

## AIBSnews

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# AIBS *news*

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## **AIBS Annual Meeting Scheduled for 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. Plenary speakers and discussion groups will approach that topic from several interwoven perspectives.

The following distinguished scholars are scheduled to speak at the meeting:

- Stephen Bocking, Environmental and Resource Studies Program, Trent University, Canada
- Jamie Rappaport Clark, Defenders of Wildlife
- Daniel Esty, Law School and School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Yale University
- Shahid Naeem, Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology, Columbia University
- Richard B. Norgaard, Energy and Resources Group, University of California, Berkeley
- Stephen Polasky, Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior, University of Minnesota

Panels and discussion groups will be held throughout the day on 25 May, led by plenary speakers, invited guests, and AIBS board and committee members and staff. 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.

The early registration fee for individual AIBS members is \$100; for nonmembers, \$150 (which includes membership in AIBS and a subscription to *BioScience* for one year); for government employees, \$90; for educators, \$80; for students, \$75.

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

## **NEON Comings and Goings**

NEON congratulates Jeffrey Goldman on his new position as director of program development at the Center for Embedded Network Sensing (CENS) at UCLA. Goldman joined AIBS in 2002 as project manager for the IBRCS (Infrastructure for Biology at Regional to Continental Scales) program, an NSF-supported AIBS initiative to facilitate the development of observational platforms, data collection and analysis, and database networking in biology. Under Goldman's leadership, the IBRCS meetings produced a series of white papers that established a framework for subsequent NEON planning.

"AIBS's loss is CENS's gain," says AIBS Executive Director Richard O'Grady. "Jeff came straight out of graduate school to play a lead role at AIBS in getting NEON planning under way and initiating other projects in the AIBS Science Office that was itself created during Jeff's time here. He now leaves these projects and their further development in the able hands of other NEON and AIBS staff, many of whom he himself hired. His management skills and scientific vision will be missed at AIBS; we look forward to seeing him succeed in his new position at CENS."

In addition to his duties as AIBS science office director, Goldman ably guided the formation of the NEON Project Office (established in September 2004) and the formal stages of observatory design. As NEON project manager, he coordinated three planning conferences of the 160-member NEON Design Consortium Committee, and chaired frequent meetings of the senior management team and National Network Design Committee.

"Jeff has that most unusual capacity to establish respect and standing among his colleagues. He establishes leadership through his actions," says NEON codi-

rector Bruce Hayden. The project's other codirector, William Michener, summed up: "Jeff has been a tremendous motivating force in moving NEON forward. His professionalism in managing the NEON Project Office is exceeded only by his integrity, humor, and enthusiasm. We all wish him the best in his new role at UCLA."

At CENS, Goldman will contribute to development of the next-generation sensor technologies and networks that are essential to Earth observational initiatives such as NEON. To the delight of his colleagues, he remains a co-principal investigator on the NEON project and a member of both the senior management team and the National Network Design Committee.

Meanwhile, NEON welcomes Amy Concilio as a science associate with the Project Office. Amy completed her master's degree in ecology at the University of Toledo in 2005 and her bachelor's in chemistry in 1999 at Providence College. Her research experience includes soil respiration response to prescribed burning and thinning in an old-growth, mixed-conifer forest, interannual variation in soil respiration, and arsenic contamination in soils and sediments of a mining-impacted site. She also has experience maintaining microclimate stations and

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sensors. Her initial focus with the Project Office has been to assist in defining the linkages between NEON science questions and instrumentation requirements.

### **New Guidelines for AIBS Student Chapter Program**

The guidelines for the AIBS student chapter program have been revised to more effectively meet student chapter needs and to help them become strong representatives of AIBS on their campuses. The new guidelines outline AIBS's goals for the program and require all existing and new chapters to affirm that they will abide by the AIBS mission, goals, and code of ethics. The updated benefits and requirements are accompanied by additional information that will be helpful to individuals starting or maintaining their chapter's activities. All of the revised information is available online in the AIBS student chapter handbook.

Biology clubs and other student organizations on college campuses that serve to further the intellectual and professional interests of students in the biological sciences are encouraged to apply for the AIBS student chapter program. Contact Abe Parker (e-mail: [aparker@aibs.org](mailto:aparker@aibs.org); telephone: 202-628-1500, ext. 249) or visit the program Web site at [www.aibs.org/student-chapters](http://www.aibs.org/student-chapters) for further information.

### **See Presentations from the 2005 NABT Symposium "Evolution and the Environment"**

The Web site for the special symposium "Evolution and the Environment," presented at the 2005 annual meeting of the National Association of Biology Teachers, has been updated. The site now includes downloadable PDFs of the speakers' slide presentations (author's permission is required for reuse) and suggested classroom resources and activities. AIBS cosponsored the conference, along with the National Evolutionary Synthesis Center and the Biological Sciences Curriculum Study. Please visit [www.aibs.org/special-symposia/2005-NABT.html](http://www.aibs.org/special-symposia/2005-NABT.html).

### **Recent Articles Online at [www.actionbioscience.org](http://www.actionbioscience.org)**

#### **Lesson for classroom activities**

- "Natural Selection," written by R. Brian Watts, biology professor, Cégep de la Gaspésie et des Îles, Gaspé, Canada, to accompany the interview with Douglas Futuyma, entitled "Natural Selection: How Evolution Works"

#### **Spanish translations of previously posted articles**

- "Evidencia de las Transiciones Evolucionarias" [Evidence of Evolutionary Transitions], by Michael Benton, chair in vertebrate palaeontology at the University of Bristol, United Kingdom
- "Buscando Vida en Marte y Más Allá" [Looking for Life on Mars and Beyond], by Abigail A. Salyers, professor of microbiology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

### **Recent Education Reports Online at [www.aibs.org](http://www.aibs.org)**

- New guidelines for AIBS student chapter program
- 2006 AIBS annual meeting: Registration and call for posters
- Presentations now available from 2005 NABT symposium "Evolution and the Environment"
- Evolution clearinghouse
- New education resources in *Action Bioscience.org*
- Hutton summer internships for high school students
- DC Teaching Fellows Program
- 2006 Canon National Parks Science Scholars Program
- Search for NSF division directors
- Upcoming conferences

### **Recent Public Policy Reports Online at [www.aibs.org](http://www.aibs.org)**

#### **Public Policy Report for 13 February 2006**

- The American Competitiveness Initiative and the FY 2007 budget
- FY 2007 budget request for the National Science Foundation
- A look at NSF's education program in the FY 2007 budget
- United States Geological Survey faces a budget cut in FY 2007

- Congress gets a crash course on science
- Politicization of science rockets back into the headlines
- Graduate student opportunity: ASM-AIBS public policy internship
- Evolution in the news
- National Ecological Observatory Network requests comments
- New in *BioScience*: "Europe Gears Up to Double Its Investment in Research"
- From the *Federal Register*

#### **Public Policy Report for 30 January 2006**

- PACE Act introduced; Bush expected to plug innovation in State of the Union
- Toxicologist will become new EPA science advisor
- OMB requests public comments on draft risk assessment guidelines
- Antievolution initiatives in Utah, Oklahoma, Alabama, and Mississippi
- Evolution education updates: California and Carolina
- Vatican newspaper endorses Dover decision; calls ID unscientific
- Kentucky governor replaces a Board of Education member
- Register now for "Evolution on the Front Line"
- Reminder: 2006 AIBS EPPLA applications due 3 February
- From the *Federal Register*

#### **Public Policy Report for 17 January 2006**

- Scandals shake up House leadership
- OSTP requests comments on federal support of graduate education
- Science education lawsuits continue in California
- Kentucky governor supports intelligent design during annual speech
- Postsecondary employment statistics now available from IPEDS
- Application deadline for 2006 AIBS Emerging Public Policy Leader Award nears
- From the *Federal Register*

