



Society for Conservation Biology North America

May 2017 Newsletter

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On Saturday April 22nd, SCBNA members joined thousands of scientists, science advocates, and concerned citizens around the globe in the March for Science. The SCB North America Section was an [early endorser of the March](#) and many Section members participated in the DC rally and satellite marches as advocates for open, inclusive, and accessible science, and to affirm that science is a crucial resource for developing evidence-based policy and regulations that are in the public interest. The goals of the March can be found [here](#). We sent out a survey to SCBNA members in advance to learn more about SCBNA member participation.



Photo credit: Valerie Beard

We heard from members of the D.C. Chapter that participated in the events: “The March for Science was a wonderful experience filled with high energy and dedicated attendees. People of all ages came out to the National Mall with large hand-made signs and wearing costumes such as mad scientist, Albert Einstein, and dinosaurs. Despite the cold and rainy weather, attendees stood on the Mall to cheer at the rally and to march together with palpable positive energy.” -*Valerie Beard*



Photo credit: Stephen Trombulek

“And so we marched, led by Bill Nye the Science Guy, from the Washington Monument to the Capitol Building, to remind our leaders that science is a set of objective, transparent, replicable methods for seeking the underlying principles that shape our physical and social worlds. We marched to proclaim that we expect our leaders to make decisions based on science, and not in spite of it. And we marched to remind them, and ourselves, that with privilege comes responsibility - science must be used in the service of equality and justice.” -*Pamela Collins*

“The ideology is that science is the most effective way of “knowing” that humans have, and the purpose of the march was primarily to demand that our government stop ignoring science in promoting and shaping policy. Both of those messages were expressed loudly and frequently during both the rally and the march itself.” -*Stephen Trombulek*

The D.C. Chapter of SCB is busy with upcoming Conservation Cafe’s, a Peer-to-Peer Mentoring Program, and other activities. Learn more about D.C. Chapter news on their [Facebook Page](#). We also heard from many other SCBNA members and Chapters that participated in the march. [Check out the map](#) of SCBNA science marchers!

Policy Updates: What’s next after the Science March?

Did you join the march? Do you plan to engage in post-march efforts toward the recognition of science and evidence-based policies? **Let us know via this [short survey](#).**

March for Science is hosting a week of action April 22 - 29 and lists ways to engage now and into the future as a united front, calling for science that upholds the common good and for political leaders and policy-makers to enact evidence based policies in the public interest. Please [see their website](#) for details.

Members of SCBNA and several other scientific organizations have made available a pre-print of their manuscript “Defending Scientific Integrity In Conservation Policy Processes: Lessons From Canada, Australia, And The United States.” Access the article and manuscript [here](#).

SCBNA at ICCB 2017

We look forward to seeing many of you at ICCB 2017 this year in Cartagena, Colombia! Please **join us for the SCBNA Members Meeting** on Tuesday July 25th from 6 to 7pm, location TBD (announced in the program). Register for the conference at: <http://conbio.org/mini-sites/iccb-2017>

NACCB 2018 updates: Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Planning for NACCB 2018 in Toronto is well underway! Mark your calendars for July 21 - 26, 2018. The theme this year is “Conservation Science, Policy, and Action: Connecting the Urban to the Wild.” Our [conference website](#) is now up and running, and actively being updated. Sponsorship opportunities are now available! See our [Prospectus](#) for details. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for updates! Tweet at us: #NACCB2018



We look forward to an exciting program, and with plenty of time to plan, we encourage you to start thinking about symposia, short courses, workshops, and other creative sessions to propose. Our *first call for proposals will be in early August* of this year.

SCBNA Member Spotlight



Photo credit: Sebastian Kennerknecht

SCBNA member **Justine Smith** recently received a PhD from the UC Santa Cruz, and will be starting as a postdoctoral researcher at UC Berkeley this summer. She studies how behavior influences ecological interactions, particularly in large carnivores and in human-modified ecosystems. Justine worked on the impacts of human induced fear on puma ecology with the Santa Cruz Puma Project for her dissertation research and will be studying puma-vicuña interactions in the Andes in her postdoctoral work.

Justine is dedicated to outreach and

education, and has engaged with her community by giving dozens of public talks, mentoring nearly 50 undergraduate interns, and participating in the Urban Wildlife Working Group of The Wildlife Society, the Wild Felid Research and Management Association, the UCSC Environmental Studies Curriculum Committee. In 2015, Justine founded and served as president of the Santa Cruz Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology (SCSCB). SCSCB will be hosting the Bay Area Conservation Biology symposium, held in Santa Cruz for the first time in the meeting's 18-year history.



Learn more about Justine's work with the Santa Cruz Puma Project at www.santacruzpumas.org. Contact Justine on Twitter @JustineASmith. Learn more about the Santa Cruz Chapter of SCB at www.scbsantacruz.sites.ucsc.edu.

SCBNA Board Election

The SCBNA Board elections for the July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019 term are upon us! Voting will be open for SCBNA members from early May to early June 2017. Details on how to cast your vote will be coming soon.

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Inquiries: mail@scbnorthamerica.org