



What Science Needs: Narrative Training Annual Members Banquet Presentation by Randy Olson

The 65th Annual Meeting of the Western Section of The Wildlife Society
Hyatt Vineyard Creek in Santa Rosa, California

Wednesday, February 7, 2018
8–8:30pm

At the end of a 40-year journey from science to cinema and back to science, Randy Olson now recommends that the primary focus for improving communication skills be what he calls “Narrative Training.” Olson left a tenured professorship in marine biology for a 20-year film career that resulted in his writing three books on science communication. He now works with a range of government agencies and universities helping scientists communicate more effectively. He points out that universities are oriented more towards teaching and the pursuit of intellect. What is needed for the real world is the building of intuition. This requires experience. Narrative Training is a starting pathway for this. Unlike a college course that has a syllabus outlining a schedule of new topics every week, narrative training consists of repeated “workouts” using templates such as the ABT (And, But, Therefore) Template he presented in his 2015 book, “Houston, We Have A Narrative.” His version of narrative training is called Story Circles and is now gaining widespread use with U.S. Department of Agriculture (14 circles), National Park Service (6 circles), U.S.A. Fish and Wildlife Service (2 circles), American Association for Advancement of Science, and other organizations. In this talk he will present the basic tools of narrative structure, the concept of narrative training, and explain how it is now being used.

Dinner starts at 7pm and requires a separate registration fee (\$40). Register [here](#).
Or come just for the program at 8pm (free for conference attendees).