC’s *The Current, As It Happens*, CBC Radio Morning Shows, Radio-Canada International, Post-Media News, and Canadian Press. The CSEE was among those identified in a full-page advertisement in the Saturday 16 June 2012 edition of the *Globe and Mail* to protest the closure of the Experimental Lakes Area facility in northwestern Ontario.

**Ministerial Correspondence**

I had occasion to write a number of letters. On the matter of changes to Canada’s Fisheries Act, I wrote two letters on behalf of the society, both of which were well-covered by the media. Among other things, these letters expressed concerns pertaining to the closure of the Experimental Lakes Facility and to the use/misuse of science in government decision-making. At the end of June 2012, I had received ‘form-letter’ responses from the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans. I wrote Minister of State for Science and Technology Gary Goodyear, inviting him to attend the Evolution2012 meetings in Ottawa. His office wrote back and stated that the minister would not be able to attend because of previous engagements.

**CSEE in 2012**

The CSEE is now in its seventh year. Approaching a membership of 1000, the society is well represented across the country; 4% of members reside outside Canada. Among the five societies co-hosting the 2012 Evolution Congress in Ottawa, representation by CSEE members was second highest. The number of CSEE members in attendance at the Ottawa meeting (more than 550) was the most since our first meeting in 2006.

Notwithstanding this growth, many university faculty researchers, postdoctoral fellows, and students whose research encompasses various facets of ecology and evolution in this country are not engaged in the society or its activities. Perhaps the society’s efforts to increase its advocacy for science, to publically support the wise use of science in decision-making, to interact regularly with NSERC, to host public outreach science events, and to facilitate research interactions and communications between new and established researchers will serve to encourage others to support the CSEE. If these are objectives that you feel warrant greater support by the scientific community, and if you feel that the CSEE is, or can be, an effective vehicle for realizing these initiatives, please remember to renew your membership and to consider encouraging others to join.
CSEE annual meeting in 2013: UBC-Okanagan

Jason Pither, Chair of Local Organizing Committee

On behalf of the local organizing committee, I invite you to attend the 8th annual CSEE meeting, to be held at the Okanagan Campus of the University of British Columbia, May 12-15, 2013. Located near the city of Kelowna in the beautiful Okanagan Valley, UBC’s Okanagan campus provides a spectacular venue for the conference, and offers the ideal setting for meeting with colleagues and establishing new collaborations. The region offers fantastic outing opportunities for naturalists and oenophiles alike. Since our last update, we have the following exciting developments to announce:

- Renowned naturalist and author Dick Cannings will be leading a field trip (Sunday, May 12th) and delivering the public plenary lecture (Monday, May 13);
- Distinguished conservation geneticist Dr. Fred Allendorf will be providing the scientific plenary lecture on Tuesday, May 14th
- There will be several opportunities for attendees to sample the region’s fantastic wines
- Kelowna-based Tree Brewing Company will be sponsoring some of the social events
- The meeting will include six or seven symposia, including the following:
  1. Grassland trophic dynamics in a changing world (organizers: Lauchlan Fraser, Bill Harrower, and Roy Turkington)
  2. an emerging issues interactive symposium entitled Frontiers in Conservation Science (organizers Arne Mooers and Steven Price)
  3. "The plant microbiome", a symposium sponsored by Canadian Science Publishing (publisher of the NRC Research Press journals), and organized by Miranda Hart. This symposium will include the opportunity to submit manuscripts to a special issue of the journal Botany (formerly Canadian Journal of Botany). Start preparing those manuscripts!

Please see the Call for Proposals below or consult the CSEE webpage (www.ecoevo.ca/en/announcements.htm).

A meeting website will be launched in the fall. Early registration will be open in early January 2013, and registration fees are expected to be highly affordable. Check the CSEE website for updates.

Looking forward to seeing you at CSEE 2013!

Photo: Todd Booster, UBC-O
Call for Symposia

for the 2013 CSEE Annual Meeting at University of British Columbia - Okanagan

The eighth annual meeting of the Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution (CSEE) will be held from May 12-15 2013 in Kelowna, British Columbia and hosted by The University of British Columbia's Okanagan Campus. The theme of the 2013 meeting, “Range margins in a rapidly changing world," is especially pertinent within the Okanagan Valley, one of Canada’s most endangered ecoregions and home to the northern range margin of a large number of species-at-risk. Despite supporting a high proportion of Canadian biodiversity, the Okanagan Valley is currently among the most rapidly developing regions nationally, representing a microcosm of threats in need of innovative strategies informed by basic and applied research in ecology and evolution.

The Local Organizing Committee (LOC) invites proposals for symposia to be held in conjunction with the meeting. Symposium proposals should include: (1) a brief synopsis and rationale of the proposed theme; 2) tentative list of participants (including any confirmed); 3) anticipated sponsorship (if any); and 4) anticipated publications/outcomes (if any). The LOC will consider all relevant topics, however, proposals congruent with the meeting theme will be given priority. The Council will consider full-day symposia at its meeting in May 2013. All applicants will be notified of the LOC’s decision in October 2012. Although the LOC is unable to provide travel support for symposium organizers and all participants, it will consider requests for the coverage of registration fees and/or travel costs on behalf of one speaker per symposium.

Please e-mail your proposals (preferably as PDF attachment) to Mike Russello (michael.russello@ubc.ca) by September 30, 2012.

Thank you and we look forward to hosting you at what promises to be a fantastic and productive meeting.

CSEE Annual Meeting 2014 – Montréal

Andrew Hendry and Hans Larsson (McGill), Co-organizers

The first joint meeting of the Canadian Society for Ecology & Evolution, the Canadian Society of Zoologists, and the Society of Canadian Limnologists will be held in May 2014. The venue will be in the beautiful, downtown Montreal conference facilities of the Centre Mont Royal (http://www.centremontroyal.com/). The goal of this meeting is to foster increased communication between Canadian societies, to promote collaborations among their members, and to facilitate integrative and multidisciplinary approaches to scientific questions. (And to have a lot of fun.)
Evolution 2012 in Ottawa: a big meeting for CSEE!

Mary Reid, U. Calgary

The 2012 CSEE meeting, held 6-10 July in Ottawa, was part of the First Joint Congress on Evolutionary Biology, along with the American Society of Naturalists, the Society for the Study of Evolution, the European Society of Evolutionary Biology, and the Society of Systemic Biologists. The combined attendance was 2382, coming from ~45 countries. CSEE members were an impressive presence, with 558 attendees (almost 25% of delegates) – the biggest CSEE gathering to date.

A meeting of this size had a corresponding abundance of activities. There were ~1310 talks and ~640 posters in total. CSEE contributed two symposia: The Structure and Dynamics of Ecological Networks: from Genes to Ecosystems (organized by Bronwyn Rayfield and Andy Gonzalez from McGill) and Eco-evolutionary Dynamics: How Ecological and Evolutionary Process Influence One Another (organized by Andrew Hendry, McGill, and Dolph Schluter, UBC), a presidential address by past-President Spencer Barrett, Early Career Award presentations by Marc Johnson (UofT) and Dominque Gravel (UQAR), and a public lecture by Rosie Redfield (UBC).

The conference introduced some new media particularly helpful to a large conference but also likely to change how we navigate other conferences. One was an app where poster presenters could invite up to 5 meeting attendees to visit their poster. About half the presenters took advantage of this, but it has the potential to make posters more effective than talks for communicating a researcher’s work because it allows one-on-one discussions with an audience of the researcher’s choice. Another innovation was a mobile app of the program that allowed itineraries to be created and notes to be taken. It had a few hiccups, but EventMobi has already released an update to address these. The electronic programs saved about 150,000 pages from being printed.

Congratulations to the organizers, Howard Rundle (UOttawa) and Andrew Simons (Carleton)!
2012 Student Presentation Awards
Locke Rowe (UofT), Chair, CSEE Awards and Recognition Committee

Students are a central part of the present and future of ecology and evolution research in Canada, and the CSEE annual meeting is a great opportunity to emphasize their contributions. This year in Ottawa, the quality of student presentations was extremely high! We are pleased to announce the following award winners.

Prizes from the Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution
Three prizes were awarded for the best oral presentations, and three for the best poster presentations. In each category, first prize is $500, second prize $300, and third prize $200.

CSEE Talk 1st prize: Nathaniel Sharp, University of Toronto, "Sexual selection can reduce mutation load in Drosophila melanogaster."

CSEE Talk 2nd prize: Njal Rollinson, Dalhousie University, "A key component of the physical environment drives the evolution of maternal reproductive strategies in Atlantic salmon."

CSEE Talk 3rd prize: Aleeza Gerstein, University of British Columbia, "Evolve or die: A characterization of adaptive mutations in yeast."

CSEE Poster 1st prize: Alexandre Martin, Université de Sherbrooke "Age-Dependent Effect of Testosterone on Social Rank in Bighorn Rams (Ovis canadensis)."

CSEE Poster 2nd prize: Katherine Ostevik, University of British Columbia, "Speciation, Sunflowers and Sand Dunes: Reproductive barriers between dune and non-dune ecotypes of Helianthus petiolaris"

CSEE Poster 3rd prize: Anna Simonsen, University of Toronto, "Evidence for ecological benefits of cheating symbiotic soil microbes in the face of insect herbivory"

The Holohil Prize
The $500 Holohil Prize is offered by Holohil Systems Inc. for an outstanding student presentation in the ecology or evolution of wildlife. Oral and poster presentations were judged together. The winner is:
   Ann McKellar, Queens University, "Form, function, and consequences of density-dependence in a migratory bird"

The New Phytologist Prize
The $500 New Phytologist Prize is offered by the New Phytologist Trust for an outstanding student presentation in botany. Oral and poster presentations were judged together. The winner is:
   Emily Austen, University of Toronto, "Flowering early or flowering big: which matters more for male and female fitness?"

I would like to thank Holohil and New Phytologist for their contributions of prizes, the many CSEE members who volunteered to help judge presentations, and members of the CSEE Awards and Recognition Committee and the Local Organizing Committee. Special thanks go to Risa Sargent (University of Ottawa), who worked hard to coordinate the entire judging process.
Symposium for Women Entering Ecology and Evolution Today (SWEEET): Re-cap from the 2012 meeting
Risa Sargent (U. Ottawa)

This year, by popular demand, our SWEEET theme was 'Knowing your options and getting the job you want: career options beyond academia'. The event in Ottawa included several prominent speakers (http://www.ecoevo.ca/SWEEET/Speakers.html) including Dr. Suzanne Fortier, the president of NSERC. Speakers offered practical advice on how to keep options open while pursuing graduate work and tactics for transitioning to a non-academic career. Our discussion-oriented format allowed our audience to engage with the speakers and lively discussions ensued. Attendance to the symposium was estimated at around 150 participants. Participants were encouraged to complete a survey related to women in science issues, with a focus on factors that influence career path decisions. Over half of the SWEEET participants filled out the survey and we plan to present the results in an upcoming CSEE newsletter. The symposium attracted an international audience that included government scientists, post-doctoral fellows, science media and graduate and undergraduate students of both genders, and from a variety of countries.

A handful of the many positive statements from our survey:

"... the difficult decisions facing women in science are very real for me. Family concerns and lifestyle choices are huge factors in my graduate school search and impact my career goals."

"Wonderful timing - exactly what I needed for some inspiration and insight! Thank you!"

"So few people within the university can give you the perspective these women can. Having some exposure to opportunities outside academia is really important as well as opening up the discussion that these alternative careers are important and rewarding."

Dr. Emily Rubidge, one of this year's organizers, has agreed to be part of the team that carries out the 2013 symposium in Kelowna. She is looking for volunteers so if you are interested, please contact her at sweeet.ecoevo@gmail.com.

We would like to thank all of our speakers for making this year's symposium a valuable experience. Our generous sponsors (http://www.ecoevo.ca/SWEEET/Sponsors.html) enabled us to put on a larger than usual symposium and mixer this year. We are very grateful to the CSEE for all their ongoing logistical and financial support. Finally, we thank our participants for continuing to make this symposium such a rewarding experience.

This year's organizing team was composed of Anita Melnyk (UOttawa), Lauren Pinault (Brock), Emily Rubidge (UAlberta), and Risa Sargent (UOttawa).
Death of Evidence: Scientists Rally
Scott Findlay, U. Ottawa

On July 10th, 2012, scientists, physicians and their supporters gathered across Canada to mourn the death of evidence. Although the main event was a funeral procession of more than 2,000 mourners through the streets of our nation’s capital, solidarity events were held across the country. The events were protesting Mr. Harper’s targeted dismantling of Canadian institutions that collect scientific evidence, the muzzling of government scientists, and the erosion of the role of scientific evidence in public debate and government decisions.

The unusual sight of scientists in the streets along with their dire message captured the attention of not only Canadians, but people across the globe. Stories appeared in hundreds of online and print articles and on radio and television stations across Canada. International media outlets picked up the story in many countries including the United States and the United Kingdom.

The organizers, Dr. Scott Findlay, Associate Professor of Biology at the University of Ottawa, and Ms. Katie Gibbs also in the Department of Biology at Ottawa, have suggested that these events may well mark the beginning of a nation-wide movement calling for the transparent use of scientific evidence in decision-making. If you want to be kept informed about upcoming events, sign up at www.deathofevidence.ca.

Verbatim Speech by CSEE President at DoE Rally

My name is Jeff Hutchings. I am a professor of biology at Dalhousie University and President of the Canadian Society For Ecology and Evolution.

The federal government has weakened national fisheries and environmental legislation, trivialized the relevance of scientific advice, and eliminated government scientific research of fundamental importance to the health of Canadian society.

Why has the government taken these actions? The Minister of Fisheries & Oceans provides a clue. In June, he wrote that the existing Fisheries Act offered “few tools to authorise pollution” but that the new legislation (Bill C-38) would “establish new tools to authorise deposits of deleterious substances”. In other words, changes to the Fisheries Act will make it easier to authorise the pollution of Canada’s waters.
What can go wrong when a country prioritizes economic development at any cost and devalues science at the same time? Canada provides a stellar example.

The collapse of Newfoundland’s Atlantic cod fishery occurred 20 years ago this month. This was the greatest loss of a vertebrate species in Canadian history; it resulted in Canada’s biggest single job loss. When will history repeat itself?

Freedom of expression is no longer a right enjoyed by Canadian government scientists. These individuals paid by taxpayers to undertake research in support of society are not permitted to speak to Canadians unless they have Ministerial permission to do so.

When you inhibit the communication of science, you inhibit science. When you inhibit science, you inhibit the acquisition of knowledge. Government control over the ability of society to acquire knowledge has alarming precedents.

An iron curtain is being drawn by government between science and society. Closed curtains, especially those made of iron, make for very dark rooms.

A former Scandinavian politician with impeccable international credentials provides an informed and enlightened perspective on politics and science. These are the words of Gro Harlem Brundtland who served three terms as Prime Minister of Norway. She said:

“Science must underpin our policies. If we compromise on scientific facts and evidence, repairing nature will be enormously costly – if possible at all.”

“Politics that disregard science and knowledge will not stand the test of time.”

Thank you.

CSEE Biodiversity & Conservation COMMITTEE

Arne Mooers, SFU, Chair

It has been a long hot summer for biodiversity and conservation in Canada. As you may know, members of the CSEE Executive (particularly our President, Jeff Hutchings) and some of the B&G committee (John Reynolds, Arne Mooers) have been speaking out - on the stage, on the screen and in print - on how Bill C-38 affects our stewardship of biodiversity. See, for example:

www.cbc.ca/player/News/Technology+and+Science/ID/2254800426/
http://thetyee.ca/Opinion/2012/07/16/Death-of-Evidence
www.sciencemag.org/content/337/6091/154.1.citation
There is grave concern about the future of SARA (The Species At Risk Act), with rumours that legal changes may be proposed as early as October. CSEE must be prepared to take a reasoned but strong position. We must continue to keep the issue in the public conscience, but we must do more. The question is, what?

In other news, while a recent initiative to produce more taxonomic training in Canada (see our previous bulletin, www.ecoevo.ca/en/2012/BulletinCSEE11En.pdf) has stalled, we are still exploring this initiative and we will keep you posted.

Finally, we are sending out a call to our members for themes for our "Frontiers in Conservation Science" symposium. WWF-Canada and CSEE are organizing this forward-looking event at the 2013 CSEE Okanagan meeting and we don't want to retread old tires. Whither should environmental science go in Canada? Please give us your suggestions. We hope this symposium will be the springboard for new projects, perhaps a grant application or two. Think big. You can find details at www.ecoevo.ca/en/announcements.htm

As usual, please contact any of us for any CSEE-themed Biodiversity and Conservation issue.

Student AND Post-Doctoral Members

Leanna Lachowsky, U. Calgary,
CSEE Student and Post-doctoral Council Representative

Ottawa 2012

The organizers, staff and volunteers who made it happen should be commended for putting together such an excellent meeting and bringing together so many people from five different societies. It was great to be able to network with so many international scientists at our annual meeting.

Among many other excellent workshops, the CSEE sponsored a Student & Post-doc Workshop that involved a lively discussion with four excellent panel members on "The Role of Science in Policy." Thanks to Ted Hsu, Rees Kassen, Jeff Kinder, and Pierre Meulien for their participation in our panel. Please e-mail me with any suggestions for workshop topics for our next meeting in Kelowna, BC.

Seeking the next Student & Post-Doctoral Representative for CSEE Council

Nominations are now open for the 2014-2015 student and post doctoral councilor. The representative attends council meetings twice per year, is involved with planning the annual student workshop, facilitating student travel grants and presentation awards and is also encouraged to pursue their own initiatives. This is a two-year term starting in January 2014. This position is a great way to get involved, stay informed and expand your network. Please contact me if you are interested in hearing more about the perks of this position or if you know of any students or post docs who might be interested in this position.
Communication: CSEE is on LinkedIn and Facebook – check in for discussions, networking, and announcements. Feel free to start your own discussion. Got a great idea? Issues? Questions? Please send me an email about absolutely anything to CSEEstudent@gmail.com

CSEE Outreach - Actively Promoting Ecology and Evolution in Canada
Fanie Pelletier, U. Sherbrooke
CSEE council member and Outreach Chair

Current committee members: Suzanne Gray (McGill University), Kiyoko Gotanda (McGill University) and Fanie Pelletier. We have two departing committee members: Erika Crispo (University of Calgary), Lorraine Adderley (University of Calgary). We are therefore trying to recruit two new members. Are you interested in helping us promote science in Ecology and Evolution? Please contact Fanie Pelletier to get involved. (fanie.pelletier@usherbrooke.ca).

Recent activities: The CSEE held two major activities during the last annual meeting in Ottawa. First, the Society jointly hosted (with the University of Ottawa) a public lecture. With the advent of social media and public forums, the intersection between peer-reviewed research and public debate needs to be explored by both the public and scientists. Dr. Rosie Redfield (professor at the University of British Columbia) gave a very interesting talk about the recent debate about whether life could have evolved using arsenic instead of phosphorus. In 2010, a potentially ground-breaking article published in Science reported that specialized bacteria found in Mono Lake, California, could replace the phosphorus in its nucleic acids with arsenic. The findings were picked up by every major news outlet in the world and as fast as the headlines made the news, other scientists were expressing doubt, including Dr. Redfield. She publically blogged about her study and requested open feedback from her colleagues and readers about her progress and results. During her talk, she gave an overview of the story. People interested to know more about this story should have a look at this recent article: Science DOI: 10.1126/science.1219861

Second, in collaboration with the Canadian museum of Nature, the CSEE hosted a ‘kid workshop’ the day preceding the Ottawa conference. During their visits at the museum, kids of all ages were able to learn from CSEE scientists what it is to be a biologist, and participated in science-themed games and activities. The museum has hosted...
approximately 1200 visitors on that day, many of them that came to see our different kiosks. Curiously, the Museum omitted the word ‘evolution’ from its description of the event.

Photo: © Kiyoko Gotanda

Other funded outreach events:
One outreach project was supported by CSEE funding. People of a Feather is an award winning film that discuss the pressing contemporary environmental issues facing sea ice ecosystems and Inuit communities that rely on these resources. For more information check out their web page: http://www.peopleofafeather.com/

FROM THE SECRETARY....
Miriam Richards, Brock

❖ Membership renewals for 2013

Please renew your membership this fall! CSEE memberships run from January to December of each year, so renewals received from November 1st will be credited to 2013. Membership fees help the Society in its mission to support ecology and evolution science in Canada. Formal membership in the Society strengthens CSEE’s voice in discussions of science policy in Canada.

To continue supporting important Society activities such as providing Student Travel Awards to our annual conference, funding support to scientific symposia and meetings outside CSEE, and outreach activities aimed at bringing ecology and evolution research to the public, and to keep CSEE in the black, Council voted in July to raise membership fees by a small amount beginning in 2013. Annual membership fees will increase by $5 per year for students and post-docs and $10 per year for regular memberships. Lifetime memberships remain at $800. An email reminder to renew will be sent in early November.
Call for website photos

The CSEE website is being upgraded for a new release this fall. We need your help! We are looking for photos, drawings, and other kinds of illustrations to enhance the new website, especially the home page. If you would like to see your photos or artwork on the website, please email them to Miriam Richards, CSEE Secretary (mrichards@brocku.ca), together with a message that gives us an explanation of the content and permission to post them on the website.

CSEE Supports Regional Conferences!

CSEE considers requests for financial support from the organizers of regional Canadian meetings in ecology and evolution. Requests (to Andy Gonzalez, andrew.gonzalez@mcgill.ca) must include a statement on how the funds will be used and how the meeting advances the broad mandate of the CSEE. Meetings that receive financial support must promote CSEE on all promotional material associated with the conference and must submit a brief report to the CSEE following the meeting. Here’s a note about the CSEE-supported EVO-WIBO meeting:

On 21-22 April, we had EVO-WIBO 2012 [Evolutionary Biology in the Pacific Northwest, www.zoology.ubc.ca/evo-wibo], which I think was a great success. We had 123 people from 19 institutions in 7 states and provinces. Of these, we had 10 students who registered as members of CSEE, as well as several post-doc and faculty members of CSEE. A total of 30 Canadian evolutionary biologists attended.

We gave deeply discounted registration costs to CSEE student members, at the rates of $125 for student members and $160 for non-member students. We try to keep costs down for students, which was made much easier with the support of CSEE. The marginal cost of each attendee (i.e. for food and room costs, which are included in the registration) is approximately $160 for the weekend, and so in this way we created a deep discount for students who were members of CSEE or ASN (who also gave us substantial support). CSEE’s support for student attendees was gratefully acknowledged in the program, in the announcements and on our webpage.

We are very grateful for the support of the CSEE for the meeting. Please let us know what other info we might share that would be useful to you, or anything else we can do to help repay this gift.

With thanks,
Kate Ostevik
PhD Candidate, Botany, UBC
EVO-WIBO 2012 Organizing Committee
News about NSERC

Evolution and Ecology Evaluation Group 1503
Doug Morris (Lakehead) is completing his term as Chair of EG1503. Our thanks to Doug for his tireless championing of ecology and evolution in Canada, to Chris Eckert (Queen’s) and Joe Rasmussen (U. Lethbridge) for completing terms as Section Co-chairs, and the rest of the members of the EG1503 for their considerable work on the Discovery Grant evaluation committee.

The committee produced a report: “Evolution and Ecology Evaluation Group Annual Report – 2012 Competition”. This is posted on the CSEE website. It reviews statistics about the evaluation process in 2012, as well as discussions about processes going forward.

The new Group Chair will be Hugh MacIssac, Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research, University of Windsor.

Expert Panel on Science Performance and Research Funding
The Council of Canadian Academies convened an expert panel to guide future funding allocations to NSERC’s Discovery Grant Program, at the request of federal Minister of Industry. Rita Colwell, Distinguished University Professor, University of Maryland chaired the panel. Their recently published report reviews costs and benefits of different assessment models for funding, with particular attention to the use of indicators and judgment. Find the full report under the Assessment Publications on the CCA website (http://www.scienceadvice.ca/uploads/eng/assessments and publications and news releases/science performance/scienceperformance_fullreport_en_web.pdf).

Discovery Frontiers
NSERC will be announcing the next Discovery Frontiers competition in the near future. CSEE has promoted “The future of biodiversity” as a candidate option. From the NSERC website:

“Discovery Frontiers (DF) grants are part of the NSERC Frontiers initiatives that identify and capitalize on emerging opportunities where Canada can benefit from its world-class capacity to take a leadership role in key areas of research and innovation. NSERC Frontiers address national research priorities and global challenges by supporting a small number of major new transformative and integrative activities. These initiatives will generate substantial impact from a one-time injection of funding for a defined period, addressing challenges and seizing leadership opportunities in areas of national importance.”
Canadian Institute of Ecology and Evolution: New Director and New Growth

Steve Heard, UNB, CSEE Counselor

CSEE is a founding member of the Canadian Institute of Ecology and Evolution (CIEE), which operates as a consortium of member universities and organizations (including CSEE). I serve as CSEE’s representative to CIEE’s Management Board, and am pleased to report on a year of progress and promise for the young Institute.

Recent CIEE activities include working groups on metabolic theory and climate change and on multiscale analysis of plankton diversity and dynamics; a graduate minicourse in landscape genetics; and workshops on communicating science to society, on the use of R for biodiversity analysis, and on the application of next-generation sequencing data. CIEE events are heavily attended and we believe are making important contributions to the field in Canada and worldwide.

Most importantly, CIEE has recently announced the naming of a new Director, Dr. Peter Leavitt. Dr. Leavitt replaces the founding director, Dr. Art Weis, who is stepping down after four years of superb service. Dr. Leavitt is Professor in the Department of Biology at the University of Regina, where he holds the Canada Research Chair in Environmental Change and Society and is Director of the Environmental Quality and Analysis Laboratory. He has published extensively on such subjects as limnology, paleoecology, biogeochemical cycling, the ecology of climate change and human impacts, and landscape and ecosystem-scale variability. Dr. Leavitt says that he is “truly excited about the Institute and its unlimited potential to transform Canadian science and society.”

CIEE now looks forward to growth in membership and programmatic breadth. We will shortly be launching a drive to bring new institutional members into CIEE (and we may well ask you to help recruit your own University). With more members, we hope to increase the number of CIEE-sponsored working groups, workshops, and events. We also hope to broaden the geographical breadth of programming, with a distributed model in which working groups can be held at sites nationwide. Look for much more from CIEE in the coming year!
Call for Nominations for CSEE Council

Elections will be held in spring 2013 for several positions on the CSEE Council:
1) Vice President (2014-2015) to become President (2016-2017)
2) Treasurer (2014-2017)
4) Student/Post-doctoral Council Member (2014-2015)

Nominations supported by 5 or more members in good standing will be added to the list of candidates put forward by the nominating committee.

Please send the names and short description of potential individuals that would be suitably qualified for these important positions to VP Judith Myers (myers@zoology.ubc.ca) by October 15, 2012. Any member of the society can be nominated. Students and post-doctoral fellows can also run as Regular Council Members; the Student Councilor must be a student or a post-doctoral fellow and has special responsibility for student affairs.

Elections will be held electronically in the spring of 2013 and elected candidates will begin their terms on 1 January 2014.

- Jeffrey Hutchings (Dalhousie University) - President (2012 - 2013)
- Judith Myers (University of British Columbia) - Vice-president (2012 - 2013)
- Miriam Richards (Brock University) - Secretary (2012 - 2015)
- Steeve Côté (Université Laval) - Treasurer (2010 - 2013)
- Arne Mooers (Simon Fraser University) - Council member (2010 - 2013)
- Stephen Heard (University of New Brunswick) - Council member (2010 - 2013)
- Mary Reid (University of Calgary) - Council member (2011 - 2013)
- Andrew Gonzalez (McGill University) - Council member (2012 - 2015)
- Fanie Pelletier (Université de Sherbrooke) - Council member (2012 - 2015)
- Locke Rowe (University of Toronto) - Council member (2012 - 2015)
- Leanna Lachowsky (University of Calgary) - Student/Post-doc Councilor (2012 - 2013)