

THE SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF NATURALISTS
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF
GOVERNORS AND OFFICERS
HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS
THURSDAY, 14 APRIL 2005

Present: Loren Ammerman, John T. Baccus, Troy Baird, Ricardo Ayala Barajas, Troy Best, Jerry R. Choate, Carl W. Dick, Mark Eberle, Stanley F. Fox, Meredith J. Hamilton, Dan Hough, Michael Husak, William Lutter-schmidt, William J. Matthews, Edie Marsh-Matthews, Karen McBee, Kelly McCoy, David L. McNeely, Lourdes Romero-Almarez, Cornelio Sánchez-Hernández, Jake Schaefer, Bruce G. Stewart, Philip D. Sudman, George Wang, Paula S. Williamson, Gregory M. Wilson, Earl Zimmerman.

President Marsh-Matthews called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. with a quorum of Officers and Governors present. The BOG approved the Minutes of the Board of Governors and Officers and the Minutes of the Business Meeting for the 51st annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas as printed in *The Southwestern Naturalist* 49(4) following one correction. Stanley Fox and Susana Perea Fox will be listed as Co-associate Spanish editors.

Treasurer Jake Schaefer reported 2004 income and expenses for the association, the trends with respect to membership and dues, and statistics on contributions. Treasurer Jake Schaefer reported 2004 income of \$83,520 (including \$58,047 from dues, \$7,082 from contributions and meeting proceeds; \$1,288 from PDF reprints sales; \$14,475 from page charges; \$1,905 from sale of back issues; \$714 from Royalties, and \$9 from earned interest).

Schaefer reported expenses totaling \$70,393 including \$5,037 for Treasurer's expenses (office help \$4,000, office supplies \$248, postage \$559, printing \$230); editorial expenses of \$4,280 (office help \$3,000, mailing \$832, Spanish abstracts \$48, indexing \$400); Allen Press \$43,174 (printing *The Southwestern Naturalist* \$41,957, PDF files \$1,217); Historian's expenses \$49; Biographics \$46; Wilks Award \$500; Hubbs Student Poster Award \$250; McCarley Awards \$5,000; Student Travel Awards \$9,100; AIBS Dues \$100; President's Discretionary Expenses \$345; CPA charges (tax return preparation) \$1,500; merchant card fees \$811; back issue expenses \$163; and returned checks and other bank fees \$38.

The checkbook balance at the beginning of 2004 was \$19,761; income exceeded expenses by \$13,127; \$3,915 was transferred to the Trustees for investment; the checkbook balance ended the year at \$28,973.

Treasurer Schaefer also reported that membership as of December 2004 numbered 1,234 including 106 new members. New members' names were listed in the Treasurer's Report and were to be submitted for members' approval at the Business Meeting.

Schaefer further reported 2005 year-to-date income of \$32,328 (including \$27,235 for dues, \$300 in contributions (endowment \$30, student awards \$45, Student research fund \$225), \$3,012 page charges, \$181 back issue sales, \$1576 Royalties, and \$24 interest earned). Schaefer's report included a projected budget for 2005 to be considered under New Business.

Jerry Choate reported for the Trustees (Chair Choate, H. H. Genoways, T. L. Yates) that in 2004 SWAN assets increased in value by \$48,519.93 to \$404,164.32 from 31 December 2003 to 31 December 2004, or 13.6%. Actual

return on investment was 12.5% after the increase was discounted by \$3,915 that the funds received from the SWAN treasury. The board thanked Choate and the Trustees for their efforts on behalf of SWAN.

President Marsh-Matthews reported for the Budget Oversight Committee (Chair Phyllis Kennedy, William H. Baltosser, Bryan R. Chapman, Robert J. Edwards, Beth Leuck) that the committee had examined the Treasurer's activities for 2004, income, expense and budget reports for 2004 from the Treasurer, invoices for expenditures during 2004 and Trustees' records. The committee found all aspects of the fiscal operation of the association to be in good order. The committee also recognized that the Board of Trustees continues to do an outstanding job handling SWAN's assets.

Managing Editor Mark Eberle reported to the Board that Bill Lutterschmidt was the new Associate Editor for Amphibians for SWN. Cody Edwards and Steve Goldsmith recently retired as Associate Editors and were recognized for their service. Eberle reported on issues related to the journal and presented detailed statistics concerning numbers of manuscripts submitted, accepted, and published, as well as numbers related to each taxonomic category. Eberle reported income and expenses related to the publication of SWN. BioOne income has just been received for the first time. He noted that pre-galley proofs continue to be successful at keeping costs down and that more authors are requesting pdf reprints instead of paper reprints. He announced that some copies of issue 49(2) were faulty. Allen Press will apply credit when it is known how many copies were affected. The Board recognized Eberle for his service to the society.

Paula S. Williamson reported for the Honors Committee (Chair Williamson, Alice F. Echelle, Gary A. Heidt, William J. Matthews, Gary D. Schnell) that the committee received nominations for the W. Frank Blair Eminent Naturalist Award and the Meritorious Service Award, but that no nominations were received for the Donald W. Tinkle Research Excellence Award or the Robert L. Packard Outstanding Educator Award. Williamson moved as committee chair that the nominations for each award be approved without identification so that the award could be announced at the Business Meeting as is traditional. The motion was seconded and approved.

Marsh-Matthews reported for the Conservation Committee (Chair Robert Channell, Jeff Kelly, Jennifer K. Frey, David J. Hafner, Jim Ott) that after review of *The Southwestern Naturalist* 48(3), 48(4), 49(1), and 49(2) the nominee for the George M. Sutton Award for Conservation Research was "Population status and distribution of a decimated amphibian, the relict leopard frog (*Rana onca*)," published in *The Southwestern Naturalist* 49(2):218–228, authored by D. F. Bradford, J. R. Jaeger, and R. D. Jennings. The Board had previously approved this nomination by e-mail ballot.

Chair Karen McBee reported for the Wilks Award Committee (Chair McBee, Michael Dixon, Chad Hargrave, and Jerry Husak) that 4 applications were received and reviewed, and that all were selected to present results of their research at the Plenary Session. The winner will be announced and receive the award at the banquet on Saturday.

Karen McBee also announced for the Student Awards Committee (Chair McBee, Troy Baird, Bob Edwards, Glennis Kaufman, Jeff Kelly, Beth Leuck, Jim Ott, and Monte Thies) that 16 posters were entered in the Clark Hubbs Student Poster Competition, and the awards for that competition were to be presented at the banquet. Judges for the Hubbs award were to be Chris Hice, Ed Leuck, Kelly McCoy, Susana Perea Fox, Russell Pfau, Mark Pyron, Christopher Ritzi, and Ricardo Torres-Cervantes. McBee then reported that

16 students submitted proposals for the Howard McCarley Student Research Award (up to \$1,000 each), and that judges had evaluated the proposals. Five recipients were to receive the awards on Saturday at the annual banquet.

There was no report from the Public Relations and Publicity Committee.

Philip D. Sudman reported for the Membership Committee (Chair Greg Wilson, Bryon K. Clark, Joseph D. Maness, Dwight W. Moore, Miguel A. Mora, Philip D. Sudman, Christopher M. Taylor) that 21 free student memberships were awarded last year. He recommended that the association continue the free student membership program for up to 30 new members. A motion to offer 30 free student memberships this year was seconded and approved.

John T. Baccus reported for the Development Committee (Chair Baccus, Robert J. Baker, David Heins, Jerry D. Johnson, David J. Schmidly, Kathryn Vaughn) that their campaign to raise money (goal of \$100,000) that will be dedicated to students will begin this year. Baccus reminded the BOG that pledge cards would be available for the first time at the business meeting and urged the board and members to generously support this effort. Pledges can be fulfilled over a 5 y period. The BOG applauded the committee's efforts on this initiative.

Chair Philip D. Sudman reported for the Program Committee (Chair Sudman, Jerry R. Choate, Salvador Contreras-Balderas, Topiltzian Contreras-MacBeath, William J. Matthews, O. W. Van Auken) and thanked Ron Van Den Bussche for his efforts last year. The 2006 meeting will be held in Colima, Mexico and plans are for the 2007 meeting to be in Tarleton State University, Stephenville, Texas. The committee plans to make the *Procedural Manual for Hosting the Annual Meeting* available in both English and Spanish as a pdf on the web site. A prospective site for 2008 was also discussed by the board.

Historian Meredith J. Hamilton encouraged BOG members to submit donations to the archives.

Eddie Marsh-Matthews, AIBS (American Institute of Biological Sciences) council representative, reported that the society as a member is allowed to send individuals to the annual meeting (held in conjunction with BioOne) to be held 7–10 May 2005 in Washington, D.C. She recommends that it is important for SWAN to be involved in these meetings to promote the society's visibility and to keep up with current issues. Furthermore, she recommends that SWAN help with financial support for an individual to attend this meeting at least every other year. This recommendation was revisited in New Business.

Bruce Stewart reported for the International Relations Committee (Co-chair Stewart, Co-chair Salvador Contreras-Balderas, Robert J. Edwards, Stanley F. Fox, Topiltzian Contreras-MacBeath, Robert D. Owen) that they have offered to help the local committee in Colima with meeting issues and that they plan to provide an online travel guide to help make this meeting easy to attend.

Stanley Fox reported for Robert D. Owen and the *ad hoc* Cross-Border Affairs Committee (Chair Owen, Stanley F. Fox, Michael L. Kennedy, Celia López González, M. de Lourdes Romero-Almaráz, Bruce Stewart) that the committee considered 12 applications to fund travel of students from Mexico for this year's SWAN meeting. All applications were accepted for travel awards, however due to stricter visa requirements and time required for processing, 5 had to decline.

Fox recommended that the board consider changes to the timing and the application process—which was considered under Old Business.

The BOG Meeting was adjourned for a short break at 3:20 and reconvened at 3:38 p.m. by President Marsh-Matthews.

Dan Hough reported for the *ad hoc* Web Site Committee (Chair Hough, Mark Eberle, Stanley Fox, Jacob Schaefer, Caryn Vaughn) that the web site (www.biosurvey.ou.edu/swan) provided online abstract submission for the meeting this year. The committee also updated the membership directory and LISTSERV. Hough provided statistics on web page usage and stated that the web site was successfully supporting the journal and the meeting in both English and Spanish. The Board extended their appreciation to Dan Hough and Stanley Fox for their work and to the OU Biological Survey for hosting the site at no cost to SWAN.

President Marsh-Matthews reported for Robert C. Dowler and the *ad hoc* Committee on Disposal of Back Issues of *The Southwestern Naturalist* (Chair Dowler, Brenda S. Clark, Celia López-González, Edie Marsh-Matthews). The committee continues to successfully sell back issues and sets. They received 7 orders for near complete sets (700 issues boxed and mailed and 2 sets provided to student award winners). The Board recognized ASU for housing the back issues and the students for help with shipping.

H. George Wang, Chair, reported for the *ad hoc* Student Advisory Committee (Lisa A. McWilliams, Luis Manuel Guevara Chumacero, Sean M. Daly, Kendra L. Phelps) that the committee is sponsoring a student workshop again this year on Saturday evening. The workshop is to assist students with grant writing and will be bilingual.

Bill Lutterschmidt, Local Representative, welcomed the board to Huntsville and reported for the Local Committee that 306 persons were registered for the meeting—more than half are students.

The President then took up Old Business.

Mark Eberle presented the board with a proposal to join JSTOR, an organization that will create an electronic repository of back issues of SWN at no cost to SWAN. They post articles with a 3–5 y delay or “wall.” Current pdfs would be moved over from BioOne as they aged. It was moved and seconded to approve the proposal and enter agreement with JSTOR with a 3-y delay. There was favorable discussion and the motion was approved by the board.

Marsh-Matthews requested that the board make suggestions to the student travel committee regarding the application process for student travel awards. Several suggestions were made.

At the conclusion of Old Business, President Marsh-Matthews took up New Business.

Following a motion and a second to do so, Loren Ammerman was reappointed as Secretary, Jake Schaefer was reappointed as Treasurer, Mark Eberle was reappointed as Managing Editor, Terry Yates was reappointed to the Trustees, and Ricardo Ayala Barajas was appointed as Local Representative. Following the resignation of Ron Van Den Bussche from the post of Program Director, the appointment of Phil Sudman was moved, seconded, and approved.

Mark Eberle presented a proposal for the formation of an editorial board (12–15 people) to restructure the current AE system for review of manuscripts submitted to *The Southwestern Naturalist*. This system would distribute the workload more evenly. McBee proposed the formation of an *ad hoc* Committee to develop a plan to set up an editorial board. There was con-

siderable discussion and following a motion and second to do so, the board approved the proposal.

There was discussion over the value of the awards that are given by the Student Awards Committee. The application process could be changed and the Hubbs Award be increased. The committee was asked to bring a proposal to the board next year.

The BOG accepted an invitation from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico and the Universidad de Colima to host the 2006 annual meeting in Colima, Mexico, and accepted an invitation from Tarleton State University Stephenville, Texas for the 2007 meeting. Phil Sudman was appointed as Local Representative.

Amendments were offered, seconded, and passed for the following adjustments to the 2006 budget proposal presented by Jake Schaefer:

Under Projected Income

1. Changed "Page Charges and PDF Income" from \$29,000 to \$14,000.
2. Deleted line item "Meeting Proceeds" and decreased "Interest" to \$50.
3. Added line item "BioOne Income" \$3,000.
4. "Endowment Income" was increased from \$10,000 to \$25,050.

Under the Proposed Budget

1. The item "Miscellaneous Expense" was changed to "Expense for Bonding" \$600.
2. A line item in the amount of \$1,000 was added to send a representative to AIBS meeting each year.
3. "Meeting Expenses" was increased from \$500 to \$1,000.

The board approved a balanced budget of \$86,000 to be presented to the membership at the Annual Business Meeting.

The BOG also discussed clarification of the policy for waiver of page charges. Authors must be members on the date that the paper is submitted to be eligible for the waiver.

The 2005 BOG meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Loren K. Ammerman
Secretary

**THE SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF NATURALISTS
MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING
OLSEN AUDITORIUM
HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS
FRIDAY, 15 APRIL 2005**

President Edie Marsh-Matthews called the meeting to order at 10:37 a.m. with a quorum present.

The membership approved the Minutes of the 2004 Business Meeting as printed in *The Southwestern Naturalist* 49(4).

President Marsh-Matthews appointed the Wilks Award presenters (G. H. Dayton, C. Cortemeglia, A. G. Hope, and J. B. Johnson) to serve as tellers for the BOG election.

The Secretary read a summary of the 2005 Meeting of the Board of Governors and Officers (BOG).

Treasurer Jake Schaefer gave the Treasurer's report, with copies of the written version to the BOG available. He reported income, expenses, and checkbook activity as provided in the written report and as summarized in the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Governors and Officers (BOG).

Schaefer then reported a summary of the 2006 proposed balanced budget of \$86,000 approved at the Meeting of the BOG on 14 April 2005. The minutes of that meeting summarize the report.

The Treasurer then reported that membership in the society remains relatively stable with 872 individual memberships and 362 institutional memberships in 2004. Of those, 44 were new student members, 35 regular members, and 21 were new student awards. Schaefer presented a roster of new members for approval. There was a motion and second to approve the new members. The motion carried.

The President opened the floor for nominations for President-Elect. Stanley F. Fox was elected by acclamation.

David McNeely read the following in remembrance of Albert (Pat) Blair:

"First, my great thanks to David Martinez of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Ecological Services unit in Tulsa, who studied under Dr. Blair at the University of Tulsa and who was Dr. Blair's friend until death, for authorship of this statement.

"Albert Patrick Blair, Professor Emeritus of the University of Tulsa and one of the founding members of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists, died December 3, 2004, at his home in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Dr. Blair contributed significantly to the knowledge of species relationships and distributions in the southwest and other parts of North America. Of special significance were his studies of anuran amphibians, begun in his doctoral research, which produced new understandings of isolating mechanisms, hybridization, genetics, and comparative ecology among these animals. In total, Pat Blair's biological interests and investigations embraced a wide variety of taxa, including plants, invertebrates, fishes, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals. His greater than 50 scientific publications provide but a glimpse into his expertise, which seemed endless to colleagues and students. All recall him as being a very demanding but very effective instructor who was very much respected. Pat Blair influenced many who continue to work in diverse biological professions, and conservation biologists among others regard as priceless the data he collected, documenting key ecological conditions of the region for some 50 years well into the 1990s. In addition to participating actively within SWAN, Patrick was a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and participated in other scientific and educational organizations, such as the American Society of Naturalists, the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, the Herpetologists' League, the Society for the Study of Evolution, the American Society of Human Genetics, the American Institute of Biological Sciences, and the Oklahoma Academy of Science. In 2003, the Southwestern Association of Naturalists presented Patrick Blair with the W. Frank Blair Eminent Naturalist Award, a well-deserved honor that he appreciated greatly.

"Therefore, be it resolved by membership the Southwestern Association of Naturalists assembled at Huntsville, Texas in the spring of 2005 that Albert Patrick Blair is a most honored founding member of the association, and that the members remember with respect and gratitude his many con-

tributions of service, of science, and of education to the furtherance of the association's purposes."

President Marsh-Matthews then conducted the election for the BOG. Eight persons were nominated, and the election results were to be announced at the banquet on Saturday evening. The 4 persons with the most votes will be the class of 2008. The individual with the next highest number of votes will be elected for a one-year term to replace Stanley F. Fox.

Jerry Choate provided an overview of the activity of the Trustees. Details are available in his written report and a summary appears in the Minutes of the Meeting of the BOG.

Mark Eberle, Managing Editor, reported that the journal has been on schedule although there was a printing error in several copies of issue 49(2) of *The Southwestern Naturalist*. He requested that members notify him if they received a faulty copy. He also reported that SWN is now on BioOne (last 2.5 y), also JSTOR is interested in carrying SWN (including back issues) and this should generate income for the society. Eberle mentioned the desire of the BOG to establish an editorial board to make handling manuscripts more efficient and lessen the workload for associate editors. He expressed concern over decreased income provided by page charges (goal is 50% of pages to be paid for, actual is approximately 45%) and expects that this issue may need to be addressed in the near future. He encouraged authors that are able to pay the page charges for their publications to do so. In response to questions, Eberle said JSTOR and BioOne income should offset loss of income from back issues. President Marsh-Matthews then encouraged everyone to visit the BioOne website.

Paula Williamson, Chair of the Honors Committee, announced that the BOG approved awarding the Meritorious Service Award to Stanley and Susana Fox. They received a standing ovation. Presentations were to be made at the banquet at the 2006 Annual Meeting in Colima, Mexico.

Philip D. Sudman reported for the Membership Committee and introduced the new chair, Greg Wilson, who had forms for membership application and forms to apply for student membership awards (30 will be awarded).

John T. Baccus reported for the Development Committee that pledge cards are now available. Pledges can be paid out over 5 y. Funds raised for the endowment would be used to support student activities including research. President Marsh-Matthews thanked the committee for their efforts to establish this endowment.

Philip D. Sudman reported for the Program Committee and requested that anyone interested in hosting the meeting come talk with him. He also reminded the membership that next year's meeting is in Colima, Mexico, hosted by the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and the Universidad de Colima.

Robert C. Dowler reported for the *ad hoc* Disposition of Back Issues Committee that back issues are still available for purchase.

George Wang reported for the *ad hoc* Student Advisory Committee and encouraged participation in a student workshop "Applying for Funding as Students: Opportunities and Strategies" to take place on Saturday, 16 April.

Stanley F. Fox reported for the *ad hoc* Cross Border Affairs Committee that the Student Travel Awards program continued its success, with awards given to 7 attendees from Latin America. He also noted that non-Mexican members, including U.S. citizens, can apply next year to travel to Colima, Mexico, and that the committee will post revised guidelines on the web site.

Dan Hough (*ad hoc* Web Site Committee) asked for any suggestions that members may have for the web page.

Bruce Stewart reported for the International Relations Committee that information to assist with travel to Colima will be produced and posted on the web page.

President Marsh-Matthews then took up New and Unfinished Business.

Ricardo Ayala, local representative for 2006, presented plans for the 2006 meeting in Colima, Mexico.

Philip D. Sudman presented plans for the 2007 meeting in Stephenville, Texas.

Following a motion to do so, a second, and approval, the Business Meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

The following actions were taken at the Banquet on the evening of Saturday, 16 April 2005:

Paula Williamson presented the W. Frank Blair Eminent Naturalist Award to William W. Tanner and the Donald W. Tinkle Research Excellence Award to James Dixon.

Billie L. Turner, Professor Emeritus, Department of Botany, University of Texas, addressed the society with his presentation entitled "I Remember, I Remember."

President Marsh-Matthews presented the George Mitsch Sutton Award for Conservation Research to D. F. Bradford, J. R. Jaeger, and R. D. Jennings for their report "Population status and distribution of a decimated amphibian, the relict leopard frog (*Rana onca*)," published in *The Southwestern Naturalist* 49(2):218–228.

President-elect Karen McBee presented the Wilks Award to James B. Johnson of Stephen F. Austin State University, for his presentation entitled "Selection on Tadpole Morphology and Swimming Performance: An Evaluation of the Morphology, Performance, and Fitness Paradigm."

President-elect Karen McBee presented the Clark Hubbs Student Poster Award to Jennifer L. Curtis of University of Central Oklahoma for her poster (coauthored with Troy L. Baird) entitled, "Chiggers on Lizards: Variable Patterns of Mite Infestation Within a Population of Collared Lizards."

Marian McCarley presented the Howard McCarley Student Research Awards to 5 students:

Rebecca M. Calisi, University of Texas at Arlington, "An integrative look at female coloration in the Mexican boulder spiny lizard, *Sceloporus pyrocephalus*: reproductive state, immune function, and hormone physiology."

Catalina Estrada, University of Texas at Austin, "Pupal mating in *Heliconius* butterflies: implications in the evolution of mimicry and community structure."

David P. Gillette, University of Oklahoma, "The importance of habitat patch context to stream fishes."

John H. Matthews, University of Texas at Austin, "Novel Applications of isotopic and genetic tracers for understanding migratory behavior in a changing climate."

Rachael Remington, University of Oklahoma, "Ecology and evolution of turbidity tolerances in freshwater fishes."

Stanley F. Fox presented Student Travel Awards to recipients from Latin America. Awards were made to Rubén E. Couoh-de la Garza and Eiracitlalli Hernández del Angel (Universidad Autónoma de Baja California), Ana Lucía Estrada Salvador (Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León), Luis Manuel Guevara Chumacero (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana Iztapalapa),

Héctor Omar Mejía Guerrero (Instituto Politécnico Nacional), José Antonio Sierra Huelasz (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), and Alejandro Soto Castruita (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana Iztapalapa). Five other recipients were offered the award but had to decline because of bureaucratic delays on issuance of visas: Adina Chain Guadarrama (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), Miriam Espino López (Instituto Politécnico Nacional), Irma Ixchel López Olvera (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), Ricardo Tejada Vera (Instituto Politécnico Nacional), and Hugo Antonio Tovar Romero (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México).

President Marsh-Matthews announced that Troy Baird, Bill Lutterschmidt, Lulu Romero Almaraz, and Ron Van Den Bussche had been elected to the BOG Class of 2008. Greg Wilson was elected to the class of 2007 to replace Stanley F. Fox.

William J. Matthews read and the membership adopted the following resolution:

“WHEREAS, the 52d Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists was held on the campus of Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, 14–16 April 2005; and

“WHEREAS, our gracious hosts extended every possible courtesy and spared no effort to assure an enjoyable meeting; and

“WHEREAS, in spite of dire predictions by those who know him best, Bill Lutterschmidt was able, as Chair of the Local Committee, to organize an effective and efficient meeting; and

“WHEREAS, under the watchful eye of a 90 foot tall and rather stern Sam Houston, well known as ‘the tallest statue in the world of an American hero,’ the members of SWAN were unusually well behaved, such that, so far as we are aware, none of our colleagues, in contrast to certain earlier meetings like the one in El Paso, were arrested for ‘Violation of the Public Decency’; and

“WHEREAS, however, there was one unfortunate violation of the civil code of this fair city, resulting in an \$80 parking ticket for President-Elect Stan Fox and his dear wife, Susana; and

“WHEREAS, Dean Brian Chapman welcomed us with prideful accounting of the numbers of prisons, police, and donut shops within this fair city, rather than boring us with stuffy information about the size of the university or other typical administrator facts; and

“WHEREAS, in spite of admonitions by generations of Texas mothers that, ‘If you don’t be good you’ll end up in Huntsville!’, we found Huntsville to be a gracious and hospitable environ for our meeting; and

“WHEREAS, despite the rumor that Dan Rather was coming to do investigative reporting related to the SWAN meeting, which would have assured us greatly increased visibility or perhaps immortality on network television, he did not, and we had to be content to merely bask in the glow of walking past The Dan Rather Building; and

“WHEREAS, Brian Chapman, in his omnipotent role as Dean, purchased, in a wholly unbiased manner, at least 70 brand new hall-mounted poster boards, that just happened to coincide with the SWAN meeting; and

“WHEREAS, in spite of the clear need to fill our coffers to the bursting, numerous groups of Past Presidents engaged in deep scientific conversations were seen to scatter like a busted covey of quail whenever John Baccus, Chairman of the Development Committee, approached with tin cup in hand to remind them that ‘Presidents give first’; and

“WHEREAS, numerous members of SWAN were both pleased and flat-

tered at the conclusion of their talks to be asked for autographs by the adoring undergraduate students of this fair university, until they discovered that said undergraduates were only doing it for extra credit; and

“WHEREAS, to enlighten us about systematics, Ed Wiley talked 45 minutes, using 37 glossy 8 × 10 PowerPoint photographs with circles and arrows and a description of each at the top, but not a fish picture in sight, let it be noted that if Officer Opie had attended the SWAN meeting, he would have concluded that Phylacode was the victim of American Blind Justice; and

“WHEREAS, the combination of signs near the entry to the state park that read ‘no alcohol in public,’ and ‘watch out for the alligators,’ caused a few of our more faint-hearted members to consider turning around and going back to town without even looking for the barbeque venue; and

“WHEREAS, for those brave souls who did press onward to the barbeque, the driving directions within the state park, in particular the instructions to ‘follow the signs to the Raven Lodge,’ were problematic at best, resulting in at least six car, truck, and van loads of some of the most skilled field biologists in our society (including but not limited to senior members Gary Schnell, Mike Kennedy, Jennifer Frey, and President Marsh-Matthews) being totally lost, or at least ‘turned around in the woods,’ for an embarrassingly long period of time while exploring all possible roads that did not lead to said event; and

“WHEREAS, the Local Committee has arranged for an auction, immediately following this banquet, to support student activities, to which many members have made generous donations of items, let it be noted that all participants now present must remain on the premises during said auction with copious quantities of beverages of choice and open wallets, while Auctioneer Stan Fox will implore all of us to dig ever deeper into our funds to purchase stuff whose worth we will probably question in a more sober future moment; and

“WHEREAS, for our meeting the weather was perfect, the wildflowers magnificent, the facilities of the university excellent, the professional paper sessions highly effective, the program book setting a new and higher bar for quality of production, the staff helpful and highly efficient, and the local hosts gracious, and whereas the setting provided us with unlimited hospitality, manifest opportunities for professional and social intercourse, enhanced and facilitated by banquets, barbeques, and various venues that provided a cornucopia of foods and beverages,

“THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the participants at the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists, gratefully thank the administration of Sam Houston State University (particularly Dean Chapman), the staff (especially Karen Whitney), all of the student volunteer ‘brown shirts,’ and the Local Committee (including Bill Lutterschmidt, Chair; Monty Thies, Co-Chair, and Brian Chapman, Jerry Cook, Tammy Cook, Diane Neudorff, Kathleen Thies, Justin Williams, and Everett Wilson) for their excellence in hosting such an outstanding meeting of our society.”

Respectfully submitted,
Loren K. Ammerman
Secretary