

AG/Committee Name: Regional Chapters Committee

Submitted by: Ève Gilroy and Alison Fraser

Date: January 5, 2019

Council/Board Liaison: Lisa Ortego, Leah Thornton

Co-Chairs: Ève Gilroy and Alison Fraser

Business and Planning Meetings

The Regional Chapters Committee held three conference calls (Feb. 8, May 29, Oct. 5) to open lines of communication. No calls were held in the summer due to vacation schedules. A face-to-face RCC meeting will be held at SNA Annual Meeting, Minneapolis on Monday, November 5th from 1:30-2:30 pm. Ève Gilroy will attend in person; it is hoped that Alison Fraser will be able to phone in to the meeting.

Pre-RCC planning calls were held periodically during the year with SETAC staff members (Greg Schiefer, Laura Swanson), between co-chairs, or with Board Liaison:

- Feb 2018: planning call (È. Gilroy, A. Fraser, L. Ortego, L. Thornton)
- May 2018: pre-meeting discussions (È. Gilroy, A. Fraser, L. Ortego, L. Thornton, L. Swanson)
- June 2018: SOP discussion (È. Gilroy, A. Fraser, L. Ortego, L. Thornton)
- October 2018: SOP discussion (È. Gilroy, L. Ortego)

Summary of Activities

- Solicited proposals (first call on December 12, 21017) for SETAC funds to support Short Courses organized by regional chapters. Provided numerous short course funding awards, summarized in Table 1:

Table 1: Funding awarded to SETAC's Regional Chapters during the 2018 fiscal year.

Chapter	Duration	Amount
Carolinas	Half	\$ 400.00
Chesapeake-Potomac	Half	\$ 200.00
Laurentian	Full	\$ 800.00
Mid South	Half	\$ 200.00
Pacific Northwest	Half	\$ 400.00
Total		\$ 2,100.00

- Solicited proposals (first call on December 12, 21017) for SETAC funds to support awards given by Regional Chapters at local Science Fairs. Funds were awarded as indicated in Table 2.

Table 2: Science fair funding awarded to SETAC’s Regional Chapters during the 2018 fiscal year.

Chapter	Number	Amount
Mid South	2	\$ 200.00
Laurentian	2	\$ 400.00
Total		\$ 600.00

- Maintained and provided continuous list of incoming Regional Chapter Officers.
- Reviewed the SOP for submission to the Board of Directors (October 2018 meeting)
- Discussed the restructuring of the RCC with Board of Directors (via Board Liaison)
- Maintained outreach and provided support to Regional Chapter Executives regarding SETAC initiatives:
 - Chapter Liability Coverage
 - Regional Chapters Annual Meeting Registration Services
 - Updates to SNA RCC email list and record of Chapter Annual Meetings
 - Regional Chapter posters for SETAC Annual Meeting (November 4-8, 2018)
 - SETAC Travel Awards for Regional Chapters (matching funds up to \$200 USD per award, maximum of two awards per Chapter)
 - SNA Welcoming and Onboarding Activities
- In order to address the absence of participation of the Québec Regional Chapter due to a linguistic divide, we successfully added a bilingual Board Member to the committee.
- Addressed the inactivity of the Desert Southwest Chapter through discussions with the RCC and the SETAC Office; identified a SNA member from the region who may be interested in taking the lead on a potential future Chapter revitalization; drafted a letter for sending to members in the region (L. Thornton); facilitated the scheduling of a meeting on the reinstatement of the Desert Southwest Chapter at the SNA meeting in Sacramento (Tuesday, November 6, 2 pm).

Future Plans

Restructuring of the RCC

The SNA BoD has a vision for engaging the Regional Chapters through the Regional Chapter Committee (RCC) to deepen the connections between the SNA membership via the following:

1. Assist the Membership Committee in attracting and maintaining membership.
2. Work with the Science Committee on tools (virtual) for better connection and engagement among the members.
3. Document Regional Chapters’ best practices for connecting their members and look for opportunities to broaden the impact beyond the regional chapters.

In order to assist the RCC with the expanded activities, there is a need for a core group of 5 people to assist the regional chapters committee (RCC) leadership with their primary mission to enable interaction between the regional chapters and between the regional chapters and SNA. This includes ensuring the regional chapters are aware of the support SNA can provide. It is proposed that the core group would serve for 3-5 years, same as the RCC co-chairs. This group would also help with the BoD

vision of the expanded mission of the RCC. The RCC SOP is currently being revised to reflect this proposed change to the leadership structure of the RCC. Selection process for this core group is under discussion.

Other Activities

- Continue to provide, encourage and facilitate a friendly and inviting forum for Regional Chapter electives to communicate, interact and share information
- Continue to inform and provide information about SNA Resources available to the regional chapters
- Continue to encourage participation and submission of proposals for SNA funding (e.g., short courses or guest speaker at Annual Meeting (new for 2019), Awards for Local Science Fairs, etc.)
- Maintain RCC budget of \$3,000 based on 2017 Short Course and Science Fair Support Awards, with addition of a buffer for greater participation. It is expected that in 2019, participation will increase given the addition of support for plenary speakers at AGMs.
- Finalize the RCC SOP and work towards the implementation of the steering committee.
- Encourage the Regional Chapters Committee to engage in Welcoming and Onboarding initiatives.
- Continue to encourage and facilitate the reinstatement of the Desert Southwest Chapter
- Follow up with Chapters having incomplete rosters to ensure continuity and to avoid potential inactive Chapters.

Current Steering Committee

No. active members: Approximately 15 – 20 based on participation in Conference Calls.

Total membership: Approximately 33 Regional Chapter Executives, two Co-chairs (Ève Gilroy and Alison Fraser), two board liaisons (Lisa Ortego and Leah Thornton), a Committee Liaison (Claire Walli), two SNA Staff (Laura Swanson and Greg Schiefer).

(Approximate total = 40)

Attachment 1 – RCC Roster (Last Updated October 18, 2018)

Chapter Name	Current Chapter President	Current Chapter President email	Current Chapter Vice President / President Elect	Current Chapter Vice President / President Elect email	Annual Meeting Dates, Location, Year
<i>Carolinas</i>	Shea Tuberty	tubertysr@appstate.edu	Mohammed Baalousha	mbaalous@mailbox.sc.edu	2018: RTP April 25-27
<i>Chesapeake - Potomac</i>	Ben Burruss	BBurruss@toxregserv.com	Jennifer Flippin	jennifer.flippin@tetrattech.com	2018: Fredericksburg, VA April 22-23
<i>Desert Southwest</i>	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Hudson Delaware</i>	Daniel Millemann	drmillemann@gmail.com			2018: April 25-26, Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ
<i>Laurentian</i>	Oana Birceanu	obirceanu@gmail.com	Erin Leonard	leonarem@mcmaster.ca	2018: Kingston, ON June 8
<i>Mexico</i>	Guadalupe Barrera-Escorcia	gube@xanum.uam.mx	Juan Carlos Sánchez Mesa	Juancsm58@gmail.com	No information
<i>Mid-South</i>	Richard Grippo	rgrippo@astate.edu	Brian Mulhearn	brianmulhearn@gmail.com	2018: Memphis, TN, May 3-4
<i>Midwest</i>	Tham Hoang	thoang@luc.edu	Tyler Linton	tlinton@glec.com	2018: Chicago, IL, April 9-11
<i>North Atlantic</i>	Bennett Amos	ben@sedimite.com	Chris McCarthy	Chris.McCarthy@jacobs.com	2018: University of New Hampshire, Durham. May 21-23
<i>Northern California (NorCal)</i>	Lisa Hunt	lisahunt@berkeley.edu	Krista Hoffman	krista.hoffmann@water.ca.gov	No meeting held (field trip) April 2018 2018: April 20, OSU, Columbus, OH
<i>Ohio Valley</i>	Brandon M. Armstrong	armstrongb5@michigan.gov	Craig Voros	cvoros@glec.com	
<i>Ozark-Prairie</i>	Amber Tompsett-Higley	amber.tompsett-higley@monsanto.com	Chad Boeckman	chad.boeckman@pioneer.com	2018: TBD, May 14-16 2018: Corvallis, OR, March 8-10
<i>Pacific Northwest</i>	Kara Warner (acting)	Kara_Warner@golder.com			2019: Vancouver, WA April 4-6
<i>Prairie Northern</i>	Mark Hanson	mark.hanson@umanitoba.ca	Open		2018: June 4th and 5th , Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
<i>Quebec (St. Laurent)</i>	Gaëlle Triffault-Bouchet	gaelle.triffaultbouchet@mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca	Michel Lavoie	Michel.Lavoie@takuvik.ulaval.ca	2018: Quebec City, Qc, June 14-16
<i>Rocky Mountain</i>	Jeff Morris	Jeff_Morris@abtassoc.com	Kristy Richardson	Kristy.richardson@state.co.us	2018: Fort Collins, CO April 19-20
<i>South Central</i>	Jeremy Conkle	jeremy.conkle@tamucc.edu	Cole Matson	cole_matson@baylor.edu	2018: Junction, TX April 26-28
<i>Southeast</i>	Kimberly Nelson	Nelson.Kimberly@epa.gov			2018: August 17-19th Dauphin Island Sea Lab in Alabama
<i>Southern California (SoCal)</i>	Chris Stransky	Chris.Stransky@woodplc.com	Erika Holland	Erika.Holland@csulb.edu	2018: April 12-13, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA

Attachment 2 – SurveyMonkey Results of RC Composition and Activities for 2018 (Membership Composition and Annual Meeting).

Chapter	Membership						Annual Meeting		
	Ind	Acad	Gov	Students	Other	Total	Date	Theme	Number
Carolinas	19	31	17	54	1	122	April 25-27	Not applicable	75
Chesapeake-Potomac	48	8	15	21	-	92	April 23	35 th Anniversary of CPRC SETAC	61
Desert Southwest									
Laurentian	31	22	22	44	5	124	June 8	On the cutting edge: innovations in environmental toxicology and chemistry	50
Mexico									
Mid South	7	23	4	11	-	45	May 3-4	Applying science to understand and solve environmental challenges	34
Midwest	27	21	16	32	-	86	April 9-11	Sustaining Ecosystem Service	34
North Atlantic	46	19	14	13	-	92	May 22-23	NA	31
Northern California	9	16	-	-	21	46	NA	No annual meeting this year – hosting the SETAC NA annual meeting in November.	NA
Ohio Valley	7	18	12	29	-	66	April 20	New Tools and Technologies: Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessment	56
Ozark-Prairie	52	33	34	41	-	160	May 14-16	Celebrating 30 Years of OP-SETAC. Attendees had the opportunity to tour the laboratory of Dr. Chris Barnhart at Missouri State University.	25
Pacific Northwest	50	17	19	72	6	165	March 8-10	Contaminants of Concern: Responding to a 21 st Century Challenge	93
Prairie Northern									
Quebec (Saint-Laurent)	22	21	31	-	76	150	June 14-15	What are the challenges of emerging contaminants in 2018?	150
Rocky Mountain	-	26	62	26	118	232	April 19-20	No theme	54
South Central	16	40	2	62	-	120	April 26-28	NA	38
Southeastern	3	10	6	11		30	August 16-18	NA	30
Southern California	58	22	69	53	5	207	April 12-13	Special Sessions on sediment quality and passive samplers	120

Attachment 3 – SurveyMonkey Results of RC Composition and Activities for 2017 (Short Courses).

Chapter	Short Course Theme	Recommended for National	SETAC Funding	Details
Carolinas	Biotechnology (GMOs in agriculture)	No	Yes	The short course began with a discussion led by Syngenta experts on biotechnology (GMO). After which, groups toured the advanced crop lab research station.
Chapitre Saint-Laurent	In 2018: Big Data and Bioindicators	Yes	No	Developing models integrating physicochemical, ecological and toxicological data on a large scale. It took place on Wednesday, June 13, 2018, at the INRS-ETE, from 9:30 to 17:30. The conferences and workshops were given by various stakeholders specialized in the field: Timothée Poisot, UdeM; Magella Pelletier, Mélanie Desrosiers, ECCC and MDDELCC; Isabelle Lavoie, INRS-ETE; Mélanie Desrosiers, MDDELCC; Marc Mingelbier, MFFP and Jonathan Verreault. 34 people participated in the training.
Chesapeake-Potomac	Fundamentals of Ecological Risk Assessment	Yes	Yes	The course provided an introduction into the science and practice of ecological risk assessment. This course focused on the application of USEPA’s Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) Framework and Guidelines for the evaluation of chemical contamination in the environment. Application to non-chemical stressors was also discussed. Participants were exposed to an array of interrelated disciplines and concepts that are applied in the practice of risk assessment and weight-of-evidence impact assessment. These include basic toxicology, systems ecology, population biology, fate and transport of chemicals in the environment, empirical modeling, environmental data issues, and regulatory policy. Tim Iannuzzi was the instructor. He is an ecologist/biologist with 30 years of experience in the field of Ecological Risk and Impact Assessment. He is presently a Principle Scientist and Leader in the Ecology, Risk Assessment and Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA) practices within Arcadis, and international engineering and sciences consulting company. His management experience ranges from screening-level environmental assessments to complex, risk-based investigations of ecological and human health, NRDA, environmental impact evaluations, and ecological restoration.
Laurentian	Introduction to environmental genomics and ecotoxicology	Yes	Yes	Rapid advances in high-throughput sequencing (HTS) and other ‘omics’ methods are transforming the biological sciences, but the pace of development of new technologies can make them difficult to follow. This 1-day intensive field course explores applications of HTS in (eco)toxicology. This ‘crash course’ introduces participants to new and emerging technologies and provides hands-on experience with standard field sampling; we focus on two relevant areas: Transcriptome sequencing (RNA) for comparing gene expression among organismal

				<p>samples.</p> <p>Metabarcoding and metagenomic sequencing (DNA) for comparing species communities among environmental samples. This course is aimed at toxicologists and ecological toxicologists with little (if any) experience sequencing genomes or transcriptomes. After completing this course, participants should have a good understanding of (i) which projects are appropriate for HTS technologies, and (ii) how to collect samples for such a project.</p> <p>Note: On Wednesday, February 21, 2018, Laurentian SETAC hosted a special event to mark the International Women and Girls in Science Day. We had an exciting panel discussion on equity in science, moderated by Dr. Yamini Gopalapillai. Our guest speakers were Alison Fraser, Dr. Allison McDonald and Natalie Feisthauer, representing the three pillars of our organization: industry/consulting, academia and government, respectively. Our Diversity in Science Committee was the organizer of this annual event. We have put together an article about the event, which should be published in The Globe shortly. In addition, our committee has also conducted interviews with mentors, to highlight their career journeys and the importance of promoting diversity and equity in science. Please visit our website for more information: www.laurentiansetac.ca/news/.</p>
Mexico				
Mid South	Science and Risk Communication	Yes	Yes	Instructor was Daniel Bird Tobin, a Fellow with the VirginiaTech Center for Communicating Science. It was directed toward scientists and other professionals who have to apply science to understand and solve environmental challenges and need to communicate clearly to each other, to project teams (e.g., regulator to scientist to owner of site), and to stakeholders with various backgrounds, including the general public.
Midwest	NA	NA	NA	No short course.
North Atlantic	Creating Effective Graphics for Scientific Presentations	Yes	No	Instructor: Kevin Bonham, The Broad Institute. Short course included lecture and discussion on using graphics for presenting data and communicating idea, with a tutorial on using Adobe Illustrator.

Northern California	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ozark -Prairie	No	NA	NA	No short course.
Ohio Valley	NA	NA	NA	No short course.
Pacific Northwest	Two courses: Scientific Communication Integrative Ecological and Human Well-Being in Risk Assessment	Yes	Yes	(1) Ruth Sofield, Western WA University. Half-day short course introduced research on what limits understanding of scientific communication, supported why we need to broaden our communication, and led participants through an exercise to develop a plan for communication to a targeted audience. (2) Wayne Landis, Western WA University. Half-day short course demonstrated how ecological and human well-being risk assessment can be integrated. The course began with a review of the basic principles of risk assessment and risk calculation methods. The second half was spent in the exploration of case studies.
Prairie Northern				
Rocky Mountain	Workshop: Unmanned Aircraft Systems in Scientific Research	Yes	No	Instructor: Jeff Sloan, USGS Overview of Unmanned Aircraft Systems technology applications for scientific research and operational geospatial data collection Cutting edge UAS technology receives much attention in the media, within universities, in public agencies and in the commercial industry. However, the collection and analysis techniques of aerial imagery from sensors on-board UAS are actually not significantly different than that of traditional data historically captured by satellites, manned aircraft and many other aerial remote sensing platforms for the past several decades by USGS scientists. The advent of UAS however, does provide exciting new capabilities by increasing data collection mobility, resolution, and safety, as well as reducing operational data collection costs. Results from the previous 10 years of UAS research by the USGS has shown great potential for the technology, which is now providing a new tool in the toolbox for researchers, applied science and land managers. Background Required: No background is required for exploring the uses of UAS in

				<p>remote sensing for scientific research. Knowledge of aviation rules, basic sensor capabilities and fundamentals of geospatial data is advantageous, but many studies have suggested that the most successful UAS programs do not require specialized staffing or long-term specific experience in order to benefit their programs and contribute to their new geospatial data acquisition capabilities.</p> <p>Key Outcomes: Attendees will have a good overview of what UAS platforms and sensors are available in the public and commercial industry for use in research and operational activities. Basic knowledge of computer vision (structure-from-motion) photogrammetry will be explained so the three major pieces of UAS technology (platform, sensor and data processing) for data acquisition and mapping will be understood.</p>
South Central	NA	NA	NA	No short course.
Southeastern	Marine Sampling Short Course on R/V Alabama Discovery	Yes	No	The short course took a group of students on the R/V Alabama discovery where we did both near shore and bay trawls as well as plankton tows. The course instructors (Dauphin Island Sea Lab Staff and Dr. Jim Rayburn) instructed students on sampling techniques and helped identify the catch.
Southern California	NA	NA	NA	In lieu of a short course we held two special sessions on day 1 of our last annual meeting - Sediment Quality and Passive Samplers. We have entertained the idea of having a Short Course separate from our annual meeting with a focus on the State of CA's new Toxicity Policy - draft due out Oct 16th.