



Annual Meeting

16-20 February 2012 • Vancouver, Canada



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[The Roles of Citizen Science and Serious Leisure in Public Engagement with Science](#)

Friday, February 17, 2012: 10:00 AM-11:30 AM
Room 214 (VCC West Building)

This session investigates the role of science amateurs for the public understanding and public engagement with science. Insight can be drawn from research on amateur and citizen scientists from the United States, Canada, Germany, and the United Kingdom regarding the impact of hobbyists on the public. Specifically, the session will discuss how serious leisure enthusiasts like amateur astronomers or avid birders play a role in sharing their passion for understanding of science with the public. Research on how citizen scientists and their supporting organizations operate indicates that these groups focus on specific islands of expertise first, rather than first attempting to support general knowledge of science that is easily transferable across many citizen science projects. Research on how citizen scientists and their supporting organizations operate indicates that these groups focus on specific islands of expertise first, rather than first attempting to support general knowledge of science that is easily transferable across many citizen science projects span across political borders, particularly those organized via online tools, citizen science is also becoming a mechanism for public engagement with science and is serving as a bridge for cross-cultural understanding.

Organizer: *Eric Jones, University of North Carolina*

Co-Organizer: *Martin Storksdieck, U.S. National Research Council*

Moderator: *Eric Jones, University of North Carolina*

Discussant: *Chuck Remington, National Audubon Society*

Speakers:

Robert A. Stebbins, University of Calgary

[The Role of \(Serious\) Leisure in Advancing Science: Conceptual Framework](#)

Chris Lintott, Adler Planetarium

[Bridging Borders Through Online Initiatives in Citizen Science](#)

Martin Storksdieck, U.S. National Research Council

[The Role of Amateur Astronomers in the Public Engagement with Astronomy](#)

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