

**THE SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF NATURALISTS
MINUTES FOR THE BUSINESS MEETING
UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
FOGELMAN EXECUTIVE CENTER
FRIDAY, 11 APRIL 2008**

President Fox called the meeting to order at 1010 h with a quorum present. The membership approved the minutes of the 2007 Board of Governors Meeting and the Business Meeting for the 54th Annual Meeting in Stephenville, Texas, to be published in *The Southwestern Naturalist* 53(2) and available on the SWAN web-page.

President Fox appointed the Wilks Award finalists (Jennifer Curtis, Jennifer Gumm, Carlos Alberto Montenegro Quiñónez, and Charles Randklev) to serve as tellers for the election of the Board of Governors.

Treasurer Jake Schaefer 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 available.

Schaefer then reported a summary of the 2009 proposed balanced budget of \$84,275 approved at the meeting of the BOG on 10 April 2008. The minutes of that meeting summarize the report.

Schaefer also reported that society 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 of the journal. Schaefer presented a roster of new members for approval. New memberships included 32 new student members, 46 regular members, 15 new student awards, and 3 lifetime members. There was a motion and second to approve the new members. The motion carried.

Secretary Loren Ammerman read an overview of the actions taken at the 2008 meeting of the BOG.

President Fox accepted nominations for the BOG, Class of 2011. 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, Chair of the Board of Trustees, reported that SWAN assets were valued at \$553,666.25 at the beginning of 2007 and were worth \$616,524.11 at the end of the year. This is equivalent to growth of 11.4% and because of the mild recession, the Trustees expect 2008 returns to be less.

President Fox reported that the new chair for the Conservation Committee will be Flo Oxley. Jeff Kelly and David Hafner are resigning from this committee. Kendra

Phelps made the report for this committee. The recipient of the George M. Sutton Award for Conservation Research has been chosen and will be announced at the banquet. The committee also responded to the charge of the President to draft a resolution against the construction of a US-Mexico Border Fence. The resolution will be presented to the membership under New Business.

Monte Thies reported for the Student Awards Committee. There were 30 applications for McCarley awards and the committee's decision will be announced at the banquet. The Clark Hubbs Poster Award also will be given at that time. There are 27 posters competing for this award.

John Hunt reported for the Public Relations and Publicity Committee that press releases were written and submitted 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.

President Fox reported that John Baccus is resigning as chair of the Development Committee and he is looking for a replacement. Fox thanked Baccus for his work establishing the Student Naturalists Fund and reminded the membership of the ongoing pledge drive to build this fund.

Phil Sudman, Chair of the Program Committee, announced that the society is looking for a host for the 2010 meeting. Possible hosts include New Mexico State University, University of Northern Arizona, and University of Arizona. Potential hosts for future meetings should contact him.

Historian Meredith Hamilton reported that she accepts material to be archived at the University of Oklahoma library archives. President Fox announced that Hamilton has asked to be replaced after many years of service to the society. Karen McBee will be the new Historian. Hamilton was thanked for her work with a round of applause.

Maria de Lourdes (Lulú) Romero Almaráz reported for the International Relations Committee as is summarized in the BOG minutes. Also Celia López González reported for the International Relations subcommittee on Student Travel Awards as is summarized in the BOG minutes.

Greg Wilson reported for the Membership Committee that 16 free student memberships were awarded in 2007. The board approved 30 additional student membership awards for 2008 and Wilson encouraged students to apply. President Fox announced that the BOG approved a new role for the Membership Committee. This committee will take on tasks related to membership issues that previously were handled by the Treasurer.

Dan Hough reported for the Web-site Committee that additions to the web-site include a new page for the Student Advisory Committee, a link to *The Southwestern Naturalist* for SWAN members that do not have access to BioOne, and an updated

members search. The committee will be working on setting up online credit-debit card payments for dues and page charges this next year. President Fox thanked the committee for making the journal available via the web-site for all members without institutional access to BioOne.

Hayley Gillespie of the Student Advisory Committee encouraged students to use the electronic resources posted on the web-page (LISTSERV and job board). The committee has organized a workshop entitled "Student Funding Issues" to be held at lunch today. Gillespie invited students to the pre-pre-banquet student social. She also described a review "service" where student presenters can request feedback on their oral presentations to be provided by other students anonymously. The committee is seeking volunteer reviewers.

Mark Eberle reported that there were 10 applications received for the Wilks Award and the four finalists were heard this morning. The winner will be announced at the banquet.

Robert Dowler reported for the *ad hoc* Committee for Disposition of Back Issues of *The Southwestern Naturalist*. Back issues are housed at Angelo State University at no cost to the society and information on price and availability of back issues can be found in *The Southwestern Naturalist*. The committee thanked Molly McDonough and Wes Brashear for managing requests for back issues. He notified the Wilks and Hubbs award winners that their full set of back issues is here at the meeting for them to take home. President Fox thanked Bob Dowler for agreeing to serve as Trustee.

Mike Kennedy reported for the *ad hoc* Long-range Planning Committee as summarized in the BOG minutes. If there are issues that members would like to see addressed they should contact him.

Mike Kennedy reported for Phyllis Kennedy and the Budget Oversight Committee as summarized in the BOG minutes. The Trustees and the Treasurer were thanked for an outstanding job.

New Managing Editor, Mike Kennedy, reported that the transfer of duties from past Managing Editor, Mark Eberle, is almost complete. He recognized all of the Associate Editors and thanked them for their service on the journal. He is seeking additional Associate Editors and reviewers. He summarized issues related to the journal as printed in the BOG minutes.

Karen McBee, Chair of the Honors Committee, announced that there were two nominations for distinguished awards this year. Guidelines for nominations are in the journal and on the web-page. One nomination was forwarded to the BOG and approved yesterday. Mark S. Hafner, from Louisiana State University, was approved by the membership as the recipient of the Donald W. Tinkle Research Excellence Award. The presentation will be made next year at the 2009 annual meeting in Monterrey, Mexico.

Local Representatives, Mike Kennedy and Julie Waits, made several logistical announcements about the picnic tonight and lunch options.

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

President Fox introduced the new Secretary, Priscilla Crawford, and thanked Loren Ammerman for her service. He announced several remaining vacancies for positions in the society (Treasurer, Program Director, Chair of Student Awards Committee, and Chair of the Development Committee).

Fox asked for a moment of silence to remember three prominent members who have passed away in the past few months—Robert Clarke, Clark Hubbs, and Terry Yates.

Edie Marsh-Matthews gave a presentation on Clark Hubbs and recognized his contributions to SWAN with a “Resolution of Respect” that was adopted by the membership by unanimous proclamation. Caryn Vaughn read a tribute to Robert Clarke from Charles Carpenter. Both Jerry Choate and Ron Van Den Bussche spoke about Terry Yates and his outstanding contributions to the society.

Kendra Phelps read the “Resolution against the U.S.-Mexico Border Fence” written by the Conservation Committee and approved by the BOG. It was moved and seconded to accept the resolution. There was discussion regarding how best to disseminate this information. The motion passed. The resolution will be posted on the SWAN web-page and further dissemination will be handled by the Public Relations and Publicity Committee. President Fox thanked the Conservation Committee for all of their work on this document and thanked Flo Oxley for agreeing to serve as the new committee chair.

Phil Sudman, Chair of the Program Committee, introduced Susana Perea-Fox, who presented a slide show inviting SWAN to come to the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Monterrey, Mexico, in 2009. Members voted to accept the invitation. The dates have yet to be determined.

Following a motion to do so, a second, and approval, the Business Meeting adjourned at 1143 h to reconvene at the banquet.

The following actions were taken at the banquet on the evening of Saturday, 12 April 2008:

1. President Fox recognized the local committee: Melvin Beck, Jeremy Dennison, J. Erin Fender, Steve German, Cheryl A. Goudie, Dawn James, Michael L. Kennedy, Phyllis Kennedy, Steve Kynard, Melissa Lee, James Moore, Marcy Ouellette, Dave Perera, Bill Simco, Mizuki Takahashi, and Juliann Waits.
2. Fox announced that Loren Ammerman, Elmer Finck, María de Lourdes (Lulu) Romero Almaráz, and Juliann Waits had been elected to the BOG Class of 2011.

3. Past-President McBee gave her SWAN song presentation entitled “OMG! What am I going to say?” where she presented data to test the hypothesis that Elvis was in fact a biologist. She was then presented with a plaque for her service as President.
4. President Fox presented a Presidential Award to Richard K. Page from the University of Oklahoma Biological Station. Mike Kennedy, Bill Matthews, and Chad Hargrave spoke about his role in fostering the careers of many faculty and students.
5. Kendra Phelps presented the George M. Sutton Award for Conservation Research to C. W. Barrows for his paper “Population dynamics of a threatened sand dune lizard” published in *The Southwestern Naturalist* 51(4):514-523. She also cited authors of 2 papers of Honorable Mention: T. F. Turner and H.W. Robinson. 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 G. Ruiz-Campos, F. Camarena Rosales, S. Contreras Balderas, C. Reyes Valdez, J. de la Cruz Agüero, and E. Torres Balcazar. 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.
6. Honors Committee Chair, Karen McBee, presented the 2007 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.
7. Celia López González announced the Student Travel Awards were given to Miguel Ángel Munguía Rosas, C. Gabriela Suárez Gracia, Héctor Enrique Valdez, Melody Judith Castaños Mejía, Sara B. González Pérez, Rafael Alejandro Lara, Luz Eugenia Alcántara Quintana, Carlos César Balboa Aguilar, Damián Margotzarith Barrios, Martín Pérez Lustre, Gloria Ángela Tapia Ramírez, Ana Gabriela Armas Quiñónez, Carlos Alberto Montenegro Quiñónez, C. Gabriela Suárez Gracida. However, C. Gabriela Suárez Gracida had to relinquish her award because of problems obtaining her visa and Héctor Enrique Valdez had to relinquish his because of last-minute travel problems.
8. Monte Thies thanked the committee members (Chad Hargrave, Raelynn Deaton, J. Kelly McCoy, Mark Pyron, Yajaira García Feria) for reviewing 30 proposals this year and then presented the Howard McCarley Student Research Awards (\$1,000) to:
 Laura Alberici da Barbiano, Texas State University-San Marcos, “Multiple origins of a gynogenetic species”

Michelle Downey, Texas State University-San Marcos, “The role of host plant fidelity in local adaptation of juniper hairstreak butterflies (*Mitoura*) in Texas”

J. Hayley Gillespie, University of Texas at Austin, “Quantifying seasonal diet variation in *Eurycea sosorum*”

Christopher Kroll, Sam Houston State University, “Use of microsatellite paternity analysis to assess effects of male density and size on male mating success in the Western Mosquitofish (*Gambusia affinis*)”

Meredith Magnuson, Oklahoma State University, “Effect of tragus size on relationships among pinna size, echolocation call parameters, and foraging ecology”

9. Monte Thies, Student Awards Committee Chair, presented the Clark Hubbs Poster Award (\$600) to Israel Del Toro and co-authors David M. Borrok and William P. Mackay from the University of Texas at El Paso for their poster entitled “Heavy metal sequestration in rough harvester ant (*Pogonomyrmex rugosus*) communities of the northern Chihuahuan Desert.” He thanked the members of the committee (Greg Wilson, Chad Hargrave, Raelynn Deaton, Brian Maricle, Harry Meyer, Cornelio Sánchez Hernández, Felipe de Jesús Rodríguez Romero, Susana Perea-Fox) for their work evaluating 27 posters.
10. President-elect Mark Eberle presented the Wilks Award to Jennifer Gumm from Lehigh University for her presentation “Sex recognition by pupfish: who are female mimics fooling?” Eberle thanked the committee members (María de Lourdes (Lulú) Romero Almaráz, Keith Gido, and Brian Maricle) for their work.
11. Raelynn Deaton read (for Keith Gido and the Host Resolution Committee) and the membership adopted the following resolution:

Whereas, the 55th annual meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists was held at the University of Memphis, Tennessee, between the 10th and 12th of April 2008; and,

Whereas, the resolution committee will proceed with these resolutions despite Tony Echelle’s assertion that we are just “pissing in the wind;” and,

Whereas, members that have NOT learned to follow directions arrived at the meeting well before those that do follow directions; and,

Whereas, members descent upon this city that lies east of the Mississippi River represents our acceptance of globalization; and,

Whereas, despite this acceptance of globalization, SWAN members would like to keep our autonomy from other regional societies, yet we do not advocate the construction of a 15 foot steel fence to force the autonomy; and,

Whereas, the accommodations at the Fogelman Executive Center were outstanding, the constraint of only providing rooms with a single bed likely lead to increased procreation among members and should be considered by the membership committee as a strategy to increase future membership; and,

Whereas, rain storms welcomed the membership to the region, and the Mississippi River swelled to a level that even made the Peabody ducks retreat to higher ground, and the membership appreciated the complementary car wash; and,

Whereas, a Wilks competitor graciously christened the meeting by breaking glass during her presentation; and went down in history as the first Wilks winner to do so; and

Whereas, the Memphis spring-time botanical experience was magnificent and even appreciated by ichthyologists; and,

Whereas, Elvis still lives, is definitely a biologist, and actually attended the 2008 SWAN banquet; and,

Whereas, the temperature dropped significantly due to a cold wind from Kansas, fortunately there was a stockpile of NCAA championship clothing at greatly reduced prices; and,

Whereas, the student participation at the meeting was truly inspirational; and

Whereas, the local committee shot 100% from the line and should be commended for the pleasant venue, abundant entertainment, barbeque, libations, and warm southern hospitality;

Therefore be it resolved, that all those in attendance at the 55th annual meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists, express our sincere thanks to the University of Memphis, members of the Local Committee, and especially Mike Kennedy and Juliann Waits for a successful meeting for the dissemination of scientific research of the society.

The meeting was adjourned at the close of the banquet.

Respectfully submitted,
Loren K. Ammerman
Secretary