

# Holding a Regional Conservation Biology Conference

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Society for Conservation Biology

# Why Hold a Meeting?

- Chapters are central to developing SCB's local, grassroots influence

*“Develop a strong identity, messaging, and promotional activities that will strengthen the SCB's visibility and reputation. Develop the means to maintain and reinforce the society's identity and messaging across global, regional, and local programs.*

- SCB Strategic Plan 2006 - 2010

# Why Hold a Meeting?

- Chapters increase their visibility and influence in a number of ways:
  - Restoration projects;
  - Educational outreach; and
  - **MEETINGS**



# Chapter Benefits

- Recruitment
  - May be especially effective for new chapters
- Fund-raising
- Address local issues
  - Publicity
  - Problem-solving
- Networking/Collaboration

# Chapters in U.S. and Canada

- 38 Chapters (26 active or forming)
  - Southeast – 5
  - Northeast/Mid-Atlantic – 9
  - Midwest – 7
  - Southwest – 7
  - Northwest/West – 10
- 27 States and 3 Provinces

# International Chapters

- 10 Chapters (9 Active or forming)
  - Asia – 4 (Bhutan, China, Pakistan, Philippines)
  - Europe – 1 (Slovenia)
  - Africa – 1 (East Africa)
  - Latin America – 4  
(Bolivia, Northwest Argentina, Peru, Mexico)

# Who's involved

- 8 Chapters have organized meetings
  - 13 Universities involved (plus many agencies and NGO's)

**COLORADO  
PLATEAU** *of the*  
**CHAPTER** *Society for Conservation Biology*

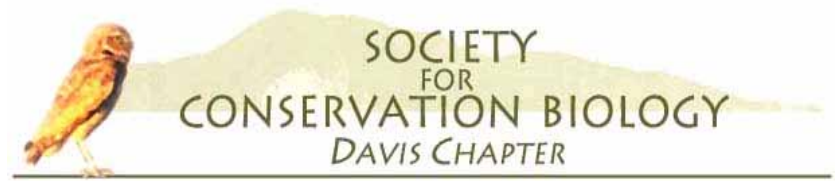


**Minnesota Chapter**



Society for Conservation Biology  
Kingston, Ontario Chapter

**Toronto Chapter**



# Meeting Sizes

- Four single-day symposia and three multi-day conferences
  - 3 with local focus
  - 4 with regional focus
- Attendance: 50 – 500
- Speakers/Talks: 5 – 50



# Topic focused Meetings



## ***Fish Farming Panel Discussion***

5 Member Panel

Monday March 13th, 2000

Missouri Chapter of the  
Society for Conservation Biology

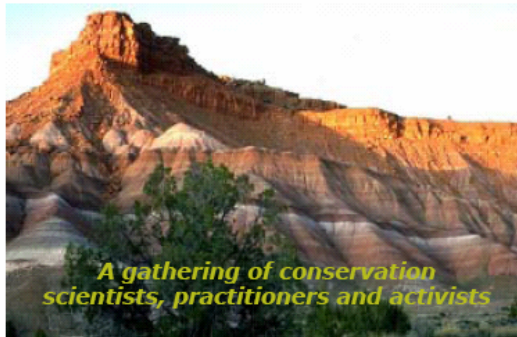


**Bringing researchers and practitioners together**  
*Missouri Natural Resources Conference*

# Local / Regional Conferences

The Colorado Plateau Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology  
and Prescott College Present

## ***A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR BIODIVERSITY: CONSERVATION ON THE COLORADO PLATEAU***



*A gathering of conservation  
scientists, practitioners and activists*

**March 11-13, 2005**

Prescott College Crossroads Center  
Prescott, Arizona

The Society for Conservation Biology, Toronto Chapter  
***"Lessons and Successes for Biodiversity  
Conservation in the GTA and Southwestern  
Ontario"***

7<sup>th</sup> Bay Area  
Conservation  
Biology  
Symposium  
2005

Saturday,  
January 22, 2005  
8:20 am – 6:00 pm  
Stanford  
University

A cooperative conference with the Society of  
American Foresters,  
the American Fisheries Society,  
the Society for Conservation Biology, and  
The Wildlife Society



**SUSTAINABLE NATURAL  
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**  
*"Interdisciplinary work: Defining our legacy"*

# National Conferences



Society for Conservation Biology  
Kingston, Ontario Chapter

- 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rio Earth Summit
- Five days of plenary presentations
- Fifty workshops
- 500 delegates from Canada and around the world
- Resulted in Kingston Declaration – submitted to Canadian representatives to World Summit on Sustainable Development

# Traditional Session Topics

- Conservation Genetics
- Biodiversity Patterns
- Managing human modified landscapes
- Community Ecology
- Biogeography and landscape Ecology
- Invasive Species
- Behavior and Conservation
- Restoration Ecology
- Conservation Planning & Management

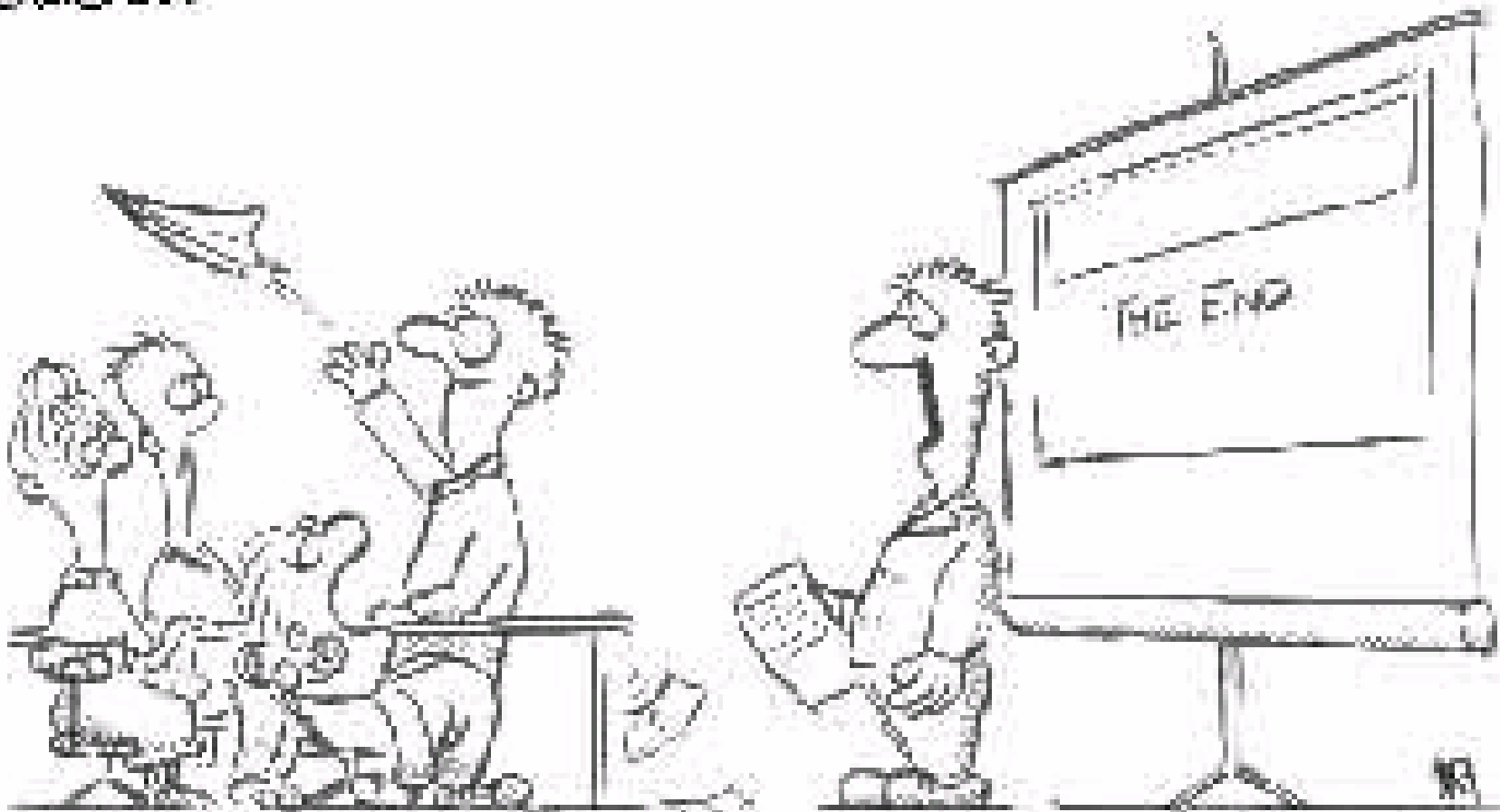
# Alternative/Regional Session Topics

- Timber investment management organizations and real estate trusts
- Genetically modified organisms
- Changing demographics in Minnesota: implications for natural resources
- Conservation Issues in the Bay Area
- Fish Farming

# Change it up!

1992-1999

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AND ON THAT EXCITING NOTE...

# Collaborate

Co-sponsor meetings with other society chapters, NGO's or agencies

A cooperative conference with the Society of  
American Foresters,  
the American Fisheries Society,  
the Society for Conservation Biology, and  
The Wildlife Society



**SUSTAINABLE NATURAL  
RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**  
*"Interdisciplinary work: Defining our legacy"*

## ***Sustainable Natural Resources Management Conference***

- Minnesota chapter of SCB
- Society of American Forestry
- American Fisheries Society
- The Wildlife Society

# Share the Load

## Rotate Institutions

- Share annual duties with other local universities



## Bay Area Conservation Biology Symposium

- U.C. Davis
- U.C. Berkeley
- San Francisco State University
- Sonoma State University
- Stanford University





# Innovative Approaches

## Go beyond the same-old meeting paradigm

- Social/Interactive gatherings to foster personal relationships and one-on-one interaction
- Alternate meetings with different formats in different years



## Colorado Plateau Chapter

- Small, biennial weekend retreats
- Biennial meetings co-convened with U.S.G.S.
- Biennial Chapter meetings

# Untapped Opportunities

## **Regional/Section Meetings**

- Host meetings in region/country when International meeting is abroad

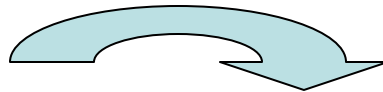
## **Focused workshops**

- Target specific needs for local conservation issues.
- Train local consultants and agency personnel
- More active in local, on-the-ground conservation.

# Planning

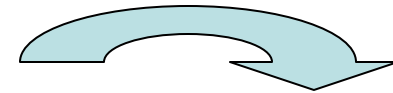
**One year**

- Topic
- Venue
- Keynote Speakers
- Committees



**6 months**

- Budget
- Fund-raising
- Accommodations
- Call for Abstracts
- Abstract review
- Advertising/Website



**One Month**

- Meeting program
- Catering
- Supplies
- Set-up

**“Start Early”**

# Keynote/Plenary Speakers

- Peter Kareiva – The Nature Conservancy
- Tyrone Hayes – U.C. Berkeley
- Donald Kennedy – Editor of *Science*
- Dan Simberloff – University of Tennessee
- David Suzuki – David Suzuki Foundation
- Jim Boyer – Tropical Forest Foundation
- Brian Czech – Center for Adv. Of Steady State Economy
- Michael Soule – Wildlands Project, U.C. Santa Cruz
- Jayne Belnap – U.S.G.S

# Committees

- Plenary Speakers
- Talks/Scheduling
- Rooms and Space
- Audio/Visual
- Program
- Registration
- Souvenirs
- PR/Web/E-mail
- Banquet
- Fundraising
- Accomodations/  
Directions
- Day of committee

# Costs/Registration

- Costs vary greatly depending on meeting type and size
  - Regional Symposia: \$5,000 - \$33,000
- Profit has varied from \$0 to ~\$3,000
- Registration fees vary:
  - Students: \$20 - \$65
  - Other: \$30 - \$150

# Example Costs

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>% Cost</b>
Facilities	\$295	6%
Food	\$1,378	27%
Food Supplies	\$650	13%
Plenary speakers (expenses)	\$978	19%
Printing	\$387	7%
Misc. Supplies	\$287	5%
T-shirts/Mugs	\$1,187	23%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,163</b>	

# Upcoming Chapter Meetings

- Colorado Plateau Chapter Annual Conference & Meeting October 13-15, 2006
- Iowa State University Chapter – 2007?
- Northwest Argentina – November 2006
- Bay Area Conservation Symposium – early 2007