

## **AAS 2015 Business Meeting Minutes: Mitchell, South Dakota**

**Submitted Paula E. Cushing, Secretary, June 29, 2015**

- **Approval of 2014 Business meeting minutes:** Motion made and accepted to waive the reading of 2014 Business meeting notes.
  - **Deaths** – Charles Griswold noted the deaths of Herb and Lorna Levi, Ev Schlinger, and Robert Hoffman and asked for a moment of silence to remember our lost colleagues.
  - **Reports** –
    - **Membership:** Charles provided membership report for Jeff Shultz. We will ask Jeff to poll members why they joined and why they left the society. Total 425 members and 43 institutional members.
    - **Treasurer:** Charles gave this report. We are in the black for 2014. We are \$11K in the black. We get \$ from BioOne (and JStor) for the Journal. EC is considering increasing the dollar amount of each grant provided by the society. Total worth of the society \$215,510.
    - **Archives Report:** Given by Charles. Material continues to accumulate. Sent to Lenny Vincent and Lenny forwards to archives at NMNH.
    - **Schlenger Foundation Report:** Continues to provide small grants to support attendance at meetings by emeritus members who cannot afford to attend.
    - **JOA:** Bob Suter gave report. Provided all business meeting attendees a hard copy report. There has been a change in the editorial staff. Jason Bond was subject editor for morphology and physiology and has been replaced by Peter Michalik. Jason became subject editor for systematics. Submissions for 2015 down but as of 15<sup>th</sup> of June we are up from same time last year. Submission to publication reduced from @ 12 months to @ 8 months. BioOne keeps track of hits. They front all of our articles. The # of hits went up by 41% in the last year. Report had a list of the “top hits.” This was the 1<sup>st</sup> year that the royalties from BioOne and JStor has covered the cost of producing the journal.
- Question from audience:** Could you talk about the acceptance rate. Seems low. Bob said that there is a fraction of papers that do not fall within the scope of the journal and are rejected without review. More commonly, someone submits something that is too small topic it should be

embellished with broader context or it will not be accepted.  
And many rejections because not high enough quality.

- **Website:** Charles reported that Jan has worked closely with Paula to update the website and fix broken links. Rich mentioned: Jan has been adding material regarding NA checklist. But that checklist has been complete updated by Allen Dean. There is a file for each taxon that is found in North America, north of Mexico. Rich wanted to point out the existence of this resource online. This link is in middle of AAS homepage (about ½ down page). Charles continued: Couple of years ago society considered moving our website to a professional service. We are waiting to see what happens with the redevelopment of the ISA website before we make that decision and ISA website has been delayed. Patrick Casto asked if there would be an app for phone for ID of families: Rich said that he is working with a woman, Danielle Forte, on an app for common species of spiders but not for families.
- **Future meeting sites:** Marshal Hedin reported that in 2016 it is Golden, CO; 2017 will be in Yucatan, Mexico by Alvarez; 2018 in Eastern Michigan hosted by Cara Shillington. Charles added that Mexico will be at a resort and will be safe and there probably won't be collecting.
- **Election results:** Cushing reported that Rich Bradley won the President Elect; Andy Roberts won for Director; Karen Cangialosi. Applause for the winners. Paula Cushing asked for all candidates (including G.B. Edwards for President as well as Brian Patrick and Brian Moskalik) to be recognized and recommended that anyone who is interested in running for a position with the society see senior director, Mike Draney as he is the chair of the nominating committee.
- **Field Guide update:** Rich Bradley reported that as of 27 May 2015, total sales are 3,341 copies plus 296 e-books. This is a total of 692 paper and 154 e-books this fiscal year so far. Therefore, sales have slowed for the paper book and increased slightly for the e-book. The UC California Press editor, Blake Edwards, was pleased with these sales numbers.
- **SNAIM update:** Cushing reported that the first full revision will hopefully be completed by Jan 2016. There will be an eBook version that can be purchased. We will improve the binding and covers. The revision process is fully underway.
- **EC Report:** Deadline for student research grants will be changed from Jan 15 to Feb 15. Charles will ask treasurer if we can afford increasing student research grants from \$350 to a substantial increase. Paula Cushing made a proposal to establish a grant for non-students at small institutions.
- **Other Old Business items?**

- **GB Edwards:** Reported on Common Names committee. Joe Lapp is updating the list of common names of arachnids, which has not been updated since 2003. The other major announcement is that he is retiring soon as curator at Florida Collection of Arthropods at DPI. There is someone there, Ian Stocks, who can be responsible for arachnids. He was a student of Fred Coyle. So Ian will be able to process loans. However, this means that there will be a position open, not for an arachnologist per se. They want to make the position into a multi-tasking collections manager/ database manager/ website manager. But will still have expertise in arthropod ID. Preference might be for Thysanoptera (but there may not be anyone out there with that expertise). If you have expertise, keep this job opening in mind. He does not think they'd turn down an arachnologist. Job will be posted on peoplefirst.com. Must have a PhD. For common names, people can apply to have common name approved by sending it to G.B. Edwards. Rick Vetter said that editors of JoA contact Edwards's team about new common names.
- **Business from the Floor:**
  - Marshal Hedin suggested that when people register for meetings, they could have electronic version of meeting for phone apps and just as an online pdf version. Marshal will send Paula (as next host) info about the phone app. Program can easily be posted online as a pdf document.
  - Charles Griswold announced that he has retired and that the new Schlinger Curator of Arachnology at CAS is Lauren Esposito. There was general applause.
  - Jonathan Coddington announced that the new curator of arachnology to join him at the NMNH is Hannah Wood.
- Charles Griswold thanked Brian Patrick and Tracy Patrick for being accommodating gracious hosts.
- Brian Patrick rang out the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Arachnological Society and passed the bell on to Paula Cushing to general applause.
- Charles Griswold asked for a motion to adjourn the business meeting. Motion was made by Bob Suter and a member of the audience seconded the motion to general applause.

### **Addendum to the 2015 AAS Business meeting**

The winners of the student presentation competition were announced at the AAS banquet. The 2015 winners were:

1<sup>st</sup> Place Oral Competition: Sarah D. Stellwagen. Intro-orb-web capture spiral adhesive droplet distributions.

Runner up Oral Competition: Robert J. Kallal. Systematics of the Australian leaf-curling spiders *Phonognatha* and *Deliochus* (Araneae, Araneidae).

1<sup>st</sup> Place Poster Competition: Jihoo Kim. The evolutionary adaptation of sow bug killer (*Dysdera crocata* C.L. Koch, 1838) and its feeding behavior.