



SCB Presidents through the Years

Michael Soulé 1987-1989 Thomas Lovejoy 1989-1991 Stanley Temple 1991-1993 Peter Brussard 1993-1995 Dennis Murphy 1995-1997 Dee Boersma 1997-1999 Reed Noss 1999-2001 Malcolm Hunter 2001-2003 Deborah Jensen 2003-2005 John Robinson 2005-2007 Georgina Mace 2007-2009 Luigi Boitani 2009-2011 Paul Beier 2011-2013

2011 Governance

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Luigi Boitani, Past President
Rodrigo Medellin, President Elect
David Johns, Treasurer
Catherine Christen, Secretary
Paula Kahumbu, Secretary*
Georgina Mace, Past President*

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Honoring history 25 years of conservation biology

Anniversaries are an ideal opportunity to reflect on past achievements and look forward to future accomplishments. This year the Society for Conservation Biology marked the 25th anniversary of our journal and global meetings. The Society was founded in Ann Arbor, Michigan on May 8, 1985. Founders Michael Soulé, Peter Brussard, Jared Diamond, Tom Lovejoy, E.O. Wilson, and others led SCB to launch "a periodical that would integrate current research and scientific thought with management problems related to natural resources, wildland management and the extinction crisis." The first volume of Conservation Biology, the flagship publication of SCB, made its debut in May 1987 consisting of 25 papers that were presented at a 1985 University of Michigan conference. Today, Conservation Biology is the leading journal on conservation biology. The journal presents research and encourages debate, dialog and the application of conservation biology. It remains the most important thing we do. Over the next 25 years, the journal will adjust to major changes in how scientific knowledge is shared, how publishing is paid for, and the ever-increasing pace of scientific research.

The first annual meeting of the Society was held in Bozeman, Montana in 1988 and the 25th International Congress on Conservation Biology was held in Auckland, New Zealand in December 2011. SCB launched sections on each continent (plus a Marine Section) in 2002 and since then has held Congresses on every continent. This year marked a transition from annual global Congresses to a new tradition of holding global Congresses in odd-numbered years, allowing each of SCB's seven sections to hold Section Congresses in even-numbered years. This change is a milestone for two reasons. First, it marks the maturation of SCB into a truly global society with semi-autonomous sections promoting conservation on every continent and in the marine realm. Second, this change reduces SCB's emissions of greenhouse gasses by about 30 percent while increasing our opportunities to connect at regional and global scales. The New Zealand meeting was particularly challenging because a devastating earthquake struck Christchurch, the intended meeting site, just months before the meeting. Despite personal trauma and huge challenges the Oceania organizers heroically relocated the meeting to Auckland. Although the disruption wrought havoc on SCB's 2011 budget, over 1,500 SCB members participated in a superb meeting.

Another milestone in SCB's history was the launch of Conservation magazine in 2000. The brain child of Executive Editor Dr. Dee Boersma and Editor Kathy Kohm, Conservation was designed to complement Conservation Biology and make conservation biology more accessible to policy makers as well as practitioners and laymen interested in learning more about conservation science. Today SCB remains a partner with the award winning magazine, but it is now published by the University of Washington. It continues its commitment to being an independent science magazine "dedicated to changing the conversation about what it means to be "green." It reaches beyond the familiar environmental obituary (mass extinction, overpopulation, resource depletion) and features success stories about smart science and technological solutions to the big environmental problems of our time."

Launched in 2007, our policy program strives to represent members in bringing sound science to the political process. Our expert and impartial testimony is sought by policy-makers, and we convene meetings in which we share expertise among our peers, and we partner with other conservation organizations to strengthen our impact.

As we begin our next 25 years, we reflect on our success and recommit ourselves to working together to understand the crises facing our planet, and what we can and should do now to improve the prospects for biodiversity and future generations. As you read this report, we hope you will be inspired by past accomplishments and energized to rededicate yourself to meeting the challenges ahead. Together we can accomplish great things for conservation science and practice. Each time you renew your commitment to SCB or convince another to join the ranks of our global community of conservation professionals you ensure the generation and application of conservation science will continue into the future.

Paul Beier, SCB President 2011-2013

Anne Hummer, SCB Executive Director



25th Anniversary

"David Ehrenfeld, said that "conservation biology is what we print in the journal." He meant that conservation biology defines the scope of the journal, but it is also true that the journal has played an influential role in defining conservation biology."

-Stanley Temple, SCB President 1991-1993



Conservation Biology

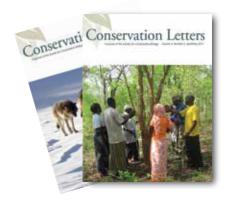
In 2011, SCB celebrated *Conservation Biology*'s 25th year of publication. It continues to be the most highly regarded journal in its field and to cover an ever increasing range of conservation topics.

The December issue included two special sections focused on the future of the conservation field. The first special section, edited by Kent Redford, included nine essays by people outside the traditional community of conservation professionals that examined how the success of conservation can be increased in the next 25 years. The second, edited by Eric Dinerstein, included eight essays on diverse topics that are likely to be emphasized by conservation professionals in the years ahead. A Diversity article assessed how the historical strengths of natural history institutions can enhance research and engage the public in novel ways, and a contributed paper

explored the extent to which there is consensus among conservation professionals on conservation strategies and the science underlying them. All of these articles were made open access by Wiley-Blackwell.

In 2011, *Conservation Biology*'s impact factor – a measure of the frequency with which the "average article" in a journal has been cited in the two years following its publication – was very strong at 4.692.

The journal received 864 submissions in 2011 and 297 inquiries from prospective authors asking whether their manuscript was appropriate for the journal. *Conservation Biology* continues to publish groundbreaking papers and is instrumental in defining the key issues contributing to the science and practice of conserving Earth's biological diversity.



Conservation Letters

In 2011 Conservation Letters continued to grow and establish itself as a leading outlet for cutting-edge, policy-relevant conservation science. In 2011, manuscript submissions grew by 39 percent (from 150 to 209), while publication standards remained high at a 25 percent acceptance rate. The Conservation Letters editorial team continued to stress thoughtful-yet-timely editorial decisions, with mean turnaround time of 57 days from first submission to final editorial decision. Manuscripts were published by authors from 56 countries, reflecting the diversity of Conservation Letters' readership and contributors. With an Impact Factor of 4.082, Conservation Letters continues to prove itself as a vital publication that will transform our perspective on crucial issues across borders.

Conservation Magazine

Beginning on January 1, 2012, *Conservation* magazine will be an independent publication of the University of Washington in Seattle, an institution with deep roots in conservation and environmental stewardship; the magazine will be in good hands. SCB will continue to offer *Conservation* magazine as an affiliate publication at a discounted rate for SCB members.





Auckland, New Zealand Engaging Society in Conservation

25th International Congress for Conservation Biology

Only the second time an SCB global meeting has been held in the Oceania region, New Zealand provided the perfect backdrop for the 25th International Congress for Conservation Biology (ICCB). Held from December 5 – 9, the ICCB brought together conservation professionals and students from every sector of the field. Biological and social scientists, managers, policymakers, and planning professionals were all well-represented among the 1300+ attendees. Plenary sessions were presented by top conservation scientists, Dee Boersma, Mick Clout, Tom Lovejoy, Richard Hobbs, Malcolm Hunter, and Mike Walker. Forty-one symposia included such diverse topics as: urban bird conservation, eradication of invasive alien species, effective grassroots conservation action, management of marine mega-fauna, conservation linked to poverty reduction, applications of connectivity science, and the impacts of roads and traffic on biodiversity. In conjunction with the International Marine Conservation Think Tank, ICCB held 23 workshops and 11 short courses immediately prior to and following the congress.

From the opening ceremony, to the conference logo, to the large number of New Zealanders at the conference, local influence played a big role in the proceedings. New Zealand offers examples of grassroots conservation that have turned degraded land back to forest, of government agencies that have saved species on the brink of extinction, and of businesses that have actively engaged in biodiversity conservation. But it is also a place where primary production and industries dominate the economy, and their interactions with biodiversity continue to threaten conservation success. New Zealand shows us that engagement with farmers, foresters, fishers and business, as well as with local communities, NGOs and government agencies, is essential for successful biodiversity conservation. Over SCB's 25 years, international congresses continue to be the hallmark of the society. With the leadership of Conference Chair, Jim Briskie, the 25th congress proved to be one of the best attended and fruitful meetings yet.









Policy for the next 25 years

Global Science-Policy Platform for Biodiversity – "IPBES"

Since 2006, SCB has actively participated in discussions to form an advisory body on biodiversity conservation akin to the Intergovernmental Platform on Climate Change. In 2011, SCB's policy committee and staff worked with the SCB Ad Hoc Committee on the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) to help ensure progress in establishing the body through talks hosted by the United Nations Environment Program. SCB's Policy Director, John Fitzgerald, joined SCB founding member, Peter Raven, on behalf of the global network of biological science groups, DIVERSITAS, in briefing over 100 agency, society, and conservation group staff on the issues to be decided in forming IPBES and the recommendations of SCB and DIVERSITAS.

Understanding the Risks of Using Oil Sands

The President of the United States and the Secretary of State acknowledged that the environmental impact statement for the Keystone XL Pipeline was inadequate just as SCB had pointed out in detail several times since mid-2010. President Obama directed a new study be done, delaying for 12-18 months a decision on whether to permit the pipeline construction crossing the Canada-US border. Canadian and US SCB members planned to continue with studies of several aspects of oil sands and energy development and to petition to restore regulations to safeguard against US government actions that might jeopardize endangered species in other countries, including Canada.

Helping the White House Connect Habitats

SCB helped lead a briefing at the White House Council on Environmental Quality on connectivity opportunities in America's Great Outdoors, an initiative of President Obama to enhance conservation and enjoyment of natural areas. White House and agency staff at the meeting called SCB's outline of steps that could be taken under current law by the Obama Administration an excellent example of the kind of useful advice the White House and Departments need to take concrete steps for natural resource conservation.

SCB's Policy Web site:

www.conbio.org/policy

Seeing the Forest for the Trees

SCB issued a Forest Declaration to mark the UN International Year of the Forest. The Declaration was delivered to the UN and to all delegations attending the UN Climate Convention Meetings. It was presented in poster form on Forest Day at the Climate Talks by SCB Treaties Task Force Co-Chair Kyle Gracey. It was also presented at ICCB 2011 in New Zealand during Symposia on Forests and on International Policy Challenges.

Ten Steps for Bio-Security

With nearly twenty members from around the world, SCB's Policy Task Force on Bio-Security won approval to lead a panel to recommend ten steps for greater Bio-Security, largely by better controlling invasive species' introductions, at the National Council on Science and the Environment in January 2012.

Ensuring Pesticide Applications Comply With the Law

SCB was instrumental in helping Senators Cardin and Boxer to persuade the US Senate not to take up a bill passed by the House and the Senate Agriculture Committee that would allow the use of scores of new and old pesticides without regard to the requirements of the Clean Water Act.

Finding Win-Win(d) Solutions for Wildlife and Renewable Energy

SCB's Policy Director and NA Section President helped to moderate and brief a two day workshop of European and US experts on marine wildlife and wind energy development as they helped prepare a paper summarizing steps that have proven to be effective, and proposals for additional research toward "win-win(d)" solutions for wildlife and renewable energy. The paper was intended for publication in *BioScience*.

Policy Fellowship Program Launched

SCB received a donation of \$100,000 to enhance our North America Policy Program. The core enhancement is the launching of a Fellowship Program and the hiring of the first Policy Fellow, Brett Hartl, after an exhaustive vetting of nearly 100 applicants, mostly with graduate degrees in science and/or law. Brett, an environmental attorney with an undergraduate degree in conservation biology and law, has worked in key federal agencies. Brett was a Knauss Marine Policy Fellow, serving in the House Natural Resources Committee's Minority staff before joining SCB.



SCB Sections

Regional Sections are able to take SCB's mission and goals and implement them on a regional scale to achieve real results.

Africa

In June 2011, the Africa Section partnered with the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation to coordinate a Joint Regional Conference in Arusha, Tanzania. The Section was successful in recruiting many new members for SCB. Ron Abrams and Edward Mwavu of the Africa Section Board of Directors attended the ICCB in New Zealand in December 2011, where Ron spoke about SCB's Carbon Offset projects, focused on the 2007 project in South Africa and the Kasigau project of 2011 in Kenya. Also attending ICCB was Leela Hazzah, who received the SCB Africa Section Young Women Conservation Biologists Award for her work in mitigating human-wildlife conflict.

Asia

The Asia Section is planning the second Asia regional conference of SCB. It will be held from August 7–10, 2012, at the Indian Institute of Science Campus in Bangalore, India. This meeting aims to draw attention to the urgency of biodiversity conservation in Asia just before the 11th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity in October 2012. It will bring together researchers, policy makers, students, teachers, NGOs, activists, and many others working towards the conservation of Asia's biodiversity.

Latin America and Caribbean (formerly Austral and Neotropical America) This Section of the Society represents all countries in the Americas except the United States and Canada. Section President Mariana Vale spoke on the Year of the Forest Symposium at the 2011 ICCB. Past President of the Section, Patricia Majluf co-authored the Forest Declaration paper, "Priority Actions for Sustainable Forest Management in the International Year of Forests," an SCB trans-sectional project to be published in 2012. The LACA Section's newly elected board members began their terms in July and look forward to being a part of SCB leadership and productive tenures on the board.

Europe The Europe Section has been hard at work planning the third European Congress for Conservation Biology to be held in the summer of 2012. The Congress will be hosted by the University of Cumbria's National School of Forestry and marks the 10th anniversary of Section's formation. At the end of 2011, the Hungarian SCB Chapter was successfully established. This new chapter aims to organize a series of different meetings, workshops and conferences for conservation biologists and conservation professionals in Hungary, including the Hungarian Conference for Conservation Biology.

North America

In 2011, the North America Section advanced its strategic objectives of promoting scientific integrity in land-use decisions affecting climate and energy policy and endangered species conservation. At the ICCB in Auckland, section leaders convened an international symposium on state of the world's forests that received national press at the culmination of the UN international year of forests. The section featured an essay on the state of the world's forests in the June issue of Conservation Biology that included a 12-step program to achieve a sustainable vision for forests under threat of climate change and mounting land-use pressures. Under the leadership of SCB member Gary Meffe, the section commissioned a peer review of the new U.S. forest planning rule that received national press. The section launched a new project headed up by policy chair, Tom Sisk, aimed at examining the environmental footprint of the Alberta oil sands. Led by SCB member Michael Reed, the section is now conducting peer review of the critical habitat determination for the threatened northern spotted owl that will affect the fate of millions of hectares of old-growth forests in the Pacific Northwest.

Marine

The Marine Section hosted a special set of marine themed focus groups, designed to increase our awareness of, and find pragmatic solutions to, marine conservation issues of special concern for the southern hemisphere. These meetings were held immediately prior to the SCB global meeting in Auckland, New Zealand. A sampling of workshops the think tank offered were on Antarctic issues, deep sea ecosystems, marine wildlife tourism, sustainable fisheries and ocean governance. The Marine Section has been invited to hold a 2nd think tank in New Zealand in 2013, and the Section board is already hard at work planning the 3rd IMCC in Glasgow, UK in 2014 and the 4th IMCC in Brisbane, Australia in 2016.

Oceania

The Oceania section was proud to host the International Congress on Conservation Biology in Auckland, New Zealand in December 2011. At the ICCB, we also celebrated the release of a series of papers commissioned by the section on climate change in the Oceania region in the *Pacific Conservation Biology*. This was accomplished through a well-attended symposium session and high media coverage both locally and in Australia. We continue to build membership in our region through our international and regional conferences, including one planned for Darwin, Australia in September 2012. The Oceania Section's two chapters at Victoria University and at the University of Queensland continue to grow and influence local conservation action.



SCB Chapters

Chapters of the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) are groups that engage in on-the-ground conservation activities, and connect members at the local level. Some Chapters focus on a single city, county, or campus; others cover broader geographic areas from state to national levels.

In 2011:

The Bolivia Chapter held a nature photography exposition for one week in August in collaboration with an amateur photography group. The exhibition was entitled "Our Biodiversity," which included pictures of wildlife taken by chapter members and local photographers. Two chapter members designed a poster portraying an endemic parrot from Bolivia, the red front macaw, which will be included in a textbook to raise awareness about this species in Bolivia.

The Kingston Chapter at Queen's University in Ontario developed a school yard naturalization project to plant native trees and flowers at a local elementary school. The chapter also runs an educational program called "Fish and Frogs" where members teach local elementary school students about the effects of stormwater pollution on aquatic wild life, including interactive exercises and storm drain painting.

The Missouri Chapter joined with seven other organizations to sponsor the Missouri premiere of "Green Fire," a documentary film about the life and work of Aldo Leopold. The film screening brought in almost 500 people. Leopold biographer and MU Professor Emerita Susan Flader, who is shown in the film, introduced the documentary and answered questions from the audience afterwards.

The Montana Chapter hosted its fourth annual research symposium. It was the chapter's most successful symposium yet held over two days with 200 students, teachers, and professionals in attendance, and plenary talks by Michael Soule and Kevin Crooks.

The Oregon State Chapter collaborated with other organizations to organize an Earth Day event to educate

the public on conservation issues; at the chapter booth children were able to interact with native amphibians.

The Orange County Chapter held events at least once a month to educate the public on bird monitoring and restoration ecology, as well as taking two field trips first into the Anza-Borrego desert to see the wild flower and second to a nearby reserve to see the monarch butterfly migration.

The New Orleans Chapter continued to expand its outreach program from previous years: the chapter participated in three tree and native grass plantings in Louisiana, hosted a sustainability fair for the University of New Orleans, and expanded the oncampus recycling program for the University.

The Yale University Chapter brought in speakers relating to grassland conservation, wildlife law, tropical conservation, forest conservation related to environmental justice, and other topics, and organized a birding trip and an aquarium trip.

The Western Pennsylvania Bios Chapter traveled to Belize to aid in coconut removal from a protected island and learned more about international conservation projects.

The Triangle Chapter has been involved in two service trips, one to collect wiregrass seed for restoration, the other to pull loblolly pine seedlings from restoration research plots. In the spring, the chapter organized an overnight canoe trip, a hike in the Sandhills, a megaherbivores talk and a biofuels discussion.

"The Society has spent the first 25 years of its life growing stronger, growing to more than 10,000 members, in making regional Sections, in producing various papers, and now we have to move on. I think we need a different role especially in informing, training and shaping conservation biologists."

-Luigi Boitani



Working Groups

Working Groups of the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) are groups that focus on a topical area relevant to the mission and goals of SCB.

Freshwater Working Group

In 2011, the FreshWater Working Group identified several collaboration ideas. These include: 1) Methods to identify threatened freshwater ecosystems, and what the policy mechanisms and practice implications are for listing these in various countries; 2) Identifying challenges in free-flowing rivers, and even greater challenges in protecting them – what mechanisms exist for this across the globe; 3) Bringing the fields of environmental flows (predominantly water sector focus) and conservation planning (predominantly biodiversity sector focused) together; 4) Quantifying the biggest pressures and key processes in risk to freshwater ecosystems and identifying the mechanisms to deal with these from a global perspective; and 5) Linking freshwater biodiversity with livelihoods and human health.

Religion and Conservation Biology Working Group

The Religion and Conservation Biology Working Group focuses on contributing to knowledge in the conservation and religion fields globally, and the synergies between these fields. The WG has compiled a wide range of resources and information regarding organizations involved in religion and conservation issues and relevant journal publications under the RCBWG webpage. Summary sheets for understanding more about the conservation-religion interface were also prepared for both people of faith and conservation biologists to bridge these stakeholder groups. Also, the most salient points about conservation in 7 major religions including Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Daoism, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism were compiled and presented in an accessible format.

Social Science Working Group

In 2011, the SSWG became the second largest group (defined by membership numbers, including sections and working groups) within SCB, and has always been one of the most active SCB groups. In 2011, SSWG carried on the tradition of being highly involved in SCB annual meetings. Members reviewed abstracts and session proposals for the 2011 ICCB, participated in a conservation science-policy roundtable event, and offered the recurring course The Role of Social Sciences in Conservation Planning at the meeting.

SSWG partnered with Colorado State University and Wildlife Institute of India to train a total of 93 Indian Forest Service Officers in principles of protected area management, human-wildlife conflict mitigation, and conservation social science. The first round of training occurred at CSU in March 2010 and subsequent trainings occurred in May 2011 and April 2012. Trainings were supported by a grant from the Indian Council for Forestry Research and Education.



Shaping future leaders

The Smith Fellowship Program seeks to develop future world leaders and entrepreneurs who are successful at linking conservation science and application and has supported 58 Fellows since its inception. Smith Fellowships provide two years of postdoctoral support to outstanding early-career scientists. By fostering the development of promising conservation scientists, the Smith Fellowship Program helps encourage this rapidly expanding field of scientific inquiry and link it to the practice of conservation.

Class of 2011



MALIN PINKSY, Ph.D. Stanford University

Conservation in a changing climate: Predicting range shifts for marine spatial planning

Mentors: Drs. Simon Levin and Jorge Sarmiento at Princeton University, Drs. Peter Kareiva and Mike Beck of the The Nature Conservancy and Dr. Michael Fogarty of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



MAUREEN RYAN, Ph.D. University of California, Davis

Restoring resilience to climate change: Synergistic benefits of exotic predator removal for preserving wetland biodiversity

Mentors: Dr. Alan Hamlet at the University of Washington and Drs. Wendy Palen and Nicholas Dulvy of Simon Fraser University, Lara Hansen of EcoAdapt and Dr. Michael Adams of the U.S. Geological Survey



SARA SOUTHER, Ph.D. West Virginia University

Disrupting environmental and genetic associations: Can managed relocation rescue species threatened by climate change?

Mentors: Dr. Don Waller at the University of Wisconsin – Madison and in partnership with Dr. Patricia Ford of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

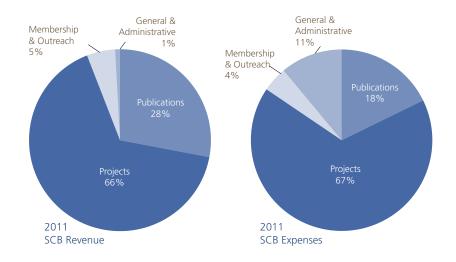


KIMBERLY TERRELL, Ph.D. University of New Orleans

"Conservation physiology of the eastern hellbender: Identifying biological constraints to climate change adaptation for effective management of Appalachian salamanders"

Mentors: Dr. Brian Gratwicke at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and working in partnership with Dr. John Kleopfer of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

2011 Financial Report



Support and Revenue		
Publications Projects Membership & Outreach General & Administrative Gross Income	\$1,076,144 \$2,542,812 \$194,103 \$33,136	\$1,043,308 \$1,931,972 \$178,388 <u>\$27,393</u> \$3,846,195 \$3,181,061
		\$3,101,001
Expenses		
Publications Projects Membership & Outreach General & Administrative	\$715,668 \$2,686,859 \$180,665 \$444,941	\$728,563 \$1,721,686 \$148,587 <u>\$314,230</u>
Total Expenses		\$4,028,133 \$2,913,066
Net Income		
Net Ordinary Income (Loss) Net Board Designated Reserve Income NET INCOME (Loss)	(\$181,938) \$49,763 (\$132,175)	\$267,995 \$112,825 \$380,820
Assets and Liabilities		
Cash Receivables & Other Current Assets Total Current Assets Endowment Investments (market value) Property and Equipment (net of depreciation) Other Assets Total Assets	\$339,675 \$1,620,977 \$1,960,652 \$860,409 \$1,243,954 \$32,503 \$5,162,301	\$445,335 \$565,514 \$1,010,849 \$953,513 \$1,264,213 <u>\$36,123</u> \$3,264,698
Current Liabilities Other Liabilities Total Liabilities	\$680,560 \$608,134	\$611,648 \$641,000 \$1,288,694 \$1,252,648
Net Assets TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$3,873,607	\$2,012,050 \$5,162,301 \$3,264,698





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Cover photo: Underside of New Zealand's iconic silver fern. Credit: George Clerk.



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