

SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF NATURALISTS  
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING 58th ANNUAL MEETING  
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, TYLER, TEXAS

21 APRIL 2011

Present: Loren Ammerman, Troy Best, Priscilla Crawford, Robert Dowler, Mark Eberle, Alice Echelle, Anthony Echelle, Stanley Fox, Hayley Gillespie, David Heins, Bruce Hoagland, Dan Hough, John Hunt, Mike Kennedy, Beth Leuck, Karen McBee, Flo Oxley, Felipe de Jesús Rodríguez-Romero, Celia López-González, María de Lourdes Romero Almaráz, Cornelio Sánchez Hernández, Jake Schaefer, Gary Schnell, Bruce Stewart, Jason Strickland, Philip Sudman, Chris Taylor, Paula Williamson, Greg Wilson, and Earl Zimmerman.

President Mark Eberle called the 58th Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists (SWAN) to order at 1308 h with a quorum of Officers and Governors present. The Board of Governors (BOG) approved the minutes of the BOG and Officers and the minutes of the Business Meeting for the 57th Annual Meeting in Llano River Field Station, Junction, Texas (published in *The Southwestern Naturalist* Vol 55(4) and available on the SWAN webpage at <http://www.biosurvey.ou.edu/swan/>).

Phil Sudman, Treasurer, reported on income and expenses for the Association during 2010, trends with respect to membership and dues, and statistics on contributions.

Sudman reported income in 2010 of \$89,526 (including \$32,003 from dues, \$1,147 from contributions and proceeds of the annual meeting; \$19,413 from page charges; \$641 from sale of back issues; \$28,252 from royalties, and \$0 from earned interest).

The Treasurer's report detailed expenses totaling \$87,398, including \$1,181 for Treasurer's expenses (office help \$400, postage \$572, printing \$0, office supplies \$209); editorial expenses of \$9,801 (office help \$5,000, shipping and mailing \$401), Spanish abstracts and minutes \$0, Copy editor and indexing \$4,400); Allen Press \$49,969 (printing *The Southwestern Naturalist* \$48,751, PDF files \$1,218); Wilks Award \$1,000; Hubbs Student Poster Award \$600; McCarley awards \$5,000; Student Travel awards \$8,620; meeting expenses \$0; AIBS dues \$200; CPA charges (preparation of tax return) \$600; merchant-card fees \$1,411; expenses for back issues \$154; Student Advisory Committee \$0; and bank fees \$0. The bulk of the non-journal related expenses come from the increased credit card fees. Although an added expense, this means that more people are taking advantage of easy on-line credit card payments for membership, meeting registration, and page charges.

The checkbook balance at the beginning of 2010 was \$39,926; income exceeded expenses by \$2,128; the checkbook balance ended the year at \$42,054.

Sudman presented the 2011 Income-to-Date (1 January-8 April), which included \$21,083 in dues, \$18,366 in royalties, \$517 in contributions, \$3,480 in page charges, \$0 in sales of back issues, \$5,016 in meeting proceeds, and \$0 interest. The checking account is not interest bearing due to the cost based on the high number of transactions. Total income to date is \$54,999.

There will be a transfer of funds to the Board of Trustees of \$14,338.76.

Sudman reported that membership continues to drop. However, there were three new institutional memberships in 2010. Institutional memberships continue to go down because more have access to the online journal subscription services. Consequently we have seen a significant rise in royalty revenue. Only 22 free student memberships were distributed in 2010. Of the 42 memberships given to students in 2009, six have renewed. The BOG thanked Sudman for his work as treasurer and Mike Kennedy reminded the BOG that it was

not long ago that the society was financially unstable. The BOG is thankful for the current financial stability.

The Trustee's report was given by Jake Schaefer and in which he stated that the SWAN investment returns are slightly higher than the stock market average, with the exception of our stock account (-18.57%) which contains only shares of BP AMOCO. The Deep Water Horizon Incident of April 21, 2010 resulted in that stock losing over half its value in that summer. It has since recovered but was down nearly 20% for the year. The trustees anticipate a recovery and good performance in 2011. The Trustees made no transactions in 2010. On 31 December 2009 the market value of the SWAN Assets was \$526,719.87. On 31 December 2010 the market value had increased to \$582,691.28, a 2010 increase in value of \$55,971.41, or 10.63%. While this gain is significant, it represents a partial recovery from the losses seen in 2008. The 31 December 2010 market value for the SWAN assets is still 5.5% below the 31 December 2007 value of \$616,524.11.

The Trustees will be investing the DWS Scudder Money Market account, which is not currently earning any interest. The account was created to hold liquid assets in case of a financial emergency, which has not happened and is not anticipated at this time. The society will have access to other funds in the event of an emergency.

At the annual meeting of SWAN in 2007, the Board approved a budget that called for funds to be transferred from the Trustees to the Treasurer to meet expected expenses of the Association. That transfer has not been needed and there was again no transfer made in 2010.

The Trustees remain committed to cautious management of the SWAN assets, with all dividends being reinvested unless otherwise directed by the SWAN BOG and Officers.

There was a discussion regarding the Student Naturalist funds. The original intent was to create a new student award and use the accumulated funds. BOG suggested that there be a new award created to utilize these funds.

Beginning the committee reports, Loren Ammerman reported for the Student Awards Committee (Chair - Loren Ammerman; Members - Michael Dixon, Bruce Hoagland, Jessica Light, William I. Lutterschmidt, Russell Pfau, and Juliann Waits). The committee received 26 proposals for the Howard McCarley Student Research Award. Applicants were affiliated with 12 institutions. The five winners will be announced at the banquet. Eighteen posters were submitted for the Clark Hubbs Student Poster Award. The winner of this award will also be announced at the banquet.

John Hunt reported on the activities of the Public Relations and Publicity Committee (Chair - John Hunt; Members - Stan Gehrt, Meredith Hamilton, Renn Tumlinson, and Kathryn Vaughn). A press release was written for each of the SWAN award winners for 2010 (Blair Award, Packard Award, Wilks Award, Hubbs Award, and Sutton Award). Each release was sent to the major public newspaper and university newspaper for each of the respective award winners. Although it is unknown how many of the newspapers contacted actually published the stories, a Google search indicated that at least two news stories resulted from the press releases.

During 2010, the Committee composed news releases about three (somewhat) randomly selected articles published in *The Southwestern Naturalist*. These releases were sent to an assortment of news outlets in an attempt to raise awareness about the Association. At least one news story resulted; a short article about prairie-dog research was published in the *Portales News-Tribune*. With the permission of the BOG, the Committee will continue this activity in 2011. The BOG granted its permission and supported the Committee.

Greg Wilson reported for the Membership Committee (Chair - Gregory M. Wilson; Members -

Amanda L. Husak, Julio Lemos-Espinal, Joseph D. Maness, Dwight W. Moore, and Christopher M. Taylor). As approved by the BOG at the 2004 annual meeting, free student memberships were made available to individuals who had previously not been a member of SWAN. In 2010, 22 free student memberships were awarded. The committee is working with the Student Advisory Committee to promote these free memberships, of which 30 are available.

Flo Oxley reported for the Conservation Committee (Chair - Flo Oxley; Members - Jack C. Eitnier, Jennifer Frey, Fausto R. Mendez de la Cruz, James Ott, and Kendra Phelps). The Committee nominated the following article as the recipient of the George Miksch Sutton award in conservation research: Barrows, C.W. and M.F. Allen. 2009. Conserving species in fragmented habitats: population dynamics of the flat-tailed horned lizard, *Phrynosoma mcallii*. *Southwestern Naturalist*, 54(3):307-316.

Oxley contacted authors, but they could not attend the meeting. The Committee recommended that the award be announced in one year and presented the following year to allow the recipients time to make arrangements to attend the meeting. There was a motion to suspend Roberts Rules of Order so that this could be voted upon. The motion to suspend passed unanimously. A motion was made by Stanley Fox to present the Sutton award at the meeting following the award announcement. The motion was seconded and approved by the BOG. Roberts Rules of Order were reestablished for the BOG meeting.

Beth Leuck reported for the Program Committee (Chair - Beth Leuck; Members - Ricardo Ayala Barajas, William I. Lutterschmidt, William J. Matthews, O. W. Van Auken, and María de Lourdes Lozano-Vilano). The Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México in Toluca will host the 2012 meeting in Valle de Bravo, México. The local committee chairperson is Dr. Felipe Rodríguez.

Leuck reported that Dr. Tod Reeder of San Diego State University has stated that his university is willing to host the meetings in either 2013 or 2014. Another institution needs to be found for the year that San Diego does not host. Mark Eberle suggested Northern Arizona, and Oklahoma State University was also mentioned. Chris Taylor said that Texas Tech could host at Junction more often. Junction could be considered a regular host because of the difficulty in finding a location each year. However, many members like visiting new places and may not attend each year if held at the same location. Because the meeting will be held in Mexico next year, there is some concern regarding the attendance of the meeting by US students due to the institutional restrictions. It was suggested that Stan Fox and Felipe Rodríguez write an informational sheet for the website describing the meeting location and logistics, including information about safety issues.

Bruce Stewart reported on the activities of the International Relations Committee (Co-Chairs - Bruce Stewart and María de Lourdes Romero Almaraz; Members - Stanley F. Fox, Robert Edwards, Michael Kennedy, Ricardo Ayala, Felipe de Jesús Rodríguez-Romero, Cornelio Sánchez Hernández, Nikki Cavalieri, and Gloria Tapia-Ramírez). The Committee met during the meeting in Junction. The committee agreed that the abstract submission date of 25 January worked well and recommended to future Local Committees to use this date. The Committee agreed that SWAN should continue requiring English and Spanish titles and abstracts. Authors should also be encouraged to have other parts of their talks and posters (e.g., conclusions) in both languages. The committee agreed that there should be both English and Spanish speaking moderators or bilingual moderators for sessions. Registration information should include check offs to encourage such volunteer moderators.

The Committee set 15 November 2011 as the submission deadline for Student Travel Award applications with the option to extend the date if prudent. The Committee agreed to some "unwritten" criteria to consider in determining award recipients and amounts of support, including diversity added due to geographic representation, sponsoring professors, and disciplines. Students should provide a proposed budget including transportation,

registration, picnic, banquet, lodging, and cost of visa (if necessary). The Committee discussed the idea of having reduced fees for Latin American students, but did not come to a consensus. There were questions about the fairness of various options. The Committee agreed that there should be input from the Student Advisory Committee on this topic.

Jason Strickland reported for the Student Advisory Committee (Co-Chairs Jorge Armando Contreras Lozano and Jason Strickland; Members - Sara Beatriz González-Pérez, Andrea Acevedo, and Ana Paula Ferrari-Hoeinghaus). The Committee membership is having a big turnover and needs new members. The Committee would like to have a person on the local committee to be a student member to help organize the student activities during the meeting. Approximately 50 students attended the workshop last year. The Committee is trying to use Facebook more for student communications.

Dan Hough reported on the activities of the Web-site Committee (Chair - Dan Hough; Members - Mark E. Eberle, Stanley F. Fox, Jacob F. Schaefer, and Caryn C. Vaughn). Updates to the website during 2010 included: 2011 meeting information, including abstract submission, meeting registration, and student travel application; membership directory; Student Advisory Committee pages; and LISTSERVE list. The meeting message board was discontinued due to regular spam attacks. Hough talked with the Program Committee and discussed a few changes for online registration, such as separate fields for first and last names. Abstract submission went well for users, but there was a glitch for Hough, who fixed the files before sending to local committee. The BOG applauded Hough for his continued work to make the website run well.

The BOG meeting was recessed for a short break at 1440 h and reconvened at 1459 h by President Eberle.

Robert Dowler, President-Elect, reported on the Wilks Award Committee. There were 9 applications for the Wilks Award. Three judges (to be named at the annual banquet) reviewed the applications. The top 4 finalists were chosen and invited to give their oral presentations at the Wilks Plenary session on Friday morning, 22 April 2010. Submission date is currently different from the other abstract dates. Robert made the case that it would be simpler to have the abstract submission dates be the same for all awards and the meeting. Troy Best said this would make it easier for listing in the journal. There was a motion by Gary Schnell to make the last Friday in January be the deadline for all abstracts for the annual meeting. It was seconded and approved by voice vote. Dowler reported that there are no written guidelines for the Wilks Committee. Dowler is writing guidelines for the formation of the committee and the committee activities.

Karen McBee reported on her year's activities as Historian. McBee highly encouraged members to submit information about the Society, including information about past annual meetings. McBee is also working with Troy Best (editor, *The Southwestern Naturalist*) to include historic information, photos, or notes in the unused end pages of the journal. A list of previous meeting locations will be published in journal when there is a blank page.

Stanley Fox reported for the Honors Committee (Chair - Stanley Fox; Members - Alice Echelle, Paula Williamson, Gary Schnell, and William Lutterschmidt). The committee received one application for the Robert L. Packard Outstanding Educator Award and two applications for the W. Frank Blair Eminent Naturalist Award. After review and deliberation, the decision was made to present one nominee for the Robert L. Packard Outstanding Educator Award and one nominee for the W. Frank Blair Eminent Naturalist Award to the Board of Governors for their approval. Expecting Board approval, the recipient for both awards for 2011 will be announced at the Annual Business Meeting. Three Distinguished Awardees were named in 2010. The 2010 recipient of the Robert L. Packard Outstanding Educator Award was David Edds, and the recipients of the W. Frank Blair Eminent Naturalist Award were co-winners Alice and Tony Echelle. Awardees will be recognized with plaques at

the 2011 annual banquet.

The Committee proposed to the BOG that the following statement be included in the journal and on the web for the group of Blair, Tinkle, Packard, and Choate Awards, "Nominations will be effective for three years." The Committee wants to consider nominations for a deserving individual for more than one year, especially when more than one superior nominee is put forth in a year. The nominations are a lot of work for the nominator. It may occur that two excellent people nominated in one year, but the nominator cannot resubmit during a second year. Fox made a motion to approve the wording "Nominations are considered for three years." The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Edie Marsh-Matthews submitted no report for the Long Range Planning Committee (Chair - Edie Marsh-Matthews; Members - Byron Clark, Tony Echelle, Bob Edwards, Celia López-González, Dwight Moore, Bill Van Auken, and Caryn Vaughn). The Long-Range Planning Committee did not have any meetings this year. Marsh-Matthews suggested that the committee be disbanded, but Mike Kennedy suggested that we may need a committee and they need to get active. Robert Dowler, President-Elect, will talk with the Committee about possible restructuring.

Robert Dowler presented the report for the ad hoc Committee for the Disposition of Back Issues (Co-Chairs - Robert Dowler and Wesley A. Brashear; Members - Celia López-González and Edie Marsh-Matthews). During the calendar year 2010, the Committee filled 4 orders of individual volumes or numbers (9 total issues), as well as one order for all available back issues of *The Southwestern Naturalist*. Two additional sets were provided for the Wilks Award winner and the Clark Hubbs Student Poster Award winner. The current price for back issues is \$1/issue for Volumes 1-39. For Volumes 40-45, the price is \$32/volume. For volumes 46-present, the price is \$36/volume. These prices do not include shipping and handling. Back issues are being housed in the Department of Biology at Angelo State University at no cost to the Southwestern Association of Naturalists. All financial transactions for back issues are carried out by the Treasurer's office. Sale of back issues generated about \$570 last year. For requests of individual articles, Dowler or Wesley Brashear have scanned those articles and emailed them, rather than sending a full hard copy issues of the journal. These requests are infrequent enough that, for now, it is not a burden.

Beth Leuck reported for the Budget Oversight Committee (Chair - Phyllis Kennedy; Members - William Baltosser, Brian Chapman, Robert Edwards, and Beth Leuck). The Budget Oversight Committee examined the Treasurer's Report for 2010, a listing of debit transactions made by the Treasurer during 2010, a summary of income and debit transactions made by the Treasurer during 2010, invoices from Allen Press paid in 2010, and the annual 2011 report from the Board of Trustees. The Committee found expenditure and income information to be in good order, showing SWAN to be financially sound. The Committee finds that the Board of Trustees continues to do an outstanding job handling SWAN's assets.

Michael Kennedy gave the Managing Editor's report for *The Southwestern Naturalist*. The journal continues to need reviewers. The journal has eliminated paper copy submission of manuscripts. There was a long discussion regarding a change in the size of the journal. Kennedy stated that in 1989 paper size of the journal was made bigger to reduce cost. The journal is now considering an 8x11 format. The pricing would be nearly the same. The font size might be bigger. The change in column size would allow easier formatting for tables and figures. The paper quality would be the same or better. Gary Schnell moved to approve the change to 8x11. It was seconded and a short discussion followed. The BOG approved the motion. Specifications regarding font, paper, and formatting will be emailed to the BOG.

The Development Committee report was given by Jake Schaefer (Co-Chairs - Jake Schaefer

and David Heins; Members - Robert Dowler, Phil Sudman, Caryn Vaughn, and Jerry Johnson). In 2010 the Development Committee asked the BOG to approve the following initiatives for future implementation: initiate a push for lifetime memberships, including lifetime memberships with electronic-only journal access at a reduced cost, and initiate a study to determine the per-member cost of producing the paper version of the journal. Topics discussed at the Committee's last meeting were: to aid in recruitment and retention of members while institutional online access to the journal increases, the Long Range Planning committee should establish what the benefits for members are; streamline dues payment system (e.g. PayPal); and use silent auctions or raffles at annual meetings to raise funds. Activities like these have been successful at other similar-sized societies.

In 2010 the BOG charged the Treasurer's office with investigating the efficacy of using a service such as PayPal for credit card payments. The PayPal system would be simpler and cheaper for SWAN. Gary Schnell moved to approve that the Society use PayPal exclusively for all payments. The motion was seconded and approved.

The Development Committee considered a silent auction for the 2011 annual meeting. The University of Texas - Tyler prohibited sales on campus. Using another venue would have complicated planning and execution of the event. The Development Committee remains interested in holding an auction when it can be held at the meeting site, which is thought to be the best venue.

Neil Ford gave a brief report for the Local Committee. He stated that there are 325 registered attendees.

There were no items of Old Business. President Eberle then took up New Business.

The BOG reappointed the Officers: Phil Sudman, Treasurer; Beth Leuck, Program Director; Michael Kennedy, Managing Editor. Priscilla Crawford, Secretary, is stepping down.

The BOG reappointed the Trustees: Jake Schafer, Loren Ammerman, and Robert Dowler.

Felipe de Jesús Rodríguez-Romero discussed the 2012 meeting that will be held at Valle de Bravo, which is 67 km west of Toluca, Mexico. Felipe mentioned that the lake is the main attraction with a possibility of a boat tour during the meeting. There was a discussion of logistics for the meeting.

Treasurer Phil Sudman presented the proposed 2012 budget. During the proposed budget discussion, the BOG agreed to add funds to increase the number of McCarley Awards to seven. This money came from the Miscellaneous column of the budget. The BOG suggested that the President use his contingency funds to help pay an honorarium for abstract translations. The BOG approved the balanced budget of \$94,600.

During other new business Hayley Gillespie brought up the possibility of reducing fees for students and/or regular members from Latin American countries. The point was made that other organizations have reduced fees for developing countries. There was a discussion by the BOG. Earl Zimmerman recommended that a detailed proposal be prepared for next year's meeting.

The 2011 SWAN BOG Meeting adjourned at 1703 h.

Respectfully submitted,  
Priscilla H. C. Crawford  
Secretary