

**Integrating the Student Chapter into Cal-IPC**  
**Cal-IPC Symposium 2011**  
**October 6, 2011**

**Attendees:**

**Students:** Mike Bell (UCR), Kai Palenscar (UCR), Chelsea Carey (UCM), Meghan Skaer (UCD), Marit Wilkerson (UCD), Amy Concilio (UCSC)

**Board Members:** Doug Gibson (San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy), Julie Horenstein (California Dept. of Fish and Game)

**Other:** Heather Schneider (USGS), Sara Jo Dickens (UC Berkeley), Tony Summers (Catalina Island), Kyle Matthews (Habitat Restoration Services), Dean Tonenna (BLM)

Great discussions started at the student lunch, which will continue here.

Mike Bell gives introduction to Student Chapter development, and talks about how he thinks we should try to increase student attendance at symposiums.

- Purposes of SC are outreach, motivating students, as well as research and management activities, advocacy at the capital (e.g., WMA events, earth day events, etc.).
- UCR active membership is declining! (and has housed the bulk of the members.) Need to recruit and motivate new members.
- Work on adding more info to website, activities, bringing in outside folks.
- Student population ranges across most of the state (can depend on location of symposium).
- Now, one N and one S Cal student liaisons to the board (currently Chelsea and Kai).
- Creating connections: new universities, public, undergrads.
- **Outreach:** speaker's bureau, outreach booths.
- **Speakers' bureau:** someone with interest in invasive plants, will assign someone to go give a talk. Cal IPC provides a training DVD. Can go to garden clubs, or native plant groups, etc.
- Debate about most recent updating – may be need to coordinate this.
- Mike has idea to record AV to provide if a real person can't attend a particular group meeting.
- Networking:
  - WMA: local land managers, \$\$ for travel, research
  - Meet students, practitioners.

**Questions?**

- Outreach to CSU Monterey Bay and UCSC? Yes! Two attended the lunch, and others from that area.
  - Maybe someone with experience can go to speak with student at campuses with low representation. Lots of opportunities at UCSC, for example, as well as UCD. Also very motivated undergrad populations that could be tapped.
- Comment: WMA meetings – hard to know how to engage, what end goals?

- \$\$ they can provide is very valuable/useful. E.g., working to create new top-10 invasive plant list for the area (not enough staff, etc).
- How to approach them? Depends on WMA (new vs. more established), and location of WMA (money has to be spent in the county). Be assertive at first, and then maintain a presence.
- Found sites and made connections through WMA. Someone offered a job through a WMA associate.
- What are other venues?
  - UC ext., RCDs, watershed districts, local CNPS chapters. Sierra Club.
  - Put on a website – as examples of places to start in ‘your region’.
  - Fish and Game appointees, wide variety of uses for money. Would need to write grants (probably through Cal IPC as parent sponsor). National wildlife foundation small grants (ca. \$5000).
- Need more student presence, especially undergrads.
  - Need replacements for Cal IPC board, etc. Other groups to be involved in.
  - Difference among students as to willingness to go to conferences (leave classes, etc.).
  - Need to make the connection with student early in their academic career. Through campus or regional student chapters. Perhaps through quarterly meetings, or similar. Could report back to co-chairs.
  - What to talk about at local meetings?
    - Discuss local invasive species issues.
    - Determine what outreach materials would be necessary for an event.
    - Plan events.
    - Discuss your research.
    - Serve beer!
  - Similar to speaker’s bureau – maybe the student chapter needs folks to come to campuses and talk to help get local branches started? I.e., Cal IPC representative.
- How do we reach people?
  - Undergrad: junior and senior seminar – weekly meetings with speakers from the field to talk about grad programs or work options. Student chapter members could serve this function. Could speak in a number of different departments.
  - Utilize position as TA for undergrad classes. Marit mentions this as something that is working for other similar groups.
  - Orientation days, BBQs, etc. Booths on campus, usually have to be associated with campus (officially).
  - Develop relationship with professors who teach relevant courses and could talk about the group in class. Or build in a field component associated with student chapter.
  - One thing to talk about is just educating about invasive plants, or develop wide-appeal events (e.g. ‘restoration days’ ‘trail days’, etc.).
    - Talk to local reserves.

- Event for wildlife restoration, brought together campus and community groups (rather than just one group at a time).
- Partnering with other campus groups too.

### **Student Presence in the Newsletter?**

- How does the Cal IPC newsletter work?
  - Last we remember H. DeQuincy was in charge.
- Do they have a need for articles? Have ideas for newsletter themes, but happy to get ideas for articles.
- Could (re)institute a regular student chapter article?
  - E.g. highlighting events, could be helpful for partnering agencies, etc.
- Need to followup with Heather/Elizabeth

### **How do we attract more students?**

- Information about student events aren't broadcasted loud enough.
- Need to figure out how to outreach to other schools. Tried to contact professors, but didn't have much success – need to try again. Would be great to have at least one professor/advisor.
  - Maybe depends on what research is actually being done?
- Talking primarily to new academic board members, but other natural resource advisors would be good targets.
- Chico? Need faculty for real continuity at a given state campus. Extension professors should be major targets.

### **Thoughts on different things at the symposium for students**

- One session for students for opportunities for careers.
  - This group has done that in the past.
- Advertise to undergrads, as a way to network, learn, get jobs. How to get a job at an agency, non-profit, etc. Even how to tailor your resume.
- **Adopt-a-student Lunch.** Join students and land managers with similar interests. Problems might be students don't know what they want to do, what the options are.
- Set up fund for travel scholarships. Southwest! For-profit companies.
  - Idea from earlier – fundraisers at symposia focused on creating student travel grants.
- You can't change symposium to weekend, because it would miss agency people, but it is usually Th/F/S instead of W/Th/F.

### **Student Grants/Training:**

- Grant to help fund students going to conferences would be really helpful. Or just the lunch idea, to expand – one whole day where students do trainings, talks. E.g. CEQA, NEPA, permitting, etc.
  - Association of env. planners – not sure if they have a student chapter, but they do a lot regarding environmental regulation.

- Planning and Conservation League is going to be offering training on env. reg.
- Do you have trainings? And do you include student TAs? Maybe not – more formal certification program directed toward undergrad land managers for HCCP type areas.
- Lots of professions that feed into this particular area – policy, finance, law, social. Intersection of environmental professions. Need lots of different backgrounds.

### **Job Shadowing**

- Student perspective: we know how to learn, and how to be students – but wouldn't it be amazing to get shadow/mentors for a day. Know what we don't want to do but, not sure what we should do?
- Bring a grad (or undergrad) student to work day!
- Good to understand skills involved in management profession.
- Need a week at a job to get a good idea of what is actually going on!
- Agencies also have volunteer programs that provide workers comp protections, if needed.
- Good to work with groups to organize an effective weed event.
- Contact restoration companies – would be happy to host students. Might be more valuable than simply pulling weeds.
- SCA interns an example of this sort of situation.
- Immersion in the field has been really helpful for guiding education pursuits.
- Interested in where to find small research grants, to post on website. Include successful application files as examples. Student experience also valuable for large fellowships and grants.
- Any agency should be in favor of this. Try to see if there's someone who could serve as a contact person for this type of thing.

### **Idea to Improve Website**

- We want a way to foster Inter-campus linkages.
- Cal IPC research needs assessments – 2 years ago, by species. Posted on Cal IPC website. It should be more obvious to new students.
- Grants info could go on student website.
- Break up responsibilities by branch? Send out checklist, or suggest some items now?
- Add list of professors working in the field.
- Member info page – need at least names on the page, maybe contact info with permission.
- Publications page from Cal IPC students.
  - Or past students who have presented at conferences.
- By the next symposium – release new student info site. Could write a grant for this?

### **TO DO:**

- Cal IPC literature/research needs, listservs (MIKE)
- List of professors involved in invasive plant research (CHELSEA) – but folks will send ideas of people to Chelsea, set up survey monkey for this purpose.
- Grants: - survey monkey for this as well. (UC DAVIS)
  - **Small** (by region) norcalbot, socalbot. Name, description, etc. – check Cal IPC website
  - Outreach grants, USFW as source for smaller grants (but also really large grants, e.g. San Diego Foundation, Coastal Conservancy, SD River Conservancy – more flex, bond funds)
  - **Large** – include examples from successful applications (EPA STAR, NSF GRF, DIGG)
  - Look at T&E species grants in addition to invasive-focused grants. Or bird/wildlife grants (e.g. ducks unlimited).
  - Board will look at the draft of the page.
- Follow up with someone on board for ideas for next symposium. KAI bring to December board meeting.
- Send out a symposium summary/outreach message.