

**THE SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF NATURALISTS  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND  
OFFICERS  
OVERTON ROOM, HOLIDAY INN  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE  
THURSDAY, 10 APRIL 2008**

Present: Loren Ammerman, Troy Baird, Troy Best, Jerry Choate, Mark Eberle, Tony Echelle, Stanley Fox, Keith Gido, Hayley Gillespie, Meredith Hamilton, Chad Hargrave, Dan Hough, John Hunt, Mike Kennedy, Celia López González, William Matthews, Edie Marsh-Matthews, Karen McBee, Susana Perea-Fox, María de Lourdes Romero Almaráz, Cornelio Sánchez Hernández, Jake Schaefer, Gary Schnell, Monte Thies, Ronald Van Den Bussche, Julie Waits, Paula Williamson, Gregory Wilson.

President Stan Fox called the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists (SWAN) to order at 1305 h with a quorum of officers and governors present. The Board of Governors (BOG) approved the minutes of the Board of Governors and Officers and the minutes of the Business Meeting for the 54th Annual Meeting in Stephenville, Texas, to be published in *The Southwestern Naturalist* 53(2) and currently available on the SWAN webpage.

Jake Schaefer reported on income and expenses for the Association during 2007, trends with respect to membership and dues, and statistics on contributions. Schaefer reported income in 2007 of \$75,450 (including \$39,477 from dues, \$1,322 from contributions and proceeds of the annual meeting; \$1,053 from sales of PDFs and reprints; \$20,341 from page charges; \$677 from sale of back issues; \$12,517 from royalties, and \$64 from earned interest).

The treasurer's report detailed expenses totaling \$78,789, including \$5,691 for Treasurer's expenses (office help \$5,000, postage \$342, printing \$349); editorial expenses of \$7,303 (office help \$4,350, mailing \$553, Spanish abstracts \$1,000, Copy editor \$1,000, indexing \$400); Allen Press \$43,420 (printing *The Southwestern Naturalist* \$42,320, PDF files \$1,100); Wilks Award \$500; Hubbs Student Poster Award \$300; McCarley awards \$5,000; Student Travel awards \$12,315; meeting expenses \$2,500; AIBS dues \$125; CPA charges (preparation of tax return) \$550; merchant-card fees \$600; expenses for back issues \$61; Student Advisory Committee \$410; and bank fees \$15.

The checkbook balance at the beginning of 2007 was \$27,940; income exceeded expenses by \$3,340; \$5,098 was transferred to the Trustees for investment; the checkbook balance ended the year at \$19,502.

Schaefer presented the 2008 Income-to-Date (1 January-5 April), which included \$26,417 in dues, \$20,782 in royalties (both BioOne and JSTOR already exceed the royalties from all of 2007), \$9,706 in contributions, \$8,054 in page

charges, \$74 in sales of back issues, and \$12 interest. Total income to date is \$65,045.

Comparison of actual expenses to the approved budget showed that we were at or below budget on most items. Any items over budget were counteracted by items that were under budget. Schaefer's report included a projected budget for 2009 to be considered under New Business.

Schaefer also reported that membership as of December 2007 numbered 828, including 99 new members and noted that institutional memberships continue to drop (from 311 to 292 since last year) presumably as a result of online access to the journal. Names of new members were listed in the Treasurer's report and were to be submitted for approval by members at the Business Meeting.

The BOG discussed the need for improving retention and recruitment of members. Concerns such as membership drives, better follow-up of delinquent memberships, and making it easier to pay dues (by accepting credit card payments online) were mentioned. Hayley Gillespie, Chair of the Student Advisory Committee, offered to assist with retention and recruitment of student members. After discussion about the multiple responsibilities of the office of Treasurer and possible ways to delegate some of those tasks, it was moved and seconded that the duties related to membership (such as record keeping and renewal notices) be transferred to the standing Membership Committee contingent upon availability of funds to hire office help. The motion passed. The BOG approved the Treasurer's report and recognized Jake Schaefer for his service to the society. The society is seeking a replacement for the office of Treasurer to take over summer 2008.

Jerry Choate notified the BOG of the death of Terry Yates and the appointment of Robert Dowler as an interim on the Board of Trustees (Chair Choate, Hugh Genoways). Choate reported that in 2007, SWAN assets increased in value by \$62,857.86 to \$616,524.11 from 31 December 2006 to 31 December 2007, or 11.4%. Actual return on investment was 10.4% after the increase was discounted by \$5,098; that is, the funds received from the SWAN treasury. For the first time in a long time, the market is now declining (value down 5% since January 2008) and this should be taken into account when the 2009 budget is discussed. The board thanked the Trustees for the skillful management of SWAN finances. The BOG approved the appointment of Robert Dowler for a 3-year term as trustee to fill the vacant position following the sudden death of Terry Yates.

President Fox reported for the Conservation Committee (Chair Jeff Kelly, Jennifer Frey, David Hafner, James Ott, Kendra Phelps) that after review of *The Southwestern Naturalist* 51(3-4) and 52(1-2) the nominee for the George M. Sutton Award for Conservation Research was "Population dynamics of a threatened sand dune lizard" published in *The Southwestern Naturalist* 51(4):

514-523, authored by C. W. Barrows. The recommendation was accepted by the Board . Two other papers received honorable mention: Turner, T. F., and H. W. Robison. 2006. Genetic diversity of the Caddo madtom, *Noturus taylori*, with comments on factors that promote genetic divergence in fishes endemic to the Ouachita Highlands, 51(3):338-345, and Ruiz-Campos, G., F. Camarena-Rosales, S. Contreras-Balderas, C. A. Reyes-Valdez, J. de la Cruz-Agüero, and E. Torres-Balcazar. 2006. Distribution and abundance of the endangered killifish, *Fundulus lima*, and its interaction with exotic fishes in oases of central Baja California, Mexico, 51(4):502-509.

President Fox also mentioned that the Conservation Committee drafted a resolution against the US-Mexico Border Fence that was unanimously approved by the BOG in an electronic vote previous to the annual meeting. This resolution will be presented to the membership for approval at the annual Business Meeting tomorrow. President Fox appointed Florence Oxley as the new Chair of the Conservation Committee following the resignation of Jeff Kelly.

Monte Thies announced for the Student Awards Committee (Chair Thies, Jon Campbell, Vincent Cobb, Raelynn Deaton, Susana Perea-Fox, Chad Hargrave, Bill Lutterschmidt, Kelly McCoy, Harry Meyer, Mark Pyron, Yajaira García Feria, Felipe de Jesús Rodríguez Romero, Cornelio Sánchez Hernández, Greg Wilson) that 30 proposals were received for the Howard McCarley Student Research Award and 23 posters will be evaluated by the committee this year. Five recipients will be announced on Saturday at the annual banquet in addition to the single recipient of the Clark Hubbs Student Poster Award. President Fox announced that Thies will be resigning this year and a replacement Chair of the Student Awards Committee is being sought.

John Hunt reported for the Public Relations and Publicity Committee (Chair Hunt, Stan Gehrt, Meredith Hamilton, Renn Tumlinson, Kathryn Vaughan) that press releases were written and released for each of the distinguished award winners, and the student Wilks Award winner for 2007. A press release publicizing the annual meeting in Memphis was released to several local newspapers and television stations.

Following some discussion regarding publicity and keeping members notified of activities in the society, President Fox charged the Public Relations and Publicity Committee, the Web-site Committee, and the Student Advisory committee to look into possibilities for resurrecting “SWAN News” in a digital format.

Gary Schnell suggested that a description of the accomplishments of SWAN Distinguished Award winners (along with photos) should be published as a permanent record either in the journal or on the webpage. After some discussion of the importance of recognizing the contributions of Distinguished Award winners, President Fox charged the Past-President and the Honors

Committee to provide a short description of the achievements for each award winner to the Public Relations and Publicity Committee for press releases, the Web-site Committee for posting, the Historian for archives, and the Copy Editor for inclusion in the journal.

Greg Wilson reported for the Membership Committee (Chair Wilson, Amanda Husak, Julio Lemos-Espinal, Joseph Maness, Dwight Moore, Christopher Taylor) that 16 free student memberships were awarded in 2007. It was determined that 30% of these students renewed their memberships for 2008. Wilson thanked Treasurer Schaefer for his help providing data for calculations. The board approved 30 additional student membership awards for 2008.

President Fox reported for the Development Committee (Chair John Baccus, Robert Baker, David Heins, Jerry Johnson, David Schmidly, Kathryn Vaughan) that the committee completed the task of establishing the Student Naturalist Fund last year. Baccus is retiring from this position and a replacement is needed.

President Fox presented for the Program Committee (Chair Philip Sudman, Salvador Contreras Balderas, Ricardo Ayala Barajas, William Lutterschmidt, William Matthews, O. W. Van Auken) that the meeting next year will be in Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico. Phil Sudman is retiring as Chair of the Program Committee and a replacement is needed.

Historian Meredith Hamilton reported that material has been accepted and deposited in the archives at the University of Oklahoma. Karen McBee will replace Hamilton as Historian after her resignation this year. The BOG thanked Hamilton for her term as Historian.

María de Lourdes (Lulú) Romero Almaráz reported for the International Relations Committee (Co-Chairs María de Lourdes Romero Almaráz and Bruce Stewart, Celia López González, Robert Edwards, Michael Kennedy, Stanley Fox, Ricardo Ayala, Cornelio Sánchez Hernández, Nikki Smith, Gloria Tapia Ramírez) regarding their desire to make the annual meetings more bilingual. The committee recommends that posters have the title and abstract in both Spanish and English, and that oral presentations be presented in one language while the slides are in the other language, if possible. The committee recommends that, at a minimum, talks have the title and conclusions slides in both Spanish and English. The committee recommends that the program abstract book have titles in both languages. The committee also recommends that Student Travel Award recipients be recognized with different colored nametags and that the recipient recognize the SWAN award in their presentation or poster. The committee is working with Treasurer Jake Schaefer to promote payment of dues by credit-debit card for Latin American members. Their final recommendation is that a table presenting international information (contributed by members) be displayed at the annual meetings.

Celia López González reported for the International Relations subcommittee on Student Travel (Chair López González, Stanley Fox, Ma. de Lourdes Romero Almaráz, Bruce Stewart) that the subcommittee considered 36 applications from 11 institutions in Mexico and two in Central America for Student Travel Awards. The number of applicants exceeded the budget so we gave a complete award to two applicants from Central America, and partial awards of ≤\$800 to other students, for a total of 13 individuals and \$10,000. One of the winners (who was replaced by a runner-up) had to decline the award because the tourist visa was denied, and another did not make it to the meeting for travel difficulties. Thus, 12 travel awards actually were granted.

Dan Hough reported on the accomplishments of the Web-site Committee (Chair Hough, Mark Eberle, Stanley Fox, Jacob Schaefer, Caryn Vaughn). The committee provided online submission of abstracts and online application for Student Travel Awards for the meeting this year ([www.biosurvey.ou.edu/swan](http://www.biosurvey.ou.edu/swan)). A login system was developed for non-BioOne members of SWAN to get online access to *The Southwestern Naturalist*. Additional accomplishments included updating the membership directory search, updating the LISTSERV list, adding a student web-page, adding a student section to the meeting message board, and setting up a LISTSERV for students.

The BOG discussed and approved making e-mail address links for the officers and committee chairs to make it easier to contact them. Any officer or committee chairs that do not want a “hot” link can request a change.

Hough provided statistics on web-page usage. The BOG thanked the Web-site Committee for working to maintain and improve the society’s web-page and extended their appreciation to the Oklahoma Biological Survey for hosting the site.

President Fox thanked the committee for making the journal available on the web-site because it benefits our Latin American members and those without other electronic access to our journal. The BOG discussed concerns over the growing workload of material to translate but no action was taken at this time.

The BOG meeting was adjourned for a short break at 1510 h and reconvened at 1525 h by President Fox.

Hayley Gillespie reported for the Student Advisory Committee (Chair Gillespie, Rosemary Burk, Kimberly Hays, Edith Arenas Ríos, Jacqueline Paritte, Noe de la Sancha) that the committee is seeking a replacement member. Gillespie presented an overview of the committee’s accomplishments, including working with the Membership Committee and Treasurer to enhance participation of students in the student workshops and social at the annual meeting, tracking student involvement, and inviting students to use the electronic resources made

available by this committee (student web-page, job board, and LISTSERV). She reported that 78 students attended the workshop at the 2007 meeting.

The committee is sponsoring a student workshop on Friday during lunch over funding sources and grantsmanship. George Wang and Ron Van Den Bussche will be speaking. The committee is concerned about having a regularly scheduled time for the student social. They feel that this is an important event (separate from the workshop) that receives funding, but has not been a priority in some years. After some discussion by the BOG, it was agreed that the Student Advisory Committee will work with local committees to avoid scheduling conflicts at future meetings and that the hour before the annual banquet will be suggested as a time to hold this event.

Beginning this year, the Student Advisory Committee (SAC) is providing a feedback “service” where students can request an informal evaluation of their oral presentations. Gillespie also reported that the committee has discussed their desire to establish an award to honor the memory of Clark Hubbs and his support of student research. After some discussion, the BOG gave the committee support for the concept of a mentor award and encouraged the SAC to discuss it with the students at the annual meeting.

Chair Mark Eberle reported for the Wilks Award Committee (committee names will be announced at the banquet) that there were 10 applications for the Wilks Award, one from Guatemala (in Spanish) and nine from the United States (in English). The four finalists were invited to give their oral presentations at the Wilks Plenary Session the first morning of the meeting. The winner will be announced and receive the award at the banquet on Saturday.

President Fox reported for Robert Dowler and the *ad hoc* Committee for Disposition of Back Issues of *The Southwestern Naturalist* (Chair Dowler, Brenda Clark, Celia López-González, Edie Marsh-Matthews). During 2007, 12 orders were filled, totaling ca. 111 individual issues and generating \$568. No whole sets were requested. Whole sets were provided to student award winners at the banquet in 2007. An advertisement runs in *The Southwestern Naturalist* to offer remaining back issues listing current prices (not including shipping). The committee thanked Molly McDonough for managing requests for back issues.

Mike Kennedy reported for the *ad hoc* Long-range Planning Committee (Chair Kennedy, Jerry Choate, Bryon Clark, Salvador Contreras-Balderas, Tony Echelle, Robert Edwards, Celia López González, Edie Marsh-Matthews, Dwight Moore, O. W. Van Auken, Caryn Vaughn) that the committee has been fairly inactive in past years and invited members to bring to him any issues that might need to be considered by this committee. President Fox charged the Long-range Planning Committee to revisit the document written years ago outlining the long-range plans and determine if all have been accomplished. He also requested that this committee explore ways that SWAN can hold “greener” meetings (more environmentally responsible).

Mike Kennedy reported for the Budget Oversight Committee (Chair Phyllis Kennedy, William Baltosser, Brian Chapman, Robert Edwards, Beth Leuck) that the committee had examined records of the Treasurer and Trustees for 2007. The committee found the fiscal operation of the Association to be in good order. The committee recommends the society be cautious about spending in the coming year because of the potential effect of the state of the economy on SWAN's investments and projected income. They also suggested that the "Miscellaneous" category in the budget must be justified or renamed. Treasurer Jake Schaefer was commended for an excellent job. The committee also recognized that the Board of Trustees continues to do an outstanding job handling SWAN's assets.

Mike Kennedy, Managing Editor, reported that the transition of the office from Mark Eberle went relatively smoothly and is almost complete. He announced that Mike Dixon and Mike Husak retired as Associate Editors this year and they were recognized for their service. Karen Francl joined the Editorial Board as a new Associate Editor for Birds and Mammals. More volunteers to the Editorial Board are needed to reduce the workload for any one person and to improve turnaround time.

Kennedy reported that the acceptance rate was 66% in 2007. All four issues of Volume 52 were mailed on schedule. Revised "Instructions for Authors" were revised and posted on the web-site in October 2007. A charge for color figures has been established at \$800/figure. E-mail submission of manuscripts will continue and conversion to Allen Track submission will be considered in the future.

The committee is accepting submissions of color photos from members for consideration to be used on the cover to make the journal more attractive. They also are investigating an increase in the size of the journal and would like feedback from the BOG. The benefit of an increased page-size is the ability to publish more papers, increase font size, and to provide more flexibility with figures and tables. The BOG recognized the Associate Editors, Managing Editor, and the Copy Editor for their hard work.

Karen McBee reported for the Honors Committee (Chair McBee, Alice F. Echelle, Gary A. Heidt, William J. Matthews, Gary D. Schnell) that a single nomination was received for the Donald W. Tinkle Research Excellence Award. McBee moved as committee chair that the nomination for this award be approved without identification so that the award could be announced at the Business Meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.

Julie Waits, Local Representative, welcomed everyone to the University of Memphis and gave a few announcements regarding the schedule, the socials, and a message board. There were 196 people pre-registered for the meeting as of

this morning (ca. 65-70% are students), but registration continues today.

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

President Fox appointed the following officers: Priscilla Crawford, Secretary; Jake Schaefer, Treasurer; Phil Sudman, Program Director; Michael Kennedy, Managing Editor; Jerry Choate, Chair of Trustees. The BOG approved the appointments.

President Fox announced vacancies for the position of Treasurer, Program Director, Chair of Student Awards Committee, and Chair of the Development Committee.

Susana Perea-Fox presented a slide show of the proposed next venue for the 2009 annual meeting, the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Monterrey, Mexico. The BOG thanked Susana and approved the invitation made by the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Monterrey, Mexico, to host the 2009 annual meeting and appointed Armando Contreras Balderas and María de Lourdes Lozano Vilano as local representatives.

Other New Business included discussions about an offer from EBSCO to include *The Southwestern Naturalist* in their database. We would provide them with PDFs and we would get royalties and more exposure at no cost to the society. Motion was made and seconded to enter into a contractual agreement with EBSCO to post *The Southwestern Naturalist* to their online database. Motion passed.

The BOG approved a motion to purchase the software necessary for online credit-debit card payment that will be used for page charges, payment of dues, and probably meeting fees through our web-site. This ability to receive credit-debit card payments will solve the problem that members in Mexico have had in the past with making payments.

The BOG discussed ideas to hold more environmentally responsible meetings. Hayley Gillespie presented several ideas and suggested that there are many resources available to assist with planning this kind of meeting. President Fox charged the Long-range Planning Committee to work with Gillespie and the Student Advisory Committee to explore incorporating some of these ideas and make suggestions at next year's meeting.

The BOG viewed a slide show given by Edie Marsh-Matthews highlighting contributions of Clark Hubbs to SWAN and approved the following "Resolution of Respect" honoring Clark Hubbs (1921-2008) to be presented to the membership at the Annual Business Meeting:

Whereas, Clark Hubbs dedicated his life to the study of natural history, ecology, systematic, and evolution of fishes of the southwest, and  
Whereas, Clark Hubbs worked tirelessly to preserve and protect the fishes and aquatic habitats of the southwest, and  
Whereas, Clark Hubbs was a member of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists since its founding in 1953, and  
Whereas, Clark Hubbs served the Association in many ways, including President, long-term member of the Board of Governors, Charter Patron and editor of The Southwestern Naturalist, and  
Whereas, Clark Hubbs was recognized by the Association for his contributions to the natural history of the southwest with presentation of W. Frank Blair Eminent Naturalist award and the George Miksch Sutton Conservation Award, and  
Whereas, Clark Hubbs advanced the education of future generations of naturalists with his support of student research and establishment of a student poster award, which was later named the Clark Hubbs Student Poster Award in his honor, and  
Whereas, Clark Hubbs was one of the great naturalists of his generation,

Be It Resolved, that The Southwestern Association of Naturalists is saddened by his passing and adopts this Resolution of Respect on 11 April 2008.

The BOG held a moment of silence to remember members that passed away in the last year, especially Robert Clarke, Terry Yates, and Clark Hubbs.

The BOG approved a balanced budget for 2009 presented by Treasurer Jake Schaefer of \$84,275 (with the following amendments) that will be presented at the annual Business Meeting:

- a. Under Income
  - i. Increase expected royalty income to \$20,000 (because of BioOne and JSTOR performance in the past)
  - ii. Decrease contribution from the endowment to \$8,300
- b. Under Expenses
  - i. Increase Treasurer expenses to \$6,400 (to allow for increased merchant-card fees when credit-debit card system is in place)
  - ii. Decrease travel cost for AIBS representative to \$0
  - iii. Increase the Student Advisory Committee budget to \$1,000 (up from \$500, to support high attendance at social events)
  - iv. Re-label Office Help, Postage, and Printing Dues Notices categories to designate as expenses of the Membership Committee instead of the Treasurer
  - v. Increase President's Contingency Fund to \$1,800

President Fox and Mike Kennedy notified the BOG that the Presidential Award will be presented at the annual banquet to Richard K. Page, Facilities

Manager, the University of Oklahoma Biological Station, for outstanding service that fosters the study of natural history in the Southwest. Richard has helped students, faculty research investigators, and instructors in a myriad of ways to advance the study of the flora and fauna of the southwestern United States.

The 2008 BOG meeting adjourned at 1745 h.

Respectfully submitted,  
Loren K. Ammerman  
Secretary