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Proceedings of the Sixth Symposium on Oak Woodlands: Today's Challenges, Tomorrow's Opportunities



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Proceedings of the Sixth Symposium on Oak Woodlands: Today's Challenges, Tomorrow's Opportunities

October 9-12, 2006

Rohnert Park, California

Adina Merenlender, Douglas McCreary, Kathryn L. Purcell
Technical Editors

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Abstract

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The Sixth Oak Symposium provided a forum for current research and outstanding case studies on oak woodland science and sustainability in California. This symposium was the latest in a series of conferences on this subject held every 5 years since 1979. The proceedings from this conference series represent the most comprehensive source of scientific and management information on a wide range of subjects including oak ecology, hardwood rangeland management, oak restoration and conservation, woodland land-use change and planning. The conference was attended by academics, planners, conservation practitioners, foresters, arborists, and people just interested in oaks and oak-woodland conservation. Together we form a community of researchers and practitioners working toward maintaining and restoring California's oak woodlands. The findings reported here recognize: (1) the rich history and current interest that Native American communities have for oaks, (2) the inherent complexity of wildlife relationships with woodland resources, (3) the need for greater understanding of belowground processes, and (4) that the land conservation tools and policies evolving rapidly to protect and restore oak woodlands need to be evaluated. Although progress has been made, continued emphasis on research and extension is required to further California oak conservation.

Keywords: Adaptive management, conservation policy, hardwood rangelands, regeneration, restoration, wildlife ecology.

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The conference proceedings organizers wish to honor Barrett (Barry) Garrison, a dear friend and fellow oak enthusiast who passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on June 8, 2007, at the age of 48. As a native Californian and a lover of the outdoors, Barry's interest in oaks and commitment to their conservation was deep and long-standing. He worked tirelessly to promote sound oak woodland management and was particularly interested in ensuring that wildlife species associated with California's oak woodlands were protected and enhanced. Though Barry is no longer with us, his passion and commitment to oak woodland conservation will endure. Barry is survived by his wife Catherine Vouchilas and his children Nicole and Christopher.

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