

THE SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF NATURALISTS
MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
LLANO RIVER FIELD STATION, JUNCTION, TEXAS
FRIDAY-SATURDAY, 23-24 APRIL 2010

President Mark Eberle called the meeting to order at 1050 h with a quorum present. The membership approved the minutes of the 2009 Board of Governors Meeting and the Business Meeting for the 56th Annual Meeting in Monterrey, Nuevo León, Mexico (published in *The Southwestern Naturalist* volume 54(4) and available on the SWAN webpage at <http://www.biosurvey.ou.edu/swan/>).

President Eberle appointed the Wilks Award finalists (J. Erin Fender, Jeff Wesner, James C. Cureton, II, and Shahan Derkarabetian) to serve as tellers for the election of the Board of Governors.

Treasurer Phil Sudman reported on the 2009 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 2011 proposed balanced budget of \$94,600 that was approved by the BOG on 22 April 2010. Minutes of that meeting summarize the discussion and proposal.

Sudman presented a roster of new members for approval. New memberships included 54 student members, 52 regular members, 42 student award members, and 1 lifetime member. 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 2010 meeting of the BOG.

President Eberle accepted nominations for the BOG, Class of 2013. A ballot vote was conducted and the election results are to be announced at the banquet on Saturday evening.

Jake Schaefer presented the Board of Trustee's (Chair, Schaefer, Members, Loren Ammerman and Robert Dowler) report. He stated that returns on SWAN investment are slightly higher than the stock market average. However, funds have not returned to their pre-recession level. The Trustees remain committed to cautious management of SWAN assets, with all dividends being reinvested unless otherwise directed by the SWAN BOG and Officers.

Beginning the committee reports, Jake Schaefer reported that the Development Committee (Co-Chairs, Schaefer and David Heins; Members, Robert Baker, Jerry Johnson, David Schmidly, and Kathryn Vaughan; ex officio member, Philip Sudman) would meet at this annual meeting to take up suggestions made during the BOG meeting in 2009.

Loren Ammerman reported for the Student Awards Committee (Chair, Ammerman; Members, Michael Dixon, Bruce Hoagland, Jessica Light, William Lutterschmidt, Russell Pfau, Bruce Stewart, and Juliann Waits). The committee received 36 proposals for the Howard McCarley Student Research Award, but disqualified 12 applications due to lack of adherence to the award criteria. Twenty-four applications were reviewed, with the five winners being announced at the banquet. Thirty posters were submitted for the Clark Hubbs Student Poster Award. The winner will also be announced at the banquet.

John Hunt reported on activities of the Public Relations and Publicity Committee (Chair, Hunt; Members, Stan Gehrt, Meredith Hamilton, Renn Tumblison, and Kathryn Vaughan). A press release was written for each SWAN award winner for 2009 (Tinkle Award, Packard Award, Hubbs Award, Wilks Award, Sutton Award). The releases were sent to the major public newspaper and university newspaper for each of the award winners. There continues to be no feedback from the media on press releases written for SWAN award recipients.

Greg Wilson reported for the Membership Committee (Chair, Wilson; Members, Amanda Husak, Julio Lemos-Espinal, Joseph Maness, Dwight Moore, and Christopher Taylor). In 2009, 42 free student memberships (5 from the United States, 37 from Mexico) were awarded. Hayley Gillespie did an excellent job distributing the free student membership forms during the annual meeting last year. There was some difficulty in reading the handwriting on forms. Membership forms will be submitted online to reduce this problem.

Flo Oxley reported for the Conservation Committee (Chair, Oxley; Members, Jack Clinton Eitnier, Jennifer Frey, Fausto R. Mendez de la Cruz, James Ott, and Kendra Phelps). The Committee nominated the following article as the recipient of the George Miksch Sutton Award in Conservation Research: Horne, J. S., A.

M. Haines, M. E. Tewes, and L. Laack. Habitat partitioning by sympatric ocelots and bobcats: implications for recovery of ocelots in southern Texas. *The Southwestern Naturalist* 54(2):119-126.

Oxley announced that the Conservation Committee will work with the Long-Range Planning Committee and future Local Committees to reduce the environmental impact of our annual meetings.

Mark Eberle reported for the Program Committee (Chair, Beth Leuck; Members, Ricardo Ayala Barajas, María de Lourdes Lozano-Vilano, William I. Lutterschmidt, William J. Matthews, and O. W. Van Auken). Neil Ford and other members of the Department of Biology at the University of Texas at Tyler will host the 2011 meetings to be held on their campus. The BOG will be entertaining an offer to hold the 2012 meeting in Valle de Bravo, Mexico, hosted by the Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México. The President will send the university a note expressing our interest in having the meeting in their region. There will be a continued effort to find locations for meetings 2 years in advance.

Bruce Stewart and Felipe de Jesús Rodríguez-Romero reported on activities of the International Relations Committee (Co-Chairs, Stewart and María de Lourdes Romero Almaráz; Members, Ricardo Ayala-Barajas, Robert Edwards, Stanley Fox, Michael Kennedy, Celia López González, Cornelio Sánchez-Hernández, Felipe de Jesús Rodríguez-Romero, Nikki Cavalieri, and Gloria Tapia-Ramírez). The committee thanked the Local Committee of 2009 for an excellent meeting in Monterrey. The committee was pleased that the Monterrey meeting was the most bilingual meeting to date, with most of the posters and presentations, at least in part, in both Spanish and English. All meeting abstracts were submitted in both languages again this year.

Felipe de Jesús Rodríguez-Romero reported on activities of the Sub-Committee on Student Travel (Chair, Rodríguez-Romero; Members, Bruce Stewart, Stanley Fox, and Lourdes Romero Almaráz). The Committee would like to see more involvement from Latin American countries outside of Mexico. The Committee intends to promote SWAN to young, international members through social network sites such as Facebook. The Sub-Committee received 20 applications from seven institutions outside of the USA for student travel to this meeting. Twelve awards were granted with a total of \$10,000 being awarded.

Hayley Gillespie presented the Student Advisory Committee report (Co-Chairs, Gillespie and Jorge Contreras-Lozano; Members, Rosemary A. Burk, Sara B. González Pérez, Kimberly Hays, Jacqueline M. Paritte, and Noe de la Sancha). The Committee continues to organize the popular student social during the annual meeting. The Committee also organizes the presentation-feedback service with >40 students signed up for this meeting. The student workshop this year will be "Creating and Perfecting a CV in the Biological Sciences." The Student Advisory Committee and the International Relations Committee will be examining how the exchange rate affects non-USA student membership and meeting participation. Prices may be reduced to make the financial burden equivalent for USA and non-USA students.

Dan Hough reported on activities of the Web-site Committee (Chair, Hough; Members, Mark Eberle, Stanley Fox, Jacob Schaefer, Caryn Vaughn). Updates to the web-site during 2009 included: 2010 meeting information, including abstract submission, meeting registration, and student travel application; membership directory; Student Advisory Committee pages; LISTSERVE list; and meeting message board. The number of hits to the web-site outside of the USA continues to increase with ca. 7% of total hits coming from Mexico. There continues to be some difficulty with online submission of abstracts and meeting registration. However, the major problems have been identified and resolved. Hough encouraged the 2011 Local Committee to adjust the call for abstract submissions so that it is not during winter break.

Robert Dowler, President-Elect, reported on the Wilks Award Committee. There was a record-setting 23 applications for the Wilks Award. Three judges (to be named at the annual banquet) reviewed the applications. The top four finalists were chosen and gave their oral presentations at the Wilks Plenary session earlier today. The Wilks Award Committee Members will be listed in the journal and web-site. The winner of the award will be announced at the banquet.

Karen McBee reported on her activities as Historian. She deposited new materials on 17 March 2010 in the Western History Collections of the University of Oklahoma Libraries. McBee highly encouraged members to visit the archives. Dan Hough will add a link from the SWAN web-site to the SWAN archive catalog in the Western History Collection at OU. McBee is also working with Troy Best (Editor, *The Southwestern Naturalist*) to include historic information, photos, or notes in the unused end pages of the journal.

For the Honors Committee (Chair, Stanley Fox, Members, Alice Echelle, William Lutterschmidt, Gary Schnell, and Paula Williamson), Fox introduced the Donald W. Tinkle Research Excellence Award, which is

presented to a member of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists who, in the past 10 years, has made a significant contribution to the knowledge and understanding of the biota of the southwestern United States, Mexico, and Central America through scientific articles and books. In the 21 years since the award was instituted, it has been presented 15 times to 16 recipients from across Mexico and the United States who represent the breadth of taxonomic and scientific interests of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists. The 2009 recipient of the Tinkle Award is Dr. Aurelio Ramírez Bautista, Professor in the Laboratory of Ecology, Center of Biological Investigations, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo, Pachuca, Hidalgo, México. Dr. Ramírez Bautista has >20 years experience in the study of diversity, ecology, reproduction, and conservation of reptiles and amphibians of Mexico. His work encompasses natural history, biogeography, and ecology, and more recently, studies of effects that environmental deterioration has on populations and life histories of amphibians and reptiles.

Stanley Fox also presented the 2010 Robert L. Packard Outstanding Educator Award. Dr. David Edds is a consummate educator and has awakened a love of life and biology in countless students. He teaches a wide variety of courses at Emporia State University, many of them total-immersion field courses, e.g., Ichthyology, Aquatic Biology, Stream Ecology, Prairie Ecology, Tropical Field Ecology, and Biology of Animals. Many of Dr. Edds's students were helped, encouraged, and indeed pushed to give the results of their work at professional meetings, oftentimes at SWAN. Above all else, Dr. Edds is an outstanding educator and tireless motivator on behalf of the flora and fauna of SWAN's geographical region.

The business meeting was briefly recessed at 1139 h, so that the BOG could approve the nomination for the W. Frank Blair Eminent Naturalist Award. At 1140 h the meeting reconvened.

Stanley Fox also introduced the 2010 winners of the W. Frank Blair Eminent Naturalist Award, Tony and Alice Echelle. The W. Frank Blair Eminent Naturalist Award is given for "excellence in a lifetime of commitment to outstanding study or conservation of the flora or fauna of the southwestern United States, Mexico, and Central America." Both Echelles are recognized worldwide, and certainly within southwestern North America, as experts on the genetics, ecology, and conservation of desert fishes. As evidence of this team's excellence in scholarship and conservation research, between 1968 and 2009 one or the other, or both, have authored well over 100 articles, book chapters, symposium volumes, and books. These publications are distributed among the most widely acclaimed journals including *Copeia*, *Molecular Ecology*, *Evolution*, *Conservation Biology*, *Transactions of the American Fisheries Society*, *Systematic Zoology*, *Journal of Fish Biology*, *American Naturalist*, *Science*, *Herpetologica*, and *The Southwestern Naturalist*. This outstanding team has authored recovery plans for the Comanche Springs pupfish, Clear Creek Gambusia, Pecos Gambusia, Big Bend Gambusia, Leon Springs pupfish, and Pecos bluntnose shiner.

Edie Marsh-Matthews reported there was no activity in 2009 for the Long Range Planning Committee (Chair, Marsh-Matthews; Members, Bryon Clark, Anthony Echelle, Robert Edwards, Celia López-González, Dwight Moore, Felipe de Jesús Rodríguez-Romero, O. W. Van Auken, and Caryn Vaughn).

Robert Dowler presented the report for the *ad hoc* Committee for the Disposition of Back Issues (Chair, Dowler, Members, Brenda Clark, Celia López-González, and Edie Marsh-Matthews. Sale of back issues generated \$258 in 2009. Robert Dowler will appoint a student co-chair who is responsible for the actual distribution of back issues.

Michael Kennedy reported for the Budget Oversight Committee (Chair, Phyllis Kennedy; Members, William Baltosser, Brian Chapman, Robert Edwards, and Beth Leuck). The Treasurer's report for 2009 was in good order. The report of the Board of Trustees indicates that investments are recovering. The Committee commended Fi Choate for her continuing service to the Board of Trustees.

Michael Kennedy gave the Managing Editor's report. He stated that the rejection rate for manuscripts is up a bit and probably will continue to increase given the increased number of submissions. The turnaround time on manuscripts is improving. The increase in pages in the last few issues has helped to reduce the backlog of accepted manuscripts.

BioOne and JSTOR are significant sources of revenue and will continue to increase. Kennedy thanked Gary Garrett, David Wester, and Paul Stone for their service as Associate Editors. The journal needs new Associate Editors in Plants and Herps. Flo Oxley and Priscilla Crawford are currently serving as Guest Associate Editors in Plants. Because of continued concern regarding length of time from submission to publication, Mike Kennedy will communicate to the Associate Editors the need to improve review time.

Mike Kennedy and Troy Best will draft a new publishing statement that incorporates the journal's acceptance of articles not necessarily focused on the Southwest, but that are of interest to the biologists in the Southwest and foster understanding of the biota of the Southwest.

This concluded Old Business.

During the proposed 2011 budget discussion, the BOG agreed to add funds to cover full digital access to all issues of the journal for all members. This will allow those who do not have access through their university library to log in to JSTOR and BioOne and retrieve all back issues of *The Southwestern Naturalist*. This is a first step in setting up a totally online membership for those who do not want to receive the paper journal. This increases projected expenditures by \$5,000. The actual expense will not be known until we determine the number of members using the service. The BOG approved the budgetary increase.

Neil Ford gave a presentation enticing SWAN members to attend next year's SWAN meeting in beautiful and interesting Tyler, Texas. The tentative dates of the meeting are 21-24 April 2011.

Following a motion to do so, a second, and approval, the Business Meeting adjourned at 1200 h to reconvene at the banquet.

The Business Meeting reconvened at the Annual Banquet at 2024 h on Saturday 26 April 2010.

President Eberle announced the new members of the Board of Governors, Class of 2013: Hayley Gillespie, Christopher Taylor, Armando Contreras-Balderas, and William Stark.

Flo Oxley presented the George M. Sutton Award for Conservation Research to: J. S. Horne, A. M. Haines, M. E. Tewes, and L. Laack for their paper "Habitat partitioning by sympatric ocelots and bobcats: implications for recovery of ocelots in southern Texas" in *The Southwestern Naturalist* 54(2):119-126.

Loren Ammerman, Student Awards Committee Chair, recognized the help received by members who helped to judge the proposals and posters. She announced Carla Atkinson, University of Oklahoma, as the recipient of the Clark Hubbs Poster Award for her poster entitled "Ecosystem services performed by native freshwater mussels: filter feeding and nutrient cycling." Ammerman also announced recipients of the Howard McCarley Student Research Awards (\$1,000): Melissa Merrick, University of Arizona; Adam Ferguson, Texas Tech University; Kevin Kohl, University of Utah; Dana Lee, Oklahoma State University; and Jason Strickland, Angelo State University.

Robert Dowler, President-Elect, presented the Wilks Award to Shahan Derkarabetian, San Diego State University, Department of Biology, for his presented research: Systematics of the Sclerobuninae (Arachnida: Opiliones: Laniatores): Cryptic Species and Troglomorphic Evolution.

The Wilks Committee members were: Chair, Robert Dowler; Members, Armando Contreras-Balderas, Michael Dixon, Michelle Johnson, and Troy Murphy.

Stanley Fox presented a plaque to Paula S. Williamson for the 2009 Jerry R. Choate Meritorious Service Award. Williamson said that SWAN is her favorite professional organization. She believes the strong student support and participation within the society shows that this organization is full of life and optimism.

Mark Eberle recognized staff of the Llano River Field Station for their hard work organizing and hosting a successful SWAN meeting. Eberle extended his appreciation on behalf of the entire society.

Stanley Fox, Past-President, gave his SWAN Song, "The Swanessence of Swan" which was a lovely compilation of photos of the people, flora, and fauna of SWAN.

Raelynn Deaton read and the membership adopted the following resolutions, which were authored by herself with the help of the Deaton lab, Tim Patton, Bill Matthews, Mark Eberle, Bill Lutterschmidt and Jeff Wozniak:

Whereas, the 57th annual meeting of SWAN was held in Junction, Texas, 22-24th of April 2010, on the beautiful campus of the Texas Tech Llano River Field Station, and
Whereas, we were treated to a rich array of flora and fauna, nestled in a field of brilliant wild flowers with the beautiful Llano River close by, among a rich array of birds of every color and size, and a superb Friday night light show and
Whereas, every member of SWAN in attendance has enjoyed a marvelous time in this beautiful and laid-back environment, and
Whereas, the program was very well organized, but for those long-time SWAN members (e.g., Bill Lutterschmidt), required intense magnification to read the two-point font, and

Whereas, this year there might have been the largest turnout in the history of SWAN for both Ichs and Herps, and
Whereas, Herps were represented by a plethora of disciplines, spanning morphology, physiology, genetics, demography, reproduction, phylogeography, and conservation. While Ichs were represented by ecology, conservation, and behavior, and
Whereas, despite this great turnout, we were still able to conduct the sessions in a very space-limited area where we are certain we broke fire code, and
Whereas, as Justin Williams would say, this meeting was started by a botanist and now has been taken over by “all of those expletive Ichs and Herps,” and
Whereas, Chris Taylor is now the one trying to sleep while the youngins’ are raising hell at night, and
Whereas, the metal sign for the men’s restroom nailed to a pecan tree gives new meaning to a spring fed stream in the Llano Basin, and
Whereas, there was an unprecedented presence of plaid and aloha shirts, and
Whereas, the amazing Wilks competition was reminiscent of either a revival or a circus (we can’t decide), but this was a good thing because SWAN has decided to “Go Green” so now, SWAN cannot only use the big white tent for the Wilks awards and banquet, but also for the circus that is coming to town this weekend, and
Whereas, if you looked in your new red shoulder bag, you might have noticed that you were given a 2009 local phone book and 2008 local newspaper, furthering their efforts for “going green” AND facilitating your ability to contact friends and family in Junction, so long as they haven’t moved within the last year, and
Whereas, also consistent with the theme of “going green” some posters are still hanging, but need to be removed immediately for all of the laundry to be hung, and
Whereas, there was a large sample size to test the hypothesis that drunk students cannot fall off of a Segway, and
Whereas, our newly anointed SWAN W. Frank Blair Eminent Naturalist spent a significant amount of time watching birds through binoculars, only to discover that they were in fact models, perhaps thereby discovering a new model organism, and
Whereas, there was a constant supply of greatly appreciated refreshments and coffee, and
Whereas, SWAN continues to demonstrate its dedication to students, and
Whereas, SWAN also continues to promote international collaborations and reach across the borders to uphold the universality of science, and
Whereas, academic “families” are able to reconnect, and
Whereas, government agencies and academics come together, and
Whereas, GG and BE as usual, showed up in their matching fish shirts and mustaches, providing enough power in our data analysis to conclude that they were, indeed, twins separated at birth, and
Whereas, Stan Fox apparently really likes pictures of sand,
Therefore, be it resolved, that we thank Chris Taylor, Tom Arsuffi, Karen López, the staff of Llano River Field Station, all volunteers, and the Texas Tech Administration for allowing us to convene on your lovely campus and hold our 57th Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists.

Chris Taylor announced the final official total number of meeting attendees to be 356.

The meeting was adjourned at 2133 h.

Respectfully submitted,
Priscilla H. C. Crawford
Secretary