

71st Annual Meeting of AMS and 38th Annual Meeting of WSM
Asilomar Conference Grounds
Pacific Grove, California
26 - 30 June, 2005

We are very happy to announce that the 71st Annual Meeting of the American Malacological Society will be held jointly with the 38th Annual Meeting of the Western Society of Malacologists at the Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove, California, on the beautiful Monterey Peninsula. The meeting will begin at dinner on June 26th, followed by a welcoming social, and end at lunch on the 30th.

Asilomar is an architectural showcase for two of America's most prestigious architects: Julia Morgan, California's first licensed woman architect, who also designed Hearst Castle; and John Carl Warnecke, internationally known designer of such structures as the grave site memorial of President John F. Kennedy. Asilomar houses the largest collection of Morgan-designed Arts & Crafts style buildings at one site, completed between 1913 and 1928; and seven newer building complexes designed and built by Warnecke between 1959 and 1968. As a member of the California State Park system, Asilomar includes 107 acres of forests, dunes, and coastline situated on the Monterey Bay National Marine Life Sanctuary.

We have an exciting scientific program planned with three symposia, one sponsored by each society and one joint sponsored symposium. We look forward to many exciting contributed papers and posters to compliment these symposia.

Titles for symposia talks will be posted shortly. The three symposia will include:

Joint AMS-WSM Symposium

Organized by Laurie Anderson and Audrey Aronowsky, Louisiana State University

"From Development to Extinction: Molluscan Neontology and Paleontology"

Speakers include: Pat McMillan, Dave Goodwin, Amelie Scheltema, Peter Roopnarine, Dianna Padilla, Laurie Anderson, Mike Hadfield, Audrey Aronowsky, Chris Meyer, Jon Todd, Geoff Trussell, Lindsey Leighton, Rachel Collin, William Miller, Rowan Lockwood, Peter Petraitis, and Carol Tang.

AMS Symposium

Organized by Diarmaid Ó Foighil, University of Michigan

"Pacific Island Land Snail Diversity: Origins and Conservation"

Speakers include Diarmaid Ó Foighil, Mike Hadfield, Carole Hickman, Bryan Clarke, Paul Pearce-Kelly, and B. Holland.

WSM Symposium

Organized by Janet Leonard, UC Santa Cruz

"Gastropod Mating Systems"

Speakers include Yoichi Yusa, Yasuhiro Nakashima, Heike Reise, Patrick Krug, Andries ter Maat, Ronald Chase, Earl Mayeri, Rick Grosberg and Janet Leonard.

One of the nice features of having a conference at Asilomar is that it is designed to facilitate meetings such as ours, and the lodging rates include three meals a day plus the costs associated

with our meeting rooms. The room and meal packages are very reasonably priced (\$341.56 for a shared triple, \$426.84 for a shared double including all taxes), and includes four nights lodging and three meals a day starting at dinner on the 26th through lunch on the 30th. Please see the meeting web site (<http://zeus.calacademy.org/WSM>) for the downloadable lodging form and feel free to contact the conference center if you have any questions. The folks at Asilomar are very happy to help you arrange your housing if you want to come early, stay late or need to find alternative local lodging.

Registration is lower than in the past several years. Member early registration is \$130 and Student early registration is \$80. Registration fees include the banquet and all socials. There are many excellent local hotels if you prefer to stay off site. Because the cost of the rental of meeting rooms is bundled with the on site lodging fees, we are charged for all off site attendees to the meeting. If you choose to stay off site you will have to pay an additional fee (\$34, or \$10 for one day) to cover this cost. For those of you familiar with Asilomar, our main meeting room will be the Chapel, which includes two side rooms (one with a fireplace) and a grand piano (perhaps some of our local talent will treat us during socials).

The weather at Asilomar is mild year round, and midday temperatures average about 60-65°F. Outdoor activities available at Asilomar include bicycle rentals, bird watching, strolling along the boardwalk, swimming in a heated pool, and volleyball, and ping pong and billiards are available in the Social Hall. Visitors can take a self guided tour of Asilomar's historical architecture and natural surrounding including the Monarch Grove Sanctuary in Pacific Grove.

The highlight for many who visit Monterey and Pacific Grove is the Monterey Bay Aquarium (www.mbayaq.org), which many consider the best public aquarium in the US. We will be having a social at the aquarium and are hoping to arrange for visits or tours, so check the meeting web page for periodic updates. Next to the aquarium, historic Cannery Row is a great place for Steinbeck fans. You can visit Doc Ricketts home and laboratory, dine at wonderful restaurants, shop and visit galleries. Pacific Grove also has Natural History Museum and nearby Carmel by the Sea is a great place to visit or spend a day. For those who golf, Pebble Beach is just down the coast. Asilomar is close to Big Sur (30 mi), Hearst Castle in San Simeon (65 mi), Moss Landing/Elkhorn Slough (25 mi), and Mission San Juan Bautista (and Mission San Juan Bautista State Historic Park) (45 mi). The Central Coast area of Monterey County has over 50 wineries, most of which have tasting rooms, and some of which offer tours of their vineyards and facilities.

We are in the process of organizing field trips, which will include a tide-pooling shore tour, a visit to a local fossil site (guaranteed to have a lot of molluscs) and, if there is sufficient interest, we will organize a tour of local wineries.

Asilomar is approximately 120 miles south of downtown San Francisco (about 105 miles from San Francisco International Airport, SFO) and about 75 miles south of San Jose (SJC). The Monterey Peninsula Airport (MAR) is very close to the center (~10 miles). Local taxi companies service the Monterey Peninsula Airport as does the Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) bus system (\$1.75 one way, and takes about 30 minutes). There are limousine services from SFO (~\$40) and SJC (~\$30) to Monterey. Transportation and rental car information can be found at the Asilomar web site (www.visitasilomar.com).

Abstracts for oral presentations and posters are due March 31. Instructions for submitting

abstracts and downloadable lodging and registration forms can be found at the meeting web site (http://zeus.calacademy.org/WSM/abstract_announcement.html). You can find a link to the meeting web site from the AMS web site. Check the site for periodic updates and information as it becomes available.

See you at Asilomar in June!

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