

THE SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF NATURALISTS
MINUTES FOR THE BUSINESS MEETING
56th ANNUAL MEETING
UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA DE NUEVO LEÓN
MONTERREY, NUEVO LEÓN, MÉXICO
FRIDAY, 24 APRIL 2009

President Stanley Fox called the meeting to order at 1650 h with a quorum present. The membership approved minutes of the 2008 Board of Governors Meeting and the Business Meeting for the 55th Annual Meeting in Memphis, Tennessee, published in *The Southwestern Naturalist* volume 53(4) and available on the SWAN webpage at <http://www.biosurvey.ou.edu/swan/>

President Fox appointed the Wilks Award finalists (Nicté Ordóñez-Garza, Oscar R. García Rubio, Edward R. Valencia-Limón, and Gabriela Chávez-Osorio) to serve as tellers for the election of the Board of Governors.

Treasurer Phil Sudman reported income, expenses, and checkbook activity as summarized in the minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Governors and Officers (BOG). Sudman then reported a summary of the 2010 proposed balanced budget of \$91,050 approved at the meeting of the BOG on 23 April 2009. The minutes of that meeting summarize the report.

Sudman presented a roster of new members for approval. New memberships included 47 student members, 33 regular members, 12 student award members, 1 family membership, 1 lifetime member, 3 sustaining members, and 6 institutional memberships. There was a motion and second to approve the new members. The motion carried.

Secretary Priscilla Crawford read an overview of the important discussion and actions taken at the 2009 meeting of the BOG.

President Fox accepted nominations for the BOG, Class of 2012. Six persons were nominated for the four-person class, a secret ballot vote was conducted, and the election results were announced at the Annual Banquet on Saturday evening. Robert Dowler was the sole nomination for President-Elect and was immediately elected.

The Board of Trustees report was delivered by Robert Dowler for Jerry Choate, Chair. Although the SWAN investment assets were highly diversified, they were reduced in value this past year. On 31 December 2007, the market value of SWAN assets was \$616,524.11, whereas by 31 December 2008 the market value had fallen to \$407,642.00. Thus, SWAN assets decreased in value during the horrific recession year of 2008 by \$208,882.11, for a total return of -33.9%. The Trustees urge restraint with respect to the annual budget during the recession we currently are experiencing. The Trustees remain committed to cautious management of SWAN assets. All dividends will continue to be reinvested unless the Trustees are directed to do otherwise by the Officers and Governors. Hugh Genoways is stepping down as Trustee as of this Annual Meeting. The remaining Trustees nominated Loren Ammerman as the new Trustee for consideration by the BOG. The BOG approved the nomination.

Stanley Fox delivered the Development Committee report for Co-Chairs, Jake Schaefer and David Heins. The recent pledge drive fell short of the monetary goal. Therefore, to increase donation revenue for the future proposed pledge drive, President Fox implored all SWAN members, especially long-term active members, to consider making a five-year pledge.

Loren Ammerman reported for the Student Awards Committee. The Committee reviewed 21 proposals for the Howard McCarley Student Research Award with the five recipients announced at the Annual Banquet. For the Clark Hubbs Student Poster Award, 31 posters were submitted with 21 written in Spanish. The award recipient also will be announced at the Annual Banquet.

John Hunt reported on activities of the Public Relations and Publicity Committee. A press release was written for each of the SWAN award winners for 2008. The Committee has been working on SWAN participation in the Year of Science.

María de Lourdes Lozano-Vilano, Local Representative, welcomed everyone to Monterrey. She announced that there were 147 oral presentations and 101 posters with a total of 272 attendees, making this SWAN meeting the largest ever. She recognized the efforts of the entire Local Committee and student staff that have helped. The membership applauded all organizers and assistants. She reminded everyone to stay on schedule because there is little room for adjustment with so many presentations.

Flo Oxley reported for the Conservation Committee. The Committee nominated the following article as the recipient of the George Miksch Sutton Award in Conservation Research:

Schnell, G. D. , M. L. Kennedy, C. Sánchez-Hernández, M. de Lourdes Romero-Almaraz, B. D. N. Estevez, J.A. Guerrero, T. L. Best, M. C. Wooten, and R. D. Owen 2008. Habitat preference of the endemic tawny deer mouse (*Peromyscus perfulvus*), a species of conservation concern. *Southwestern Naturalist* 53(1):9-20.

Stanley Fox reported for the Program Committee. Christopher Taylor and Tom Arsuffi of Texas Tech University have extended an invitation to the SWAN membership to attend the 2010 meetings at their field station in Junction, Texas. Neil Ford and other members of the Department of Biology at the University of Texas at Tyler invite SWAN to locate the 2011 meetings on their campus in Tyler, Texas. A potential site in Mexico for 2012 has not been determined, and the Committee would appreciate any suggestions or invitations.

Bruce Stewart reported on activities of the International Relations Committee. The Committee helped to implement simplified online payment for membership, especially helpful to international members. The Committee made several recommendations to make the Annual Meeting more bilingual, such as having the program, abstracts, titles, and schedules written in both English and Spanish.

Celia López-González reported on activities of the Sub-Committee for Student Travel Awards. López-González will be stepping down as Chair from the Committee. The Committee received fewer applications than in previous years: 17 applications from 7 institutions in the United States. The Committee granted 12 awards between \$350 and \$1,000 USD, for a total of \$8,350. One of the students declined the award, reducing the amount granted this year to \$7,850. The Committee requests that award recipients acknowledge the award on their presentation or poster.

Hayley Gillespie reported for the Student Advisory Committee. President Fox appointed a new Co-Chair to the Committee this spring, Jorge Armando Contreras Lozano. Over 80 people attended the Committee's workshop on the topic of publishing scientific papers with an emphasis on *The Southwestern Naturalist*. The Committee is pleased to announce that the student social event is becoming an annual SWAN tradition. Peer review of student presentations continues at this Annual Meeting.

Stanley Fox reported for the Web-site Committee. Accomplishments for this year include: meeting web site for 2009 with online submission of abstracts, online registration for the meeting, and online application for student travel awards; online payment system for memberships, page charges, and meeting registrations; update of membership directory, updated listserv list; addition of e-mail addresses of committee chairs on the committee's webpage; and posting of SWAN Border Fence Resolution on the SWAN homepage. Although the credit-card transactions were not perfect, for both Americans and Latin Americans, registration was easier with the new system. Fraud-warning mechanisms were stopping legitimate registration re-attempts following errors in data entry. The Committee will look into ways to guard against these aborts.

Mark Eberle, President-Elect, reported on the Wilks Award Committee. There were 8 complete applications for the Wilks Award and 10 additional authors checked the Wilks Award with their abstract but did not provide the required information to the Committee. Three judges reviewed applications. Rankings of top candidates from each judge were similar and from which the top four finalists were chosen and invited to give their oral presentations at the Wilks Plenary Session on Friday morning, 24 April 2009. The winner will be announced at the Annual Banquet.

Karen McBee reported on her activities as Historian. She prepared a draft Document Retention and Destruction Policy statement that was accepted at the BOG Meeting. She also received and catalogued materials that will be deposited in the Western History Collections of the University of Oklahoma Libraries.

Karen McBee reported for the Honors Committee. The Committee received four complete and one partial nomination packages for SWAN's Distinguished Awards this year. The Committee decided to present one nominee for the Meritorious Service Award and one nominee for the Donald W. Tinkle Research Excellence Award to the BOG for their approval. The BOG approved Paula Williamson for the Meritorious Service Award and Aurelio Ramírez-Bautista for the Donald W. Tinkle Research Excellence Award; qualifications and accomplishments of each award winner were summarized and read aloud. The recipient of the Donald W. Tinkle Research Excellence from 2008 was Mark S. Hafner, who will be recognized with a plaque at this year's Annual Banquet.

Edie Marsh-Matthews reported for the Long-Range Planning Committee. The Committee did not meet this year, but will meet during this Annual Meeting. The goal for the coming year is to work with the Student Advisory Committee to develop and implement ideas for greening future meetings.

Robert Dowler reported for the ad hoc Committee for Disposition of Back Issues of *The Southwestern Naturalist*. Although they are still selling issues, the demand is dropping.

Michael Kennedy reported for the Budget Oversight Committee saying that the society is generally financially sound, but recommends that the budget be conservative. They also support the nomination of Loren Ammerman as Trustee.

Michael Kennedy, Managing Editor, announced that submissions to *The Southwestern Naturalist* were good and several guest Associate Editors for Mammals helped to work through the back log of submissions. He also announced that Michael Husak (Birds), Phil Sudman (Mammals), Gary Garrett (Fishes), and William Lutterschmidt (Herps) are stepping down as Associate Editors. Gary Schnell was approved by the BOG as Associate Editor for Birds and Mammals. Kennedy also requested volunteers or nominations for new Associate Editors for plants, invertebrates, and herps. He also announced the need for a new Latin American Associate Editor. Kennedy and Troy Best, Editor, will be publishing more papers per issue to reduce the backlog of accepted manuscripts. This will reduce the time from submission to acceptance to publication.

This concluded Old Business.

The first item of New Business was a presentation by Christopher Taylor on the 2010 Annual Meeting site, Texas Tech University Center at Junction. The meeting will be held Thursday 22 April to Saturday 24 April 2010.

Following a motion to do so, a second, and approval, the Business Meeting adjourned at 1820 h to reconvene at the Annual Banquet.

The Business Meeting reconvened at the Annual Banquet on the evening of Saturday, 25 April 2009.

President Fox recognized the Local Committee for their outstanding service to the society by organizing

the largest SWAN meeting in history: María de Lourdes Lozano-Vilano, María Elena García-Ramírez, Armando J. Contreras-Balderas, Juan A. García-Salas, David Lazcano-Villarreal, José María Torres Ayala, Humberto Quiroz-Martínez, Gerardo G. Morales-Garza, Hebert K. Nieto-Pliego, Ana Laura Domínguez-Orozco, and Teresa Guadarrama-Coronado.

President Fox announced new members of the Board of Governors, class 2012: Bruce Stewart, Bruce Hoagland, María de Lourdes Lozano-Vilano, and Celia López-González.

Flo Oxley presented the George M. Sutton Award for Conservation Research to: G. D. Schnell, M. L. Kennedy, C. Sánchez-Hernández, Ma. de Lourdes Romero-Almaraz, B. D. N. Estevez, J. A. Guerrero, T. L. Best, M. C. Wooten, and R. D. Owen for their paper “Habitat preference of the endemic tawny deer mouse (*Peromyscus perfulvus*), a species of conservation concern” published in the *Southwestern Naturalist* 53(1):9-20.

Honors Committee Chair, Karen McBee, announced the winner of the 2009 Donald W. Tinkle Research Excellence Award as Aurelio Ramírez-Bautista and the winner of the 2009 Meritorious Service Award as Paula Williamson. She also recognized and awarded a plaque to the 2008 recipient of the Donald W. Tinkle Research Excellence Award, Mark S. Hafner.

Celia López-González announced that Student Travel Awards were given to: Cassie Poindexter, Ashley M. Long, Cristina Campbell, Dan Moore, Dustin Lynch, Glen Ray Hood, J. Erin Fender, Matthew Anderson, Sara Knutie, Sheri Glowinski, Vincent Farallo, Wilfredo A. Matamoros, and Bahar Malakouti.

Loren Ammerman, Student Awards Committee Chair, recognized the help received by members who assisted in judging proposals and posters. She announced Taylor B. Cotton as the recipient of the Clark Hubbs Poster Award for his work entitled “The effects of Chinese tallow (*Sapium sebiferum*) leaf litter on four anuran tadpoles.” Ammerman also announced the recipients of the Howard McCarley Student Research Awards (\$1,000 each): Cristina Campbell, Texas State University; Anica Debelica, Baylor University; Paul Hampton, University of Louisiana at Lafayette; Matthew Anderson, Oklahoma State University; and Kelly Goodsheller, Texas State University.

President-elect Mark Eberle presented the Wilks Award to Nicté Ordóñez-Garza of Texas Tech University for her presentation “Phenotypic and genetic concordance in three species of Central American *Peromyscus* (Rodentia, Cricetidae).”

Chad Hargrave read and the membership adopted the following resolution:

Whereas, on 23 through 25 April 2009, people from across the United States and Mexico interested in the natural history of animals and plants of the southwestern U.S, Mexico, and Central America convened for their 56th Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists in the bustling city of Monterey, Mexico, and

Whereas, at this meeting of these so-called ‘SWANers’ they shared stories pertaining to recent research endeavors, reflected on past stories (some made 10 years ago at this exact locality), and created new stories that will be shared for years to come, and

Whereas, the facilities at the Biblioteca Magna, the diligent support by the student staff, the exemplary efforts of the Local Committee, and the support of the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León will never be forgotten, and

Whereas, SWAN members learned that despite a global economic crisis, society membership, activities, and overall mission remain unwavering and strong, and

Whereas, the superb Wilk’s presentations demonstrated that SWAN continues to attract top student

researchers from across the U.S. and Mexico, and

Whereas, some members who were willing to miss a subset of the ca. 250 presentations and posters instead witnessed the beautiful architecture and sculpture in the city center, and

Whereas, the members that did not miss presentations to go downtown, still were able to experience the beauty of the region at the magnificent picnic location – la Hacienda San Pedro, and

Whereas, when the metro doors closed and trapped Rory Telemeco, leaving him behind, taught us to apply the Optimal Escape Theory to leave the train, and

Whereas, the food, music, and continuous supply of cold (190 ml) libations at this event was beyond compare, and

Whereas, the members said farewell to an excellent President and welcomed a new excellent President, and

Whereas, the members now have extreme expectations for the SWAN song, the Past-President still has work to do, and

Whereas, the student workshop, which taught students on how not to get rejected, was a great success and will further haunt the editors of *The Southwestern Naturalist* by further taxing journal page space, therefore

Be it resolved that the members of SWAN extend their deepest gratitude to the Local Committee including: Dr. María de Lourdes Lozano-Vilano, Dr. María Elena García-Ramírez, Dr. Armando J. Contreras-Balderas, Dr. Juan A. García-Salas, Dr. David Lazcano-Villarreal, Dr. José María Torres Ayala, Dr. Humberto Quiroz-Martínez, M. Sc. Gerardo G. Morales-Garza, M. V. Z. Hebert K. Nieto-Pliago, M. Sc. Ana Laura Domínguez-Orozco, and Mrs. Teresa Guadarrama-Coronado, and the Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León for the wonderful science, food, and fun.

President Fox passed the gavel and briefcase to President-Elect (now President) Mark Eberle.

Mark Eberle announced Robert Dowler as the new President-Elect.

The meeting was adjourned at 2300 h.

Respectfully submitted,
Priscilla H. C. Crawford
Secretary