

SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF NATURALISTS  
BUSINESS MEETING 58th ANNUAL MEETING  
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, TYLER, TEXAS

22 APRIL 2011

President Mark Eberle called the meeting to order at 1042 hr with a quorum present. The membership approved the minutes of the 2010 minutes of the Business Meeting for the 57th Annual Meeting in Llano River Field Station, Junction, Texas (published in *The Southwestern Naturalist* Vol 55(4) and available on the SWAN webpage at <http://www.biosurvey.ou.edu/swan/>).

President Eberle appointed the Wilks Award finalists (Samuel Bonge, Wesley A. Brashear, Diane Landoll, and Jason Strickland) to serve as tellers for the election of the Board of Governors.

Treasurer Phil Sudman reported on the 2010 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 2012 proposed balanced budget of \$94,600 that was approved at the meeting of the BOG meeting on 21 April 2011. The minutes of that meeting summarize the discussion and proposal.

Sudman presented a roster of new members for approval. New memberships included 46 new student members, 38 regular members, 22 new student awards, 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 2011 meeting of the BOG.

President Eberle accepted nominations for the BOG, Class of 2014. A ballot vote was conducted and the election results are to be announced at the banquet on Saturday evening.

One nomination was made for Secretary. Hayley Gillespie was accepted as the new Secretary. One nomination was made for President-Elect and Celia López-González was elected.

The Trustee's report was given by Jake Schaefer and he stated that the SWAN investment returns are slightly higher than the stock market average, with the exception of our stock account (-18.57%) which contains only shares of BP AMOCO. The Deep Water Horizon Incident of 21 April 2010 resulted in that stock losing over half its value in the summer of 2010. It has since recovered but was down nearly 20% for the year. The Trustees will be investing the DWS Scudder Money Market account, which currently is not earning any interest. The account was created to hold liquid assets in case of a financial emergency, which has not happened and is not anticipated at this time. The society will have access to other funds in the event of an emergency.

At the annual meeting of SWAN in 2007, the Board approved a budget that called for funds to be transferred from the Trustees to the Treasurer to meet expected expenses of the Association. That transfer has not been needed and there was no transfer made in 2010.

The Trustees remain committed to cautious management of the SWAN assets, with all dividends being reinvested unless otherwise directed by the SWAN BOG and Officers.

There was a discussion in the BOG meeting regarding the Student Naturalist funds. The original intent was to create a new student award and use the accumulated funds. The BOG suggested that there be a new award created to utilize the Student Naturalist funds.

Beginning the committee reports, Loren Ammerman reported for the Student Awards Committee. The committee received 26 proposals for the Howard McCarley Student Research Award. Applicants were affiliated with 12 institutions. The five winners will be announced at the banquet. Eighteen posters were submitted for the Clark Hubbs Student Poster Award. The winner will also be announced at the banquet.

John Hunt reported on the activities of the Public Relations and Publicity Committee. A press release was written for each of the SWAN award winners for 2010 (Blair Award, Packard Award, Wilks Award, Hubbs Award, and Sutton Award). Each release was sent to the major public newspaper and university newspaper for each of the respective award winners. During 2010, the Committee composed news releases about three (somewhat) randomly selected articles published in *The Southwestern Naturalist*. These releases were sent to an assortment of news outlets in an attempt to raise awareness about the Association. At least one news story resulted; a short article about prairie-dog research was published in the *Portales News-Tribune*. With the permission of the Board of Governors, the Committee will continue this activity in 2011.

Greg Wilson reported for the Membership Committee. In 2010, 22 free student memberships were awarded. The committee is working with the Student Advisory Committee to promote these free memberships, of which 30 are available. Of the 22 students receiving free memberships, six renewed.

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: Barrows, C.W. and M.F. Allen. 2009. Conserving species in fragmented habitats: population dynamics of the flat-tailed horned lizard, *Phrynosoma mcallii*. *Southwestern Naturalist*, 54(3):307-316.

As approved by the BOG, the certificate will be awarded at next year's meeting.

Beth Leuck reported for the Program Committee. The Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México in Toluca will host the 2012 meeting in Valle de Bravo, México. The local committee chairperson is Dr. Felipe Rodríguez.

Leuck reported that Dr. Tod Reeder of San Diego State University has stated that they are willing to host the meetings in either 2013 or 2014. Another institution needs to be found for the year that San Diego does not host. Mark Eberle suggested Northern Arizona, and Oklahoma State University was also mentioned.

Bruce Stewart reported on the activities of the International Relations Committee. The Committee met during the meeting in Junction, Texas. The Committee agreed that the abstract submission date of 25 January worked well and to recommend to the Local Committee to use this date for 2012. The committee agreed that we should continue to require English and Spanish titles and abstracts, and authors should be encouraged to have other parts of their talks and posters (e.g., conclusions) in both languages. The Committee set 15 November 2011 as the submission deadline for student travel award applications with the option to extend the date if prudent.

Jason Strickland reported for the Student Advisory Committee. The Committee membership is having a big turnover and needs new members. The Committee would like to have a person on the local committee to be a student member to help organize the student activities during the meeting. Approximately 50 students attended the workshop last year.

They are trying to use Facebook more for student communications. They will be trying to find out more about student participation in the annual meeting from the registration information.

Dan Hough reported on the activities of the Web-site Committee. Updates to the website during 2010 included: 2011 meeting information, including abstract submission, meeting registration, and student travel application; membership directory; Student Advisory Committee pages; and LISTSERVE list. The meeting message board was discontinued due to regular spam attacks. Hough talked with the Program Committee and discussed a few changes for online registration, such as separate fields for first and last names.

Robert Dowler, President-Elect, reported on the Wilks Award Committee. There were 9 applications for the Wilks Award. Dowler recused himself from the Committee due to his student being one of the applicants. The deadline for research summaries for the award has been changed to the last Friday in January. Robert reported that there are no written guidelines for the Wilks Committee. Robert is writing guidelines for the formation of the committee and the committee activities.

Karen McBee reported on her year's activities as Historian. McBee highly encouraged members to submit information about the Society, including information about past annual meetings. 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. A list of previous meeting locations will be published in the journal when there is a blank page. Stanley Fox reported for the Honors Committee. The committee received one application for the Robert L. Packard Outstanding Educator Award and two applications for the W. Frank Blair Eminent Naturalist Award. The Board of Governors approved the nominee for the Robert L. Packard Outstanding Educator Award and one of the nominees for the W. Frank Blair Eminent Naturalist Award.

The 2011 winner of the Robert L. Packard Outstanding Educator Award is Bruce Stewart, who received a Bachelor's degree at East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma, then a Master's degree in Biology at Northeast Louisiana State University in 1976 where he worked in the field in Mexico on the Chestnut-sided Shrike-vireo. Bruce went to the University of Oklahoma to study fish with Bill Matthews and finished, well, his ABD (All But Degree) there in 1993. This Latinophile has studied Spanish at the Cuauhnahuac: Escuela de Lengua y Cultura and also the Chac-Mool Escuela de Idiomas in Cuernavaca, Mexico. Bruce is currently Professor of Biological Sciences at Murray State College in Tishomingo, Oklahoma, where he started out as an Instructor in 1983. Throughout his career at Murray State College, he has been active in public education and public relation activities. This outstanding educator also has a long history with the University of Oklahoma Biological Station where he has taught and participated in numerous classes, seminars, workshops and research. In fact, this darn guy is nothing less than an icon of the UOBS. But what really marks Bruce for the Packard Award from SWAN is his well-known, popular, long-running educational exchange program to Mexico that he started way back in 1994 and has been running every summer since.

From looking over Bruce's nomination packet, the Honors Committee noticed that he excels in awakening and nurturing a passion for nature and biology in undergraduates. Bruce's accomplishments include many publications and public presentations (not all of them on just biology), and service on SWAN's Board of Governors and long-time Chair or Co-Chair of the International Relations Committee. He is a life member of SWAN and even longer than that has been a perennial judge for the Clark Hubbs best poster award at SWAN annual meetings. Above all else, Bruce is an outstanding educator and tireless motivator on behalf of the flora and fauna of SWAN's geographical region.

The 2011 winner of the W. Frank Blair Eminent Naturalist Award is William Duellman. An outstanding scientist and herpetologist, Bill was born in Dayton, Ohio, and went on to take his BS, MS, and PhD degrees at the University of Michigan, where he published 40-50 papers. Bill is currently Professor and Curator Emeritus of the Natural History Museum, University of Kansas. He has been very active in ASIH, the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, serving two 5-yr terms on the Board of Governors and appointed Chairman of the National Program Committee. He has served as President of The Herpetologists' League and on various Editorial Boards, e.g., *Herpetologica*, *Acta Zoologica Mexicana*, *Russian Journal of Herpetology*, and *Zoologische Abhandlungen*; and served as Editor of those famous publications of the Museum of Natural History of the University of Kansas. Particularly active internationally in the World Congress of Herpetology, Bill has served on the International Herpetological Committee, Amphibian Checklist Committee, Executive Committee, Scientific Program Committee for meetings in Adelaide, Australia, and the Finance Committee.

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." This eminent naturalist has definitely done this, and a whole lot more. He is recognized worldwide as the expert on amphibians, especially in Mexico, Central America, and South America. This prolific author is best known, however, for his famous *The Hylid Frogs of Middle America* (first published in 1970, then updated in 2001) and the much used textbook, *The Biology of Amphibians*, which he published with his spouse in 1994. Hobart Smith commented in *Copeia*, "Hylid Frogs of Middle America marks an apogee of achievement; it is the Hope Diamond of technical herpetological literature."

Three Distinguished Awardees were named in 2010. The 2010 recipient of the Robert L. Packard Outstanding Educator Award was David Edds, and the recipients of the W. Frank Blair Eminent Naturalist Award were co-winners Alice and Tony Echelle. Awardees will be recognized with plaques at the banquet.

Eddie Marsh-Matthews submitted no report for the Long Range Planning Committee. Marsh-Matthews suggested that the committee be disbanded, but Mike Kennedy suggested that we may need a committee and they need to get active. Robert Dowler, President-Elect, will talk with the Committee about possibly restructuring. Robert Dowler presented the report for the ad hoc Committee for the Disposition of Back Issues. During the calendar year 2010 the Committee filled 4 orders of individual volumes or numbers (9 total issues), as well as one order for all available back issues of *The Southwestern Naturalist*. Two additional sets were provided for the Wilks Award winner and the Clark Hubbs Student Poster Award winner. Sale of back issues generated about \$570 last year.

Beth Leuck reported for the Budget Oversight Committee. The Budget Oversight Committee examined the Treasurer's Report for 2010, a listing of debit transactions made by the Treasurer during 2010, a summary of income and debit transactions made by the Treasurer during 2010, invoices from Allen Press paid in 2010, and the annual 2011 report from the Board of Trustees. The Committee found expenditure and income information to be in good order, showing SWAN to be financially sound. The Committee finds that the Board of Trustees continues to do an outstanding job handling SWAN's assets.

Michael Kennedy gave the Managing Editor's report for *The Southwestern Naturalist*. The journal needs reviewers. The journal has eliminated paper copy submission of manuscripts. There was a long discussion in the BOG meeting regarding a change in the size of the journal. In 1989 paper size was made bigger to reduce cost. The journal is now considering an 8x11 format. The pricing would be about the same. The font size might be bigger and

the change in column size would allow easier formatting for tables and figures. The paper quality would be the same or better. The BOG approved the size change.

The Development Committee report was given by Jake Schaefer. In 2010 the Development Committee asked the BOG to approve the following initiatives for future implementation: initiate a push for lifetime memberships, including lifetime memberships for electronic-only journal access at a reduced cost and initiate a study to determine the per-member cost of producing the paper version of the journal. Topics discussed at the last meeting were: to aid in recruitment and retention of members while institutional online access to the journal increases, the Long Range Planning committee should establish what the benefits for members are; streamline dues payment system (e.g. PayPal); and use silent auctions or raffles at annual meetings to raise funds. Activities like these have been successful at other similar sized societies.

In 2010 the BOG charged the Treasurer's office with investigating the efficacy of using a service such as PayPal for credit or debit card payments. The PayPal system would be simpler and cheaper for the Society. The BOG approved the switch to PayPal.

This concluded the old business.

Phil Sudman presented the 2012 budget to members. During the proposed 2012 budget discussion at the BOG meeting, the BOG agreed to add funds to increase the number of McCarley Awards to seven. This money came from the Miscellaneous column of the budget. The BOG suggested that the President use his contingency funds to help pay an honorarium for abstract translations.

Felipe de Jesús Rodríguez-Romero gave a lovely presentation about next year's SWAN meeting location in beautiful Valle de Bravo, Mexico. The tentative dates are April 19-22, 2011.

Following a motion to do so, a second, and approval, the Business Meeting recessed at 1147 hr to reconvene at the banquet.

The Business Meeting reconvened at the annual banquet 2126 hr of Saturday, 23 April 2010.

President Eberle thanked the local committee and the staff of University of Texas at Tyler for hosting a wonderful meeting. The members in attendance gave a standing ovation.

Felipe de Jesús Rodríguez-Romero announced the winners of the Student Travel Awards: Luz María Sil Berra, Sara T. Martínez Chapital, Luis Andrés Yopez López, Fabiola Azucena Quintana Rojas, Aleida García Cruz, Sandra Galindo Gil, Liliana Ríos Rodas, and Manuel Rivas González.

Loren Ammerman, Student Awards Committee Chair, recognized the help received by members who helped to judge the proposals and posters. Members were: Michael Dixon, Bruce Hoagland, Jessica Light, William I. Lutterschmidt, Nicté Ordoñez-Garza, Russell Pfau, Chris Taylor, and Juliann Waits. She announced Jason M. Taylor, Baylor University, as the recipient of the Clark Hubbs Poster Award for his poster entitled "Influence of grazing-fish mediated nutrient recycling on downstream ecosystem function." Ammerman also announced the recipients of the Howard McCarley Student Research Awards (\$1,000): Johanna Varner, University of Utah; Andrea Acevedo, Oklahoma State University; Cody W.

Thompson, Texas Tech University; Drew R. Davis, Texas State University; and Jessica L. Sánchez, Sam Houston State University.

Robert Dowler, President-elect, presented the Wilks Award to Jason Strickland, Angelo State University, for his presentation "Phylogeography of the Cottonmouth, *Agkistrodon piscivorus*, Determined by AFLP and Venom Protein Profiles." The Wilks Award Committee for 2011 was Troy Baird, Michael Tobler, Michael Dixon, Paula Williamson, and Earl Zimmerman.

Stanley Fox presented a plaque to the 2010 recipient of the Robert L. Packard Outstanding Educator Award, David Edds. Edds thanked SWAN for the wonderful award and his teachers who were present : Stanley Fox, Karen McBee, and Tony Echelle. Stanley Fox also presented a plaque to the 2010 recipient of the W. Frank Blair Eminent Naturalist Award, co-winners Alice and Tony Echelle. The Echelles were thankful for the award and overwhelmed with gratitude.

President Eberle announced the new members of the Board of Governors, class 2014: Michael Husak, Cornelio Sánchez Hernández, William Caire, and Susana Perea-Fox. Mark Pyron was elected to the BOG class of 2012 as a replacement for Celia Lopez-González, who is now President-Elect. Russell Pfau was elected to the BOG class of 2012 as a replacement for Hayley Gillespie, who was elected as Secretary.

Raelynn Deaton read and the membership adopted the following resolution, which was authored by herself and Chris Taylor, William Lutterschmidt and Bruce Stewart, with the help of Jessica Sanchez, Chris Cheek, Manuel Rivas, Michael Ryan and Susana Perea.

Whereas, the 58th annual meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists was held at the University of Texas at Tyler between the 21st and 23rd of April 2011, and  
Whereas we will proceed with these resolutions despite the fact that...

Bob Edwards was not sporting a fish shirt at the barbeque, and was therefore virtually unrecognizable, especially given that his twin counterpart is not present, and  
That Oklahoma lizards are smarter than Louisiana lizards, and  
That Bill Matthews and Edie Marsh-Matthews ditched us for their grandkids.  
Let us proceed.

Whereas, the 58th annual meeting took place in the beautiful, lush, forested piney woods of east Texas where the weather was lovely, the crowd was pleasant and the presentations were of superb quality, and

Whereas, during registration, members had a choice of which t-shirt color would best complement their complexion, and

Whereas, old friends convened to update one another on their research from the previous year and to share old stories, and

Whereas, there was a great diversity of presentations ranging from fish, snake, turtle, mammal, plant, and invertebrate ecology and evolution, with the exception of the "Stan Fox" symposium on lizard behavioral ecology, and

Whereas, if you did attend the Fox Symposium, you not only would have learned that precocial lizards chose their future mates, but also about evaporative water loss in toads, mud turtle physiology, behavior and conservation, learning in lizards, and of course, the showy males from down under, and

Whereas, had you been there, you also would have noticed that Troy Baird was somehow able to get away with presenting on Australian water dragons at a southwestern regional conference, and

Whereas the Wilks competition was replete with stellar performances by our four elite student presenters, and

Whereas, although seemingly uneventful (e.g. it did not occur in a tent nor did the winner break glass during her presentation), the competition was void of floral decorations due to encountering unsuspecting rose robbers, and

Whereas, as many people missed the abstract deadline, Chad Hargrave submitted on time, not one, not two, not three, but four abstracts, none of which ever materialized, and

Whereas, perhaps the phantom posters that showed up had materialized from that same netherworld from which that quartet of abstracts had vanished, and

Whereas, the words “just down the road” proved to be not only an expedition but also an ultimate exercise in map reading and interpretation, and

Whereas the stick map of Tyler provided no scale, indicating that Dallas, Shreveport and Camp Tyler are equidistant from main campus, and

Whereas, perhaps Susana Perea was using this map when she got her speeding ticket on the way to the meeting, and

Whereas, but David McNeely was able to find his way, probably due to the fact that he was guided by his “cool” walking stick. However, Bill Lutterschmidt says that the stick is not used for walking, but rather for beating off all the women, and

Whereas, in the meantime, Gary Schnell choked on oysters while waiting for his Mexican colleagues, but he made up for it at the banquet by being the only person to form his own line for food, and

Whereas, several hundred professors got lost on the way to the barbeque and turned right toward the farm instead of left toward the office (which clearly they were avoiding), and

Whereas, the “help yourself” buffet at the picnic produced mounded plates in the beginning, but offered only beans and onions on bread to the lost late-comers. This was ok, however, as some of the older members were reminded of their youthful graduate student days, and

Whereas, the keynote speaker was found walking to his hotel in the heat in the middle of the afternoon (perhaps he was observing the “natural beauty” of his surroundings), and

Whereas, Tony Echelle has retired, and although there is little hope that his fledgling replacement can fill his shoes, Michi Tobler did show that he is quite capable of drinking copious amounts of beer the night before presenting a gripping narrative from other people’s data, and

Whereas, the meeting proceeded despite the Texas drought, which has seemed to hit Tyler twice as hard, resulting in a lack of both water and alcohol, and

Whereas, the spectacular lake view at the barbeque was complemented by a fabulous jazz band,

Whereas, the SWAN organizers decided to leave the circus in Junction and convene in a more traditional university setting, and

Whereas, the nature center provided a lovely poison ivy forest setting for the opening, and an opportunity for the kids to pull record-size bluegill from the lake, and

Whereas, the campus of UT Tyler was lovely, the local committee gracious, the Cajun food delicious and the organizers accommodating, and

Whereas, the SWAN meeting in Tyler has allowed for the brand new Staybridge Inn to be properly broken in,

Whereas, the rumor spread that the grad students at Camp Tyler were in bed with lights out at 9:30 pm gave adequate concern to faculty advisors that we have not properly instilled the characteristic social activities of SWAN, and

Whereas, even though the meeting opened on Earth Day, and offered green solutions of shopping bags and flash drives, each person was forced to use numerous (about 120) plastic cups when refilling at the keg, and

Whereas, there was a misprint on the schedule where the banquet really started at 7:30 pm, not 6 pm, and

Whereas, because this is Easter weekend, all Sunday field trips will begin with both a prayer session and an Easter egg hunt, and

Whereas, many of us anxiously anticipate the yearly gathering of SWAN members, the academic family that no other can rival, and

Whereas, we thank the local committee, especially Neil Ford and Lance Williams for allowing us to hold this special meeting of naturalists (not naturists, those are naked people) in every sense of the word,

Therefore, be it resolved that all of those in attendance at the 58th annual meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists express our sincere thanks to the city of Tyler, University of Texas at Tyler, the organizers, and all of the participants (both students and faculty) that make this meeting great.

Outgoing President Eberle passed the satchel and gavel to incoming President Robert Dowler.

The meeting was adjourned at 2133 hr.

Respectfully submitted,  
Priscilla H. C. Crawford  
Secretary