



Société canadienne
d'écologie et d'évolution

Canadian Society of
Ecology and Evolution

Newsletter # 7

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Edited by *Marco Festa-Bianchet*

President's Message

The Value of (a Scientific) Society

Only five years ago there was no unified voice for Canada's ecologists and evolutionary biologists. Today, through our Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution, we speak as one. Each issue of our bulletin, like the sports pages in a newspaper, summarizes our activities. The scorecard is impressive.

- We are one of the largest scientific societies in Canada (nearly 900 members).
- More than one-half of our members attend our annual meetings and present hundreds of research talks and posters.
- We contribute thousands of dollars annually to subsidize student travel to our scientific meetings (20 \$500-awards in 2009; 30 awards in 2010).
- We reach out to school groups and the general public to increase appreciation of ecological and evolutionary science.
- We host workshops to help our students promote their research and find jobs.
- We support regional student meetings (one in each region of Canada during 2009).
- We use our membership in the Partnership Group in Science and Engineering (PaGSE) to inform national science policy.
- We educate government leaders on issues in evolution and ecology, and when appropriate, submit briefs to government agencies and ministers.
- We liaise regularly with NSERC and work to increase funding for students, post-docs, and discovery in evolution and ecology.
- We engage members and journalists to write scientific vignettes, and provide copies to NSERC to share with policy advisors and politicians.
- We formed the Canadian Institute of Ecology and Evolution, then provided funds to help make it successful.

- We instituted a series of prestigious awards to increase the profile of our people, and our science, at home and abroad.
- We collaborate with other national and international scientific societies to highlight Canadian science in co-sponsored meetings and symposia.
- We acquired representation on the Canadian Council for Animal Care.
- We established local CSEE representatives in all Canadian universities.
- We fight ignorance in evolution and ecology at every opportunity, and we work to galvanize public and government attention on such issues as global warming and loss of biodiversity.
- And we do all of these things for the price of individual members of a modest dinner.

None of these actions would have been possible without members and councillors who believe in our mission and work tirelessly to carry it forward. Yet while we thank each of you for your help and commitment to the CSEE, there is much more to be done. Our science remains vulnerable to well organized special interests aiming to obscure truth, hide objectivity, and obfuscate evidence in order to promote selfish agendas or financial gain.

Two recent examples highlight our Society's increased advocacy in response to global warming and lost biodiversity. In December, we were the first of 10 Societies to endorse the WWF letter from scientists calling on Prime Minister Harper and the Government of Canada to take immediate action to halt global warming. At about the same time, our biodiversity and conservation committee received acceptance of its proposal to host a symposium assessing the state of Canada's ecosystems at the 2010 Society for Conservation Biology meeting in Edmonton (3-7 July).

Some members of our community may be discomforted by increased advocacy and involvement in policy, even though we are bound by our constitution to pursue them. Detractors argue that the utopian role of scientists is, when asked, to simply provide advice as objective and dispassionate arbiters of knowledge. Perhaps they would be correct if government was free from interference by special interests and occasionally disingenuous lobbies. But reality is different. Data and theory tell us that no government, or the society that it represents, can ever cleanse itself of conflicting self interests.

We would do well to remember that our ability to practice science is only possible because we live in a larger society that invests heavily in education and pursuit of knowledge. To deny our benefactors of our insights and interpretations would represent the worst kind of misguided self interest. Our moral compass points clearly, and consistently, toward a mutually benevolent re-involvement with Canadians. I am proud that the CSEE/SCEE is the vanguard of that initiative.

I have been extremely fortunate and honoured to serve the Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution during the past four and a half years. I leave the Executive secure in the knowledge that the Society rests in the eager and capable hands of our continuing and new Council and Executive, that our members are committed to the Society's success and ideals, and that our best times lie before us. Founding Treasurer Louis Bernatchez, and Councillors Beatrix Beisner, Nathalie Brodeur, Marco Festa-Bianchet, and Mark Forbes also retired from their positions on 1 January. Please join me in thanking each of them for their selfless contributions to build our Society, for their consistent efforts to meet our mandate, and for their careful nurturing of Canada's ecology and evolution community.

Douglas Morris

Update on Council communications with NSERC

CSEE Council met with NSERC Vice-President Mme Isabelle Blain, Team Leader Dave Bowen, and Program Officers Matt Vincelli and Kenn Rankine during the 4 December 2009 Council meeting. Evolution and ecology (EG 1503) co-chairs Marc-André Villard and Hugh MacIsaac joined by teleconference.

Mme Blain emphasized that the Discovery Grants Program remains the NSERC flagship, and shared her optimism that government has renewed its appreciation for discovery and NSERC's role in supporting it. She also explained that NSERC is committed to finding ways to better support post-doctoral fellows. We learned, despite elimination of two-year scholarships for MSc study, that NSERC places high value on Master's degrees and that the changes to scholarships were aimed at minimizing the damage caused by reduced government funding. Mme Blain then summarized the 2009 Discovery Grant competition in evolution and ecology, and highlighted data illustrating how grant sizes fluctuate under the new "binning system".

Council was encouraged by the optimistic outlook in Mme Blain's report, and restated our commitment to collaborate on NSERC's people, discovery, and innovation agenda. We encouraged NSERC to work with the Provinces and the Federal Government to solve the funding crisis for MSc students and post-doctoral fellows. We relayed our alarm that Canada's field stations, so crucial to many in our community, are no longer eligible for MRS funding. We emphasized the multifarious benefits that field stations provide, and suggested that a coordinated national network should be eligible for a dedicated funding envelope. We learned that NSERC is working on a somewhat similar model to enhance and support Arctic research. Mark Forbes volunteered to follow up on this initiative with field-station directors.

We also emphasized the interaction between discovery and innovation, and the research leadership by our community on themes such as global warming and loss of biodiversity that reflect Canada's science and technology strategy. We were again encouraged by Mme Blain's quick assertion that discovery in evolution and ecology has often been used to inform government policy. We explored a variety of options that will hopefully lead to closer collaboration between discovery and NSERC's Partnerships and Innovation programs. The dialogue was positive and productive. We provided all NSERC officials with a summary of our goals and were assured that a copy would also be given to NSERC President Suzanne Fortier.

We concluded our liaison in frank discussions with co-chairs Villard and MacIsaac who confirmed that the new binning system for discovery grants is superior to that used in recent years. The system is not yet perfect, and could be improved by clearer instructions on grant assessments and by improved communication between NSERC and the research community. We were told that most difficulties emerge during assessments of the contribution of grant applicants to the training and education of HQP. Several Councillors remarked that these problems could be mostly circumvented by changing the design of research applications (form 101) to include a single page for description of contributions to HQP training.

Liaison with NSERC remains a high priority for Council, and we appreciate NSERC's continuing support of our Society and community of scholars. Our meetings provide a unique opportunity to share perspectives and to represent the interests of Canada's ecologists and evolutionary biologists. We are pleased that NSERC continues to find many of our suggestions useful, and we hope that our

ideas will help improve government support of Canadian science, and most particularly that practiced by Canada's ecologists and evolutionary biologists.

Council welcomes members' opinions on our interactions with NSERC. Please share your perspectives and ideas with Council and your local CSEE representative.

Douglas Morris

CSEE participation in the Executive of the Canadian Council on Animal Care

The CSEE is a limited-term member of the Canadian Council for Animal Care, the "national peer review agency responsible for setting and maintaining standards for the care and use of animals used in research, teaching and testing throughout Canada". I was the CSEE representative last year, with the task of identifying issues of interest to the CSEE membership and to raise these issues with the CCAC. Many members of the CSEE use vertebrates in their research, and thus interact with the CCAC and local Animal Care Committees. Participation by the CSEE in the CCAC is thus of particular importance.

Last October 3-4, I attended my first CCAC meeting in Ottawa. The first day was dedicated to the Standing Committees (essentially sub-committees that deal with specific matters – they include Finance and Planning, Guidelines, Three Rs). I have been assigned to the Assessment Committee, that deals with the assessments of institutions that subscribe to the CCAC program. These include universities, federal government agencies and private institutions. The second day started with a meeting of the entire Council (approx. 30 members). The agenda included an open forum for members to pose questions and raise issues to the CCAC Executive and Secretariat. Below I outline two points from my experience:

1. During the Assessment Committee meeting, I learned that there will be a document that will outline how University Veterinarians should engage in continuing education. The point was made that many University Veterinarians do not have experience with lab animals, especially at small institutions, and that the CCAC should support their professional development. I raised the point that the many (most) University Veterinarians do not have experience with wildlife and other non-traditional animal models. I was told that wildlife/non-traditional models usually make a small proportion of the total number of animal use protocols, and it is typically not feasible for Universities to spend funds on training for their Veterinarians. Nonetheless, the committee was sensitive to my point, and suggested that University Veterinarians should consult outside experts in situations where they do not have expertise. In addition, it was suggested *that researchers should provide video, pictures and equipment to animal care committees to answer any questions that these committees may have*. This theme was repeated in conversations I had with other representatives. Those of us working with wildlife and other non-traditional animal models must educate our local animal care committee and University Veterinarian to facilitate our research. It is clear from discussions I have had with CSEE members that conflict with the local animal care committee over best practices with their species can be a major impediment.
2. The CCAC is attempting to have most/all federal government agencies subscribe to the CCAC program. This may have implications for some of our members. There were also discussions of having provincial agencies do the same (eg. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and other provincial equivalents).

Finally, the CCAC has just released its “Five-year plan (2009-2014)” (available at <http://www.ccac.ca/en/Publications/PUBLICAT/Five%20Year%20Plan%202009-2014.pdf>). This document continues the emphasis on traditional laboratory models (e.g. mice, rats, rabbits etc). Wildlife issues are rarely mentioned (in fact *wildlife* appears in the document only three times), and that there will be an emphasis on applying the 3 Rs to wildlife research. There is a publication on this issue (Griffin G. & Gauthier C. (2004) Incorporation of the principles of the Three Rs in wildlife research. ATLA 32 (Suppl. 1):215-219) written by the CCAC.

If you have any questions/concerns about CCAC issues, please contact me at aschulte@hostedde@laurentian.ca.

Albrecht Schulte-Hostedde

For student and post-doctoral members

Student Travel Awards to Quebec City

This year, the Society will offer 30 student travel awards worth \$500 each for student members to attend the annual meeting in Quebec City, this is 10 more awards than were available last year. These travel awards do not apply to post-docs. Winners are expected to present their research at the meetings via a poster or talk. The awards will be drawn at random from among all eligible students who email the Secretary by February 25, 2010 (To: Sally Otto, otto@zoology.ubc.ca ; Subject: Travel award; Body: Please provide your address and whether you plan to present a poster or talk). Graduate students who are members of CSEE and not within 500km driving distance of Quebec City are eligible to apply.

Presentation Prizes

The Society will also grant oral and poster prizes, which will be awarded to the three best oral (\$500, \$300, \$200) and three best poster presentations (\$500, \$300, \$200) to student members. In addition, the Annals of Botany Journal will sponsor a prize for a student who exhibits an outstanding contribution in the field of botany (\$250). Prize winners will be announced on the last day of the three day meeting, May 12, 2010, at 4:30 PM.

Third Annual Student and Post-Doctoral Lunch-Workshop

A workshop will be taking place at the Quebec City meeting, scheduled for May 11, at 12:30 PM. Food and beverages will be provided to participants who register on the CSEE 2010 meeting registration form. Last year's workshop on non-academic jobs was a huge success with over 100 members participating. This year's subject will be announced shortly on the Workshops link on the CSEE 2010 meeting website: <http://www.scee2010.ulaval.ca/meeting.htm>

Activities during the Quebec City meeting

The following activities are planned at this year's meeting and more are to come. Please see details by clicking on the Social Events link on the CSEE 2010 meeting website (see link above).

May 9: Opening reception at the Pub Universitaire

May 10: Beer night in Vieux-Quebec

May 10: NSERC information session

May 11: Dinner-Cruise Banquet

May 12: Student Prizes awarded to winners

May 13: Field trip at Cap Tourmente

Stay Informed

During registration time, and up until the day of the meeting, you will find all pertinent information on the student link from the main page of the CSEE website. This page will be updated periodically to keep you abreast of student activities during the meeting. Note that there will also be an Information Board in the poster session lobby, where all student/post-doc social activities and updates will be posted during the meeting.

Kathryn Morton, CSEE student and post-doctoral council representative 2010-2011

Nathalie Brodeur, CSEE student representative on the local organising committee 2010

Update on CSEE Membership

The number of CSEE members reached a record 879 at the end of 2009. This ranks CSEE as one of the most important scientific societies in Canada and illustrates clearly its vigor and health. Our membership includes a majority of students and postdoc members (68.5%) as well six lifetime members. Nearly all of our members are associated with Canadian institutions (94%). The remaining members are from throughout the world. The map illustrates the geographic distribution of our Canadian members (in percent). Our next two meetings at Laval (2010) and Banff (2011) promise to increase our membership and ability to represent the broad interests of ecologists and evolutionary biologists throughout Canada!



Sally Otto and Louis Bernatchez

Ecology and Evolution research in field stations in Canada

During their December meeting in Ottawa, CSEE Councillors queried NSERC on funding for biological field stations, given reductions to the Major Resources Support envelope. Six of 10 field stations that had formerly received NSERC MRS funding have not been re-allocated operating funds. NSERC VP Blain asked whether a single application for a network of field stations could come from the Ecology and Evolution community, possibly under the MRS or another NSERC program. It is the intention of Council to have this issue discussed in an informal session at the 2010 Laval meeting. Mark Forbes (mforbes6@gmail.com) has canvassed the Directors of Biological Field Stations in Canada for attendance at the Laval meeting; for leadership on this issue; and, for related topics on supporting field research in Canada (such as a possible follow-up workshop at CIEE). Should you wish to attend the Laval session, please email Mark.

Mark Forbes

CSEE Early Career Award

Name: **English:** CSEE Early Career Award
 French: Prix de début de carrière de la SCEE

Award Description: The CSEE Early Career Awards/Prix de début de carrière de la SCEE recognize outstanding accomplishments and promising future research potential in ecology and evolution by scientists early in their career. The awards will be given to two candidates every 2 years. They consist of a 10-year membership to CSEE/ SCEE, \$500 cash award, travel support to the annual meeting of CSEE/ SCEE and an invitation to give a keynote lecture.

Eligibility: Applicants must have received their doctorate in the five years preceding the application deadline and must be active researchers in the field of ecology and evolutionary biology. Candidates need to be Canadian citizens, or landed immigrants, or have completed their PhD at a Canadian University, or be currently working at a Canadian University.

Application/Nomination Procedures: Candidates may apply directly or may be nominated. **Established researchers are encouraged to nominate outstanding young scientists.** Nominations **must** contain **all** of the following supporting materials: (1) a curriculum vitae, (2) a summary of research accomplishments (maximum 2 pages), (3) a 2-page statement of research plans for the next 5 years, (4) three recent publications, (5) names and addresses of three referees (including the nominating scientist where applicable) who will provide supporting letters. The 3 letters of reference should be sent separately from the candidate's nomination package. All nomination materials and letters of reference must be sent as PDF e-mail attachments.

Time lines: The deadline for receipt of all materials for the inaugural Early Career Awards (Candidates must have received their PhD degree on or after 15 November 2006), including letters of reference is 15 November 2011. Subsequent deadlines will be on the same date in odd-numbered years. All materials for the 2011 competition must be sent to the CSEE/ SCEE Chair of the Awards & Recognition Committee, Kathy Martin (Kathy.Martin@ubc.ca). The recipients will be notified of the award in mid-January 2012 and they will receive their award at the following annual meeting.

Kathy Martin

Progress by the Canadian Institute for Ecology and Evolution

The Canadian Institute of Ecology and Evolution made important strides in 2009 by offering scientific programs, applying for federal funding and expanding its membership. Thanks to the efforts of the participating investigators and to the financial support from its member universities, the CIEE is on the way to becoming a vital resource for the ecological and evolutionary research communities. A special “thank you” goes to the CSEE for a \$5000 grant to help support operations during 2010.

Programs

During its first 14 months of operation, 93 investigators and students have taken advantage of CIEE programs to further research in ecology and evolution and to lend their expertise in shaping environmental policy. Here is a summary:

THEMATIC PROGRAM: *An interim scientific assessment of the present and projected effectiveness of the Canadian Species at Risk Act.* 19-23 November 2008. *Program Leader:* Arne Mooers, Simon Fraser University. The program’s final report was sent to the Hon. James Benzan, Chair, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development. Mooers has been invited to appear before the Committee during the formal review. The report is now in review for publication.

SYNERGY WORKSHOP: *Adaptive Movement of Interacting Species.* 10-13 September 2009. *Program Leaders:* Peter Abrams, University of Toronto, and Yuan Lou, Ohio State University. (Co-sponsored with the Fields Institute of Mathematical Sciences.) Sixty-one investigators met to explore improved methods for incorporating directed, adaptive movement through space into ecological models. Eighteen of North America’s premier mathematical biologists and biological mathematicians gave invited talks, including Priyanga Amesakare, Steven Cantrell, Chris Cosner, Peter Chesson, Robert Holt, Mark Lewis, Mathew Leibold, Kevin McCann, and Roger Nisbet. Several publications spurred by the symposium are in preparation.

SPECIAL SYMPOSIUM: *Ecological and Evolutionary Implications of Climate Change.* 6-7 March 2009. *Program Leader,* Douglas Morris, Lakehead University. (Co-sponsored with the Lakehead University Centre for Northern Studies.) Commemorating the International Polar Year, this gathering considered ecological and evolutionary consequences of rapid climate warming and shifting precipitation for terrestrial, aquatic and marine habitat in the Canadian North. The Symposium also featured sessions for contributed posters by 14 graduate students and PhD’s, plus offered an evening session open to the public. The Hon. Bruce Hyer, MP, Thunder Bay-Superior North, spoke during the public event.

VISITING FELLOW: *Samuel Scheiner*, US National Science Foundation, June-July 2009. Scheiner wrote several chapters of a new book on the theory of biology.

Funding

A grant proposal, requesting \$1.9M over five years, was submitted to the NSERC Major Resource Support program in October. If funded, this grant will provide over \$200K per year in direct support for Thematic Programs, Synergy Workshops, and Graduate Mini-Courses. The grant will also support development, in co-operation with the DRYAD project (http://www.nescent.org/wg_dryad/), of an archive for the storage and distribution of data sets pertaining to Canadian biological systems.

Membership

The CIEE is organized as a consortium of Canadian universities. In 2009, three institutions—Carleton University, McGill University, and the University of British Columbia—joined the University of Toronto as CIEE members. The financial support they provide will keep CIEE moving forward in the year ahead. The Institute seeks to add member universities in 2010. Fees are \$8000 per year to universities graduating 5 or more Ph.D's per year in ecology and evolution, and \$3000 per year for others. As a perk of membership, students from participating institutions receive travel grants and fee waivers for CIEE Mini-courses. Contact Art Weis, CIEE Director, for information and assistance on membership (arthur.weis@utoronto.ca).

Call for Proposals – 2010

The CIEE will sponsor a new Thematic Program (working group) and a Graduate Mini-Course for the year 2010. A Call for Proposals was sent to the CSEE membership in January (<http://www.ecoevo.ca/en/2010/CIEEproposals.pdf>). The application process is simple and your participation is most welcome.

Art Weis

CSEE Committee on Biodiversity and Conservation

CSEE's nascent Committee on Biodiversity and Conservation is up and tripping forward. The committee's mandate is to advise council on issues and policies that preserve or threaten biodiversity, and to liaise with other like-minded organizations nationally and internationally. We currently have four members: Marco Festa-Bianchet (Sherbrooke), Marty Leonard (Dalhousie), Arne Mooers (Simon Fraser, Chair), and Jana Vamosi (Calgary). We are looking for two more members to round us out, particularly folks with expertise at the ecosystem level, in aquatic biodiversity, and in northern biodiversity. If you are interested, please contact us (e.g. amooers@sfu.ca). In the meantime, we have taken on our first task: we have been asked by Environment Canada to organize independent scientific reviews of Canada's (and we think the world's) first nation-wide Environmental Status and Trends Report (ESTR). ESTR is a huge (many hundred-author) multi-level government report being prepared to meet our obligations under the Rio Convention on Biodiversity, focused on where all Canada's 25 terrestrial and aquatic ecozones are headed. A brief overview of ESTR and a map of the ecozones (the smallest one is mostly a vineyard) is at <http://www.sfu.ca/~amooers/SCB/ESTR.pdf>. These reviews will also be the basis of a four-hour symposium at the International Congress for Conservation Biology (Edmonton, July 4-7, 2010), titled "Conserving Canada's ecosystems: threats and prospects", which will focus on the trends, prognoses and most effective ways to monitor and manage Canada's ecosystems. This is a big task for a small committee, but does seem a good fit for CSEE. Wish us luck; volunteer to help.

Arne Mooers & Marco Festa-Bianchet

Update from the Outreach Committee

Your Outreach Committee was formed to uphold the CSEE's purpose to "raise public awareness of the importance of ecology and evolution in Canadian society". The committee consists of: Sean Rogers (Chair, University of Calgary), Rowan Barrett (University of British Columbia), Fanie Pelletier (Sherbrooke University), Crispin Jordan (University of British Columbia), Erika Crispo (McGill University), and Suzanne Gray (McGill University). The Committee advises the Executive and Council on issues regarding the promotion of public awareness in Ecology and Evolution in Canada. Here is a short summary of our most recent activities:

1. The committee will focus on annual events aimed at a public audience just prior to the meeting. This year we will organize a public lecture by Dr. Nadia Aubin-Horth (Université Laval). The title of her talk will be "2010: année de la biodiversité, siècle de la biologie", which translates to "2010: Year of Biodiversity, Century of Biology". Dr. Aubin-Horth will speak about the significance of Canadian research in biodiversity. The first CSEE public lecture will be held on Sunday, May 9th, from 5 to 6 pm in the Laurentien building at Université Laval.
2. Reaching out to children is one of the best ways to educate the public about ecology and evolution in Canada. The committee will therefore hold a workshop for local, school-age children, to engage children in learning about ecology and evolution. We anticipate 5-8 activity stations. These will be operated by bilingual volunteer graduate students/faculty. This event will be held on Sunday afternoon from 2 to 5 pm, May 9th in the foyer facing the Jean-Paul Tardif room in the Laurentien building. If you are interested in educating young minds about the importance of ecology and evolution and would like to participate, please contact Fanie Pelletier (Fanie.Pelletier@Usherbrooke.ca), or Sean Rogers (srogers@ucalgary.ca).
3. We maintain a presence on the CSEE website and on facebook. Please join the CSEE facebook group (<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=58815627374>). Over 460 members have joined and it is a great way to see more information and discussion about our Society. If you have any Outreach news you would like to share with our members, please contact Rowan Barrett (rbarrett@zoology.ubc.ca).
4. The Committee also considers funding requests for student regional conferences. We are pleased to announce that the CSEE will sponsor the 31st annual Pacific Ecology and Evolution Conference, to be held March 5th to 7th at the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre.

Sean Rogers

CSEE 2010 meeting, Québec City, May 9-12

It is with pleasure and enthusiasm that we invite you to the 5th CSEE Annual meeting that will be held from 9 to 12 May 2010 in Québec. Our website is now live and you can already register:

<http://www.scee2010.ulaval.ca/meeting.htm>

You will find there all necessary information about registration procedures, lodging, social events, etc.

Deadline for talk/poster submission & lower-cost registration: March 10, 2010
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Three symposia will feature the following themes:

1. Impacts of a changing climate in northern terrestrial ecosystems.
2. Biodiversity: a molecular perspective.
3. Marine ecosystems in a changing world.

Again this year, registration fees remain modest. They will include a dinner-cruise on the majestic St. Lawrence River. It is important to note, however, that oral presentations will be limited to 300 and posters to 150. These will be allocated on a first arrived - first served basis.

Au plaisir de vous accueillir à Québec !

Local organising committee: *Louis Bernatchez (Chair), Nadia Aubin-Horth, Nathalie Brodeur, Stéphane Boudreau, Steeve Côté, Christian Landry, Julie Turgeon, Jeff Hutchings (vice-president CSEE).*

Update on the 2011 meeting: Calgary/Banff

The 6th Annual CSEE meeting will be hosted by the University of Calgary at the Banff Centre in Banff National Park, Alberta, from May 12th to May 15th, 2011. Your 2011 local organizing committee consists of local faculty and students representing diverse areas in ecology and evolution; Sean Rogers (Main Organizer, University of Calgary), Jeff Hutchings (CSEE Vice President, Dalhousie University), Jana Vamosi (University of Calgary), Mary Reid (University of Calgary), Jessica Theodor (University of Calgary), Heather Proctor (University of Alberta), and Brian Kopach (Student/Post Doc Rep, University of Calgary). A call for Symposia will be held following the 2010 meeting and we look forward to input from our members. We are working hard to ensure an interesting and fulfilling meeting and hope to see you in the Rocky Mountains in 2011! If you have any questions about the meeting please contact Sean Rogers (srogers@ucalgary.ca).

Sean Rogers

CSEE 2012 Seventh Annual Meeting, Ottawa

In 2012, the CSEE will meet jointly in Ottawa, Ontario, with the Society for the Study of Evolution, the Society of American Naturalists, the Society of Systematic Biologists, and the European Society of Evolutionary Biology. The meeting will be held in Ottawa's new, state-of-the-art Convention Center (<http://ottawaconventioncentre.com>) currently under construction on the banks for the historic Rideau Canal (a UNESCO world heritage site) and only steps from Parliament. The meeting will run from Friday July 6 (evening opening reception) until Tuesday July 10. This is the first time that the European Society has joined the other three for their annual meeting, and only the 3rd time that this meeting has ever come to Canada (Vancouver and Montreal have previously hosted it). The CSEE is excited to participate in this landmark event. The local organizing committee is headed by Howard Rundle (UOttawa) with help from Andrew Simons (Carleton U); both are current CSEE members.

Howard Rundle

CSEE supports student scientific meetings

Modest financial support for student-organized scientific meetings in Ecology and Evolution in Canada is available from the CSEE. Contact Sean Rogers at srogers@ucalgary.ca

\$400 for your thoughts

How would you like to make \$400 and help your society communicate the importance of basic research to government and society? The president of NSERC has asked us to provide short vignettes that describe how research in ecology and evolution has benefitted Canada. The CSEE council has produced four such vignettes (<http://www.ecoevo.ca/en/vignettes.htm>) and now we need more – particularly from a broader range of topics in ecology and evolution. We therefore ask you to provide us with additional vignettes explaining how basic research funded by NSERC has benefitted Canadians. The best vignettes will be posted on our website and used in communications with NSERC and with government.

Please note that “benefits” can be diverse, ranging from ultimate applications to human health and well being (e.g., medicine, agriculture, fisheries) through to biodiversity, conservation, and sustainability (e.g., endangered species, climate change). Remember that the goal is to show how **basic** research in ecology and evolution, particularly that funded by NSERC Discovery Grants, can have important practical benefits, even if such benefits are not necessarily envisioned at the outset. We stress that many good examples will come from past research – because the benefits of basic research are often apparent only after it has been completed. Remember that you are writing for general readers (politicians and the public) rather than fellow scientists.

Please send your vignettes, comprising a paragraph or two, and optimally including a photograph or other key illustration, to the Chair of the CSEE Communications Committee (andrew.hendry@mcgill.ca). \$400 prizes will be awarded to the best vignettes that we then use on the website and in correspondence with NSERC and others.

Andrew Hendry

ANNOUNCEMENTS

350 years of the Royal Society

In celebration of its 350th anniversary, the Royal Society has published a special issue of *Philosophical Transactions B* entitled *Personal perspectives in the life sciences for the Royal Society's 350th anniversary*. This issue is FREE to access at:

<http://rstb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/365/1537.toc>

The 19 articles in this issue have been contributed by some of the most eminent people in science (Robert May; Michel Loreau; Martin Nowak; Harold Mooney; Taras Oleksyk; Simon Conway Morris; Graham Bell) and, together, present a snapshot of the current status of key areas of science.

Research Coordinator, Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre

The Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre seeks a motivated, service-oriented person as Research Coordinator that recognizes the time sensitive nature of field-based research. The Coordinator will facilitate research at BMSC by providing infrastructure and logistical support to visiting scientists.

Bamfield is on the west coast of Vancouver Island. It is a summer sport fishing destination and the northern terminus of the West Coast Trail. It has a vibrant arts and music community. In addition, it provides diverse opportunities for outdoor recreation including kayaking and surfing.

Additional information about the position and BMSC can be found on our website:

<http://www.bms.bc.ca>

Biology of Butterflies: Call for Contributed Papers

The 6th **International Conference on the Biology of Butterflies** will be held at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada from June 29 through July 2, 2010. This meeting has been held at irregular intervals since 1981 and recognizes the role that the study of butterflies has played in our understanding of both evolutionary biology and ecology. Those wishing attend this meeting, and anyone wishing to present a Contributed Paper or a Poster, are encouraged to view the Conference webpage at:

<http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/biobutterfly2010>

Deadline for lower-cost Registration: March 31, 2010

Deadline for Abstract submission: May 17, 2010

Survey of Taxonomic Expertise in Canada

Reminder: The Council of Canadian Academies (<http://www.scienceadvice.ca>) has convened an Expert Panel to conduct an assessment of the state of taxonomic and biosystematics research in Canada. If you have taxonomic expertise (broadly defined, irrespective of taxon), please fill out the survey at:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NT2PLN2>

All responses will be treated in confidence. **Deadline: 7 February, 2010**

EDITOR'S NOTES

This Newsletter is a vehicle to disseminate news and information to members of the CSEE. I thank all those that contributed to this issue and Mélissa Lieutenant-Gosselin for translations.

I invite all members to provide either short articles, announcements or ideas for what should be in the Bulletin. We are particularly interested in conference announcements and other newsy items. Short summaries of new research initiatives are also welcomed. Submissions can be in either language.

Marco Festa-Bianchet (m.festa@Usherbrooke.ca)

The Society wishes to thank the hard work and efforts of our outgoing Council Members:

Douglas Morris (Lakehead University, President/Président)

Louis Bernatchez (Université Laval, Treasurer/Trésorier)

Beatrix Beisner (Université du Québec à Montréal; Council member 2006 - 2009/ Membre du Conseil)

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