

**THE SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF NATURALISTS
MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING
TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY, STEPHENVILLE, TEXAS
20 APRIL 2007**

President Karen McBee called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. with a quorum present.

The membership approved the Minutes of the 2006 Board of Governors Meeting and the Business Meeting held in Colima, Mexico, as printed in *The Southwestern Naturalist* 52(1): 168-171 and 176-180.

President McBee appointed the Wilks Award presenters (David Gillette, Terry Johnson, Bart Durham, and Gerrad Jones) to serve as tellers for the President-Elect and Board of Governors election.

The report of Treasurer Jake Schaefer was given by Chad Hargrave. He reported income, expenses, and checkbook activity as summarized in the Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Governors and Officers (BOG). Copies of the written version that was submitted to the BOG were made available.

Hargrave then reported a summary of the 2008 proposed balanced budget of \$81,425 approved at the Meeting of the BOG on 19 April 2007. The minutes of that meeting summarize the report.

Hargrave then reported that membership in the society included 878 individual memberships and 311 institutional memberships in 2006. The number of regular members and institutional members has both declined. Hargrave presented a roster of new members for approval. New memberships included 50 new student members, 43 regular members, 39 new student awards, and 4 lifetime members. There was a motion and second to approve the new members. The motion carried.

Secretary Ammerman read an overview of the actions taken at the 2007 Meeting of the Board of Governors and Officers (BOG).

President McBee accepted nominations for President-Elect. Mark Eberle and Phil Sudman were nominated. Committee reports were conducted while waiting for the ballots to be counted. Mark Eberle was elected as the new President-Elect. President McBee then conducted the election for the BOG, Class of 2010. Ten persons were nominated, a ballot vote was conducted, and the election results were to be announced at

the banquet on Saturday evening.

Jerry Choate, Board of Trustees, reminded the members that 21 years ago SWAN was on verge of bankruptcy. We have now built funds to just over 1/2 million and are a healthy organization. The Trustees were thanked for the work they do on behalf of SWAN.

Beth Leuck reported for Phyllis Kennedy and the Budget Oversight Committee that SWAN documents were examined and were found to be in good order. The committee recognized Fi Choate, the trustees, and Treasurer Jake Schaefer for their help with the process.

Managing Editor, Mark Eberle, after being thanked for his outstanding service to the society, reported on issues related to the journal. Basically issues are mailed on schedule, expenses have been stable (\$80-90 page), submissions have been stable, and BioOne revenue has increased. JSTOR came online in early 2007 and is expected to provide revenue and visibility for the society. Eberle announced the retirement of 2 associate editors, Chris Lauver and Cheri Jones, and recognized them for their service. He reported that the journal will benefit from experience of Troy Best and Mike Kennedy as they take over as Copy Editor and Managing Editor. He encouraged participation of members as reviewers or as Associate Editors on the new Editorial Board and thanked all of the Associate Editors for the work they do. President McBee announced that Eberle was instrumental in the renewed contracts with Allen Press and BioOne.

Eddie Marsh-Matthews, Chair of the Honors Committee, announced that the BOG approved awarding the W. Frank Blair Eminent Naturalist award to two recipients -- Jonathan Campbell and Ernest Liner, the Donald W. Tinkle Research Excellence Award to Caryn Vaughn, and the Robert L. Packard Outstanding Educator Award to Earl Zimmerman. Presentations were to be made at the banquet at the 2008 Annual Meeting in Memphis, Tennessee.

Jennifer Frey reported for Jeff Kelly that the Conservation Committee will present the George M. Sutton Award for Conservation Research at the banquet.

Stan Fox reported that there were 9 applications received for the Wilks Award and the 4 finalists were heard this morning. The winner will be announced at the banquet.

Monte Thies reported for the Student Awards Committee. There were 17 applications for McCarley Awards and the committee's decision will be announced at the banquet. The

Clark Hubbs poster award will also be given at that time. He also reminded students that the recently approved increase in the monetary awards will be in effect at the 2008 meeting (Wilks \$1000, Hubbs \$600).

There was no report by the Public Relations and Publicity Committee. The chair currently is vacant.

Greg Wilson reported for the Membership Committee that the BOG approved another 30 free student members to be awarded this year. Nominations should be turned in to him or a member of the committee. He announced that 20% of the student memberships that were awarded last year were renewed. Their committee is going to work to understand how they might increase the renewal rate.

John Baccus, of the Development Committee, stressed the importance of dedicating an endowment fund for student activities -- the Student Naturalists Fund. He made pledge cards available to the membership.

Phil Sudman, Chair of the Program Committee, announced that discussions were being held with people in Veracruz, Monterrey, and University of Northern Arizona as possible hosts for the 2009 annual meeting. He reminded the members that a Meeting Host document is available for guidance through the process.

Historian Meredith Hamilton reported that University of Oklahoma library archives SWAN material and she would be glad to help if members have any materials to donate to the archives.

Bruce Stewart welcomed international colleagues and reported for the International Relations Committee. There are 13 papers and 20 posters with Latin American institutions on the author-line. This committee helped with judging Spanish papers and posters last year in Colima. Lastly, he announced that the BOG joined the International Relations Committee with the *ad hoc* Committee on Cross-Border Affairs and they are looking forward to working together.

Dan Hough reported for the Web-Site Committee (new standing committee) that the web site has worked well this year after a SPAM problem was removed. Stan Fox was thanked for helping with the Spanish meeting message board and the Oklahoma Biological Survey and Caryn Vaughn were thanked for hosting the site.

Hayley Gillespie of the Student Advisory Committee (new standing committee) reported that they are seeking more members because two will rotate off of the committee this year. They are discussing several projects and want feedback. They have organized a workshop called "Choosing your Study System & the Wildlife Permitting Process" to be held Friday afternoon. Celia López González helped to translate Gillespie's report into Spanish.

Celia López González reported for the *ad hoc* Committee on Cross-Border Affairs (CCBA) that 18 students applied and were awarded travel awards, but 2 had to decline. A total of \$10,000 was divided among the students. The BOG approved student travel awards for another 5 years. Because the CCBA has joined the International Relations Committee, the student awards will now be handled by that committee.

President McBee reported for Bob Dowler and the *ad hoc* Disposition of Back Issues Committee. She recognized Molly McDonough for her help with mailing back issues and Angelo State University for housing them.

Mike Kennedy reported for the *ad hoc* Long Range Planning Committee and requested that members contact this committee if they have any issues they would like to see addressed.

Local Representative, Phil Sudman, made several announcements including a welcome to Stephenville, an update on meeting attendance (285 registrants plus those working on the Local Committee brings attendance to over 300), and the need to find room for a couple of students because there are no hotel rooms left in Stephenville.

Phil Sudman, Chair of the Program Committee, introduced the co-hosts of the 2008 annual meeting, Mike Kennedy and Julie Waits from University of Memphis. They presented a slide show and members voted to accept the invitation to come to Memphis for the 2008 annual meeting on April 10-12.

Following a motion to do so, a second, and approval, the Business Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m. to reconvene at the banquet.

The following actions were taken at the banquet on the evening of Saturday, 21 April 2007:

1. John Janovec was the banquet speaker and gave a presentation
Scientific exploration of a biologically diverse and vast tropical wilderness area in the Andes- Amazon Region of Southeastern

Peru.

2. President McBee announced that Ricardo Ayala, Cornelio Sánchez, Chris Taylor, and Susana Perea-Fox had been elected to the BOG Class of 2010.
3. President McBee thanked many AEs and new Managing Editor and Copy Editor, Mike Kennedy and Troy Best. Mark Eberle received a plaque in appreciation for his many years of service to the society as Managing Editor.
4. Jennifer Frey reported for the Conservation Committee (Chair Jeff Kelly, Brian Carver, Jennifer Frey, David Hafner, Kimberly Hays, Jim Ott) that after review of *The Southwestern Naturalist* 50(3-4) and 51(1-2) the nominee for the George M. Sutton Award for Conservation Research was Relative abundance of endangered San Joaquin kit foxes (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*) based on scat-detection dog surveys published in *The Southwestern Naturalist* 51(2): 210-291, authored by D. A. Smith, K. Ralls, B. L. Cypher, H. O. Clark, Jr., P. A. Kelly, D. F. Williams, and J. E. Maldonado.
5. Honors Committee, Edie Marsh-Matthews presented the 2006 W. Frank Blair Eminent Naturalist award to Douglas A. James and the 2006 Donald W. Tinkle Research Excellence Award to Armando Contreras Balderas.
6. Monte Thies, Student Awards Committee Chair, recognized and thanked the following people for serving on the Student Awards Committee: Raelynn Deaton, Susana Perea-Fox, Chad Hargrave, William Lutterschmidt, Kelly McCoy, David McNeely, Bruce Stewart, Julie Waits, and Ray Willis. He announced that 22 posters had been evaluated and the committee wished to recognize two honorable mentions: 1) Carson McLean Brown and Loren K. Ammerman, Department of Biology, Angelo State University, "Genetic variation and natural history of the endangered Mexican long-nosed bat (*Leptonycteris nivalis*);" and 2) D. L. I. Cervantes, G. M. León, R. E. Arenas, G. D. Ambríz, V. R. Viguera, y G. A. Rosado, Departamento de la Reproducción, Departamento de Biología, Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana-Iztapalapa, Laboratorio de Histomorfología, Instituto Nacional de Pediatría, México D. F., México, "Maturation of epididymal spermatozoa of the *Corynorhinus mexicanus* bat through evaluation of the capacitation and acrosomal reaction."

Thies then presented the Clark Hubbs Poster Award to C. R.

Randklev, J. Kennedy, and S. Wolverton, Program in Environmental Science, Department of Biological Sciences, and Department of Geography, University of North Texas, Denton, Conservation implications of prehistoric unionids found in the Upper Trinity River Drainage.

7. The Howard McCarley Student Research Awards (\$1000) were presented to:

Jennifer M. Gumm, Department of Biological Sciences, Lehigh University, “Recognition and reproductive success across male mating tactics in *Cyprinodon elegans*”

Cybil Nicole Smith, Department of Zoology, Oklahoma State University, “Social behavior of *Plestiodon obsoletus*, *Plestiodon obtusirostris*, and *Scincella lateralis*”

Pamela Willis, Section of Integrative Biology, University of Texas at Austin, “The role of direct costs in mate choice of hybridizing swordtail species”

Clinton D. Francis, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Colorado, “The role of secondary chemistry in nest site selection and success of birds within a piñon-juniper woodland”

Margaret Greenlee Rheude, School of Natural Resources, University of Arizona, Tucson, “Mesocarnivore historic use of corridors through the Sonoran Desert: The impact of urbanization”

8. President-elect Stanley Fox presented the Wilks Award to Bart Durham of Texas Tech University for his presentation “The influence of stream-discharge on the reproductive success of Great Plains cyprinids: Is it time for a new paradigm?” Fox thanked the committee for their work (Tony Echelle, Troy Baird, Felipe Rodríguez).
9. Celia López González and President McBee presented Student Travel Awards to Edith Arenas Ríos, Oscar Ballesteros Medrano, Helisama Colín Martínez, Isaac Mauricio Cruz Márquez Benítez, Miguel Ángel Domínguez Martínez, Miriam Espino López, Juan Carlos García Estrada, Yajaira García Fera, Ruth Moreno Barajas, Ruth Percino Daniel, Andrea Zamora Silva, and Julio Alberto

Magaña Cubillo.

10. Bill Matthews read and the membership adopted the following resolution:

Whereas, the 54th Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists was held in the 153 year old central Texas city of Stephenville, on the campus of Tarleton State University, in this most gracious and relaxing part of the world, 19- 21 April 2007, and,

Whereas, the weather was perfect, the city charming and architecturally memorable, the campus of Tarleton State most pleasant, and all facilities of superb quality, and,

Whereas, Okies speeding toward the meeting down Hwy 281 were treated to a dazzling array of roadside Texas wildflowers, but an equally impressive array of roadside Texas Highway Patrolmen, and,

Whereas, the entire meeting was conducted with the blessing of Moo- La the cow, who is alleged to have single- handedly produced in excess of \$223 million dollars worth of milk for Erath County in one year alone, and,

Whereas, numerous SWAN members, having ignored The Prophecies of Sudman , found themselves in a dry county, and thus were forced to make the 20- mile drive just across the county line to Handy s were again treated to a dazzling array of Texas roadside wildflowers, AND the opportunity to visit the oldest continually operating Dr. Pepper Bottling Company (since 1891) in the sprawling metropolis of Dublin, Texas, and,

Whereas, our local hosts sponsored a superb Opening Social on the grounds of the Stephenville Historical Museum, with copious quantities of selected beverages and excellent BBQ, attended by approximately 300 guests but with only one carefully hidden restroom, and,

Whereas, the Friday night rodeo provided many older SWAN members with familiar sights and scents, or, alternatively, was an entirely new experience for the uninitiated, and,

Whereas, no SWAN member actually rode a bull at the rodeo, but under the heady influence of such dramatic man against beast displays many shot the bull, or engaged in minor exaggerations,

fabrications, prevarications or outright lies such as, I could have done that when I was younger , or about what they did on field trips in the distant past (the tales of which have no doubt grown in successes and heroic acts with the passing of time), and,

Whereas, there was assembled at this meeting a truly international company of more than 330 scientists from Mexico and the United States, and,

Whereas, the more than 165 professional papers and posters resulted in vigorous and stimulating sharing of research in natural history and ecology of organisms throughout the Southwest on both sides of the border, and,

Whereas, our gracious hosts extended every possible courtesy to assure an enjoyable and successful meeting, and,

Whereas, the meeting was sponsored by the Department of Biological Sciences, the Department of Agribusiness, Agronomy, Horticulture & Range Management, and the Department of Animal Sciences, of Tarleton State University,

Therefore be it resolved that we, the participants at the 54th Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists, gratefully thank the aforesaid sponsors; the hard-working Local Representative Phil Sudman; the Local Committee consisting of Jeff Breeden, Chris Higgins, James Mueller, Allan Nelson, Russel Pfau, and Roger Wittie; the President and administration of Tarleton State University, and all students and staff who assisted with the meeting, for a superb and most excellent experience in the city of Stephenville and at the University.

President McBee passed the gavel to incoming President Fox and the banquet was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Loren K. Ammerman
Secretary