

THE SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF NATURALISTS
MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING, 60th ANNUAL MEETING,
MCNEESE STATE UNIVERSITY, LAKE CHARLES, LOUISIANA
FRIDAY-SATURDAY, 5-6 APRIL 2013

President Robert Dowler called the meeting to order at 10:30 h with a quorum present. The membership approved minutes of the 2012 Board of Governors and Officers (BOG) Meeting and Business Meeting for the 59th Annual Meeting at the Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México (UAEMEX), Valle de Bravo, Estado de México, Asociación Nacional de Universidades de Educación Superior (published in *The Southwestern Naturalist* volume 57(4), and available on the SWAN webpage at <http://www.biosurvey.ou.edu/swan/>).

President Dowler appointed Wilks Award finalists Priyanka Roy Chowdhury, Nathan Holoubek, Caleb McMahan and Michael Schwemm to serve as tellers for the election of the BOG.

Michael Dixon reported on the 2012 income, expenses, and checkbook activity as summarized in the minutes of the 2013 Board of Governors and Officers meeting. Dixon then reported a summary of the 2014 proposed balanced budget of \$102,750 that was approved at the meeting of the BOG on 4 April 2013. The minutes of that meeting summarize the discussion and proposal.

Dixon presented a roster of new members for approval. There was a motion and second to approve the new members, and the motion carried.

Secretary Hayley Gillespie read a summary of the important discussion and actions taken at the 2013 meeting of the BOG on 4 April 2013.

President Dowler accepted nominations for President-Elect and nominations for the BOG, class of 2016. A ballot vote was conducted and the election results are to be announced at the banquet on Saturday evening 6 April 2013.

The Trustees report was given by Jake Schaefer. He reported that there were no transactions of the Trustees for 2012, which are summarized in the 2013 minutes of the meeting of the Board of Governors, and SWAN assets are currently valued at approximately \$716,091 YTD in 2013, an increase in value of \$93,282.88, or 15.69% over 2012 value.

Beginning the committee reports, David Heins and Jake Schaefer reported for the Development Committee and summarize their recommendation to initiate an electronic-only memberships (dues structure to be determined for 2014 at a later date), and that the first silent auction will be held at this year's meeting at the banquet on Saturday.

Loren Ammerman gave the report for the Student Awards Committee, stating that eight winners for the Howard McCarley Student Research Award will be announced at the banquet, as well as first, second and third place winners for the Clark Hubbs Student Poster Award. The committee recommended to the BOG that all student awards should require SWAN membership.

John Hunt gave the report of the Public Relations and Publicity Committee. The committee sent press releases about SWAN award winners in 2012 and Hunt urged members who are award winners to please inform the committee of publications where they would like press releases to be sent.

Michelle Haynie presented the report of the Membership Committee, and began by summarizing the history of the free student memberships and encouraged the membership to nominate students who are not currently members of SWAN for these free membership awards. Haynie summarized the committee's new charge of drafting a list of SWAN membership benefits and solicited feedback from the membership.

President Dowler gave a summary of the report of the Conservation Committee on behalf of Florence Oxley. There were no nominations for the George Miksch Sutton Award this year.

Beth Leuck reported for the Program Committee, thanking the local committee at McNeese State University for hosting this year's meeting. She reported that the 2014 meeting will be held at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, OK for the first time in 61 years, and that San Diego State University has expressed interest in hosting the 2015 meeting. Leuck encouraged the membership to suggest locations and local representatives for future meetings.

Historian Karen McBee (who keeps the archives for SWAN at the University of Oklahoma) is always interested in acquiring photos and other information for deposition in the archives and encouraged the membership to submit relevant items to her directly. President Dowler reiterated McBee's suggestion that email correspondence should also be deposited in the archives, and that official email correspondence in committee and by the BOG should be sent to her for archiving.

Susana Perea-Fox presented the report of the International Relations Committee. The deadline for applications for the Bruce Stewart Student Travel Award was moved to the same date as the deadline for abstract submission. Nine students from six universities were awarded between \$600-800 each to defray travel expenses to the annual meeting. The committee also decided that students can be awarded a maximum two travel awards.

Dan Hough reported for the Website Committee. He summarized that the committee's activities for 2012 included online submission of abstracts and meeting registration, and updating the membership directory, listserv, and Student Advisory Committee page. He asked the membership to please send him updates for the website throughout the year.

Adam Ferguson and Nicté Ordóñez-Garza presented for the Student Advisory Committee. They acknowledged all committee members and there were 126 registered students at the SWAN meeting this year and 86 student members in the Association. They encouraged students who are not members to join SWAN as a paying member or by applying for one of the free student memberships. This year's student workshop on Bayesian inferences was the first to move to a half-day Thursday workshop, and Ferguson encouraged student members to suggest future workshop topics of interest. This will be the second year of *Lunch With A Scientist*, in which students can sign up to meet for an informal lunch with professional scientists from the SWAN membership on Saturday 6 April 2013. Additionally, the Student Advisory Committee always is looking for new members and is particularly in need of a member who can help manage the SWAN Facebook page.

Celia López-González gave the report for the Wilks Committee. There were 11 applications this year for the Wilks Award on a wide range of subjects, seven from the USA and two from Mexico. She thanked committee members Edi Marsh-Matthews, Bob Edwards and Tony Echelle as well as Phil Sudman and Loren Ammerman for helping to judge this year's applications. The winners will be announced at the banquet.

Amanda Husak presented for the *ad hoc* Auction Committee, reporting that 60% of items up for auction were donated by SWAN members. The auction will be held Saturday 6 April 2013 at the banquet.

Michael Kennedy gave the report of the Budget Oversight Committee. This committee examines all aspects of the finances of the Association and reported that all is in good order, showing SWAN to be financially sound. The committee thanks the Trustees for an outstanding job in managing funds of the Association.

Michael Kennedy also gave the Managing Editor's report. All four issues of *The Southwestern Naturalist* were published on time and within budget. Kennedy thanked the Associate Editors who are stepping down this year (Marlis Douglas, Karen Francl, Floyd Weckerly, Janis Bush and James Kennedy). Troy Best thanked all reviewers who worked on manuscripts for these four issues. The journal continues to look for a new Managing Editor and Editor in addition to Associate Editors for wildlife, herps and plants. There were 107 new submissions to the journal this year (85 accepted; 28 rejected) with a charge rate of approximately \$80 per page.

Mark Eberle gave the report of the Honors Committee. After acknowledging the work of his fellow committee members, Eberle stated that there would be one award made for the 2013 W. Frank Blair Eminent Naturalist Award this year, which will be announced at the 2013 banquet and presented at the 2014 annual meeting.

Local Representative Justin Hoffman announced a few updates to the evening's picnic at the McNeese State University Farm.

This concluded the committee reports. President Dowler then took up Old Business. Dowler announced that last year he charged the Student Advisory Committee with researching how to implement an abstract translation service for SWAN members and thanked the committee for their efforts. He reported that neither the problem of how the service would be organized or funded has been resolved, but that the BOG charged the Student Advisory Committee with recommending three names of interested and qualified students to the Managing Editor that would informally be given to authors who are in need of translation services.

President Dowler also announced that this year the BOG passed a resolution to begin an online-only membership option starting in 2014 with the dues structure to be modified by 2014. Dowler encouraged members to access the journal through their institutions (if available) via BioOne, so that royalties get attributed to SWAN, but that access to BioOne can be provided through the Association to any SWAN member who does not have institutional access.

Moving on to New Business, Karen McBee and Susana Perea-Fox presented on the 61st Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists, tentatively scheduled from 17-20 April 2014 at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma. The membership also approved a motion to appoint Tod Reeder and Marshal Hedin as local representatives for the 2015 Annual Meeting at San Diego State University.

Mike Kennedy gave the managing editor's report as summarized in the 2013 BOG Meeting minutes. He announced that the journal is still seeking candidates for the Editor and Managing Editor positions.

Following a motion to do so, a second, and an approval, the Business Meeting recessed at 11:55 h to reconvene at the banquet.

The Business Meeting reconvened at the annual banquet at 20:36 h on Saturday 6 April 2013 after Immediate Past President Mark Eberle delivered his SWAN Song speech entitled, "SWAN Song 2013 in 4D: A New Pair of Glasses."

President Dowler thanked the local committee and announced the new President-Elect: Phil Sudman, and the new members of the Board of Governors, class of 2016: Raelynn Deaton Haynes, Day Ligon, Lance Williams and Ingo Schlupp.

Mark Eberle reported for the Honors Committee and announced the winner of the 2013 W. Frank Blair Eminent Naturalist Award to be Dr. Jay M. Savage, who will receive the award at the 2014 annual meeting. Dr. Savage is Emeritus Professor of Biology, the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida. He completed his undergraduate and graduate studies at Stanford University and was for many years on the faculty at the University of Southern California before moving to the University of Miami. His research is on the evolutionary and historic determinants of the systematics and distribution of vertebrates (especially amphibians and reptiles), their ecological role in tropical forests, and biogeographic theory. He was instrumental in founding the Organization for Tropical Studies (OTS) and served as OTS' president from 1974-1980. Over his career he has been the major professor for 39 PhD students and a number of Master degree recipients. He was a member of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (1982-2000). Dr. Savage also has served as President of the Southern California Academy of Sciences, the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists and the Society of Systematic Biologists. He chaired the National Academy of Sciences Committee that prepared the book: *Ecological Aspects of Development in the Humid Tropics* (1982). His publications include over 200 papers and three books, including the 2002 *Amphibians and Reptiles of Costa Rica*.

To quote letters in support of Savage's nomination, "[He] shaped the study of herpetology from the southwest US southward into tropical Central America and beyond. His legacy continues through the large group of [his] graduate students who reside at Ph.D. producing institutions." Furthermore, "[He] is one of the most accomplished naturalists of his generation, an incredibly creative and forward-thinking leader, and a wonderful person who will be remembered for the excellence of his scientific contributions but especially for his extensive mentoring of graduate students."

As approved by the BOG in 2012, The President's Award was awarded to Fi Choate for her 20+ years of service as financial manager of the assets of the Association.

This being the 60th anniversary of the inaugural meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists, President Dowler invited all present to stand and then remain standing if they had attended previous decadal anniversaries of SWAN meetings. Marian McCarley and Jim and Mary Dixon were recognized for the longest history of attendance at SWAN meetings of those in attendance. McCarley was invited to the podium, from which she spoke of her reminiscences of that first meeting in 1953.

Felipe de Jesús Rodríguez-Romero presented the Bruce Stewart Student Travel Awards. The committee received 22 applications and made 12 awards in 2013 to: Ali Ituriel Villanueva Hernández, Julio César Martínez Gaytán, Aheizer Rodríguez Toban, Guadalupe Garrido Martínez, Josefina Ramos Frías, Inocensia Avalos-Huerta, Luz María Sil Berra, Rosa Gabriela Beltrán López, Mara Erika Paredes Lira, Yulina Martínez Menítez, María de Guadalupe López Garduño, Hugo Pillado Correa.

Loren Ammerman, Chair of the Student Awards Committee, recognized the SWAN members who helped evaluate the applicants for the 2013 student awards: Michelle Haynie, Jesse Meiks, Julie Waits, Hayley Gillespie, Celia López-González, Nicté Ordóñez-Garza, Adam Ferguson, Monte Thies, Jessica Light, Chris Higgins, and Raelynn Deaton. She announced the seven recipients of the Howard McCarley Student Research Awards (\$1,000): Charline Valerie Mejía, St. Edwards University; Hillary P. Evans, St. Edwards University; Emma Roberts, Texas Tech University; Rubén Tovar, Texas State University; Oliver Keller, Wichita State University; Matthew J. Troia, Kansas State University; Danielle Alba, Oklahoma State University; Scott Clark, University of Southern Mississippi. Ammerman also announced the 2013 recipients of the Clark Hubbs Student Poster Award: (first place, \$600) Corey D. Cates, for his poster with Rachel Eldore, David Ford and Neil B. Ford entitled, “Behavioral changes related to compensatory growth in corn snakes (*Pantherophis guttata*);” (second place, \$400) Savannah Michaelson for her poster with Jacob Schaefer entitled, “Fluctuating asymmetry as an indicator of environmental stress in the Mississippi Sound caused by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill;” and (third place, \$200) Reid Morehouse for his poster with Michael Tobler entitled, “Crayfishes of Oklahoma: Identification, distributions, and ecology.”

Celia López-González, President-Elect, presented the 2013 Wilks Award (\$1,000) to Nathan S. Holoubek, Emporia State University, for his presentation, “Bird occupancy in relation to habitat structure in the oak savanna cross timbers of Kansas, USA.” All four Wilks Award finalists were awarded a \$250 honorarium to help defray travel costs.

President Dowler thanked the *ad hoc* Auction Committee and the Local Representatives and Local Committee for a job well done.

Raelynn Deaton Haynes read and the membership adopted the following resolution, which was authored by Raelynn Deaton Haynes, Jessica Sánchez (Florida International University) and the Deaton Haynes Lab at St. Edward’s University, Austin, TX.

Whereas, on the 4th through the 7th of April 2013, naturalists from across the southwest, Mexico, and Central America convened for the 60th anniversary of the annual meeting of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists, and

Whereas, the conference was held among the beautiful backdrop of the flowering Louisiana landscape speckled with “herp-filled” plants and serenading fish crows, and

Whereas, although Louisiana hardly qualifies as the southwest (even though it is technically west of the Mississippi) we are all thankful to the local hosts for graciously allowing us to gather for this special occasion in the heart of Cajun country, and

Whereas the local host provided a very well organized meeting amidst casinos, the historical town of Lake Charles and the lovely campus of McNeese State University, and

Whereas the local hosts provided us with amazing food at the opening reception and picnic, with options for all dietary preferences as long as those consisted of crawfish, sausage or beer, and

Whereas, although the crawfish festival isn’t until next week, we ate enough mudbugs and other delicious Cajun cuisine such that everyone will go home a few pounds heavier and with stained fingertips, and

Whereas, while other conferences give flash drives in their gift bags, SWAN gives beer openers, but no alcohol... which was ok because you can buy liquor and beer at Wal-Mart in Louisiana, and

Whereas, there were numerous opportunities for students to learn from the professional, academic community of beer-fueled, chaco-wearing, flannel-clad, grisly-bearded field biologists, and

Whereas, this year there was an unprecedented number of funded McCarley grants, plus travel awards for all Wilks finalists, and

Whereas, the impressive Wilks talks spanned the fields of ecology, evolution and conservation with research presented on bird diversity, *Daphnia* phenotypic variation, and fish phylogenetics and population genetics, and

Whereas, SWANers kept it classy by eating an abundance of crawfish under a barn, on the back of a trailer, and out of cattle troughs, and

Whereas, after copious amounts of alcohol from the kegs, SWANers had trouble finding the port-o-potties in the dark; but being field biologists, most preferred the bushes anyway, and

Whereas, in true Louisiana fashion, we were treated to an impromptu blue grass jam session by the hay bales, and

Whereas, Texans are happy to drink past 2 am while Okies are just happy to drink real beer, and

Whereas, this year it appears that the fish biologists might be taking over with 6 sessions; however, there also was an unprecedented number of talks on alligators and bats, and

Whereas, students were provided an excellent ecology lesson in optimal foraging theory at the casino by minimizing resources spent on penny slots while maximizing free drinks and

Whereas the local host apparently moonlights as a car thief, carrying his own “Slim Jim” and then leaving part of it in the car of an unnamed person (who may or may not be called Susana Perea-Fox), and

Whereas, this year there were very interesting talks ranging from leukocyte ratios in response to stress in snakes, length of oviduct molding sperm morphology, effects of lunar light on puma activity and fire ant predation on alligator hatchlings, and

Whereas the fish talks took place in a room full of mounted mammal heads, and

Whereas, we lost a few presenters in that session, possibly to the gigantic hippo mounted directly above the speakers heads, and

Whereas, we were very warmly welcomed to LA despite the sub-arctic conditions of Frasch hall, but at least no one was sleeping through any presentations, and

Whereas, the directions to the banquet (to take the 1st right onto Kyle St.) takes you into an industrial parking lot filled with 18-wheelers adjacent to warehouses (or at least that is where Dave McNeely ended up), and

Whereas, the journal turn-around is just now less than was the wait for alcoholic beverages tonight, and

Whereas, on this very special 60th SWAN anniversary, our good friends Clark Hubbs and Bruce Stewart are greatly missed and would be proud of the turnout of the presentations and quality of research here,

Whereas these resolutions may be shorter than usual, many of you have black jack tables, craps and “foraging theory” awaiting, so

Be it resolved, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to the local committee, especially co-chairs Charles Watson and Justin Hoffman, who made this meeting a

success, bid farewell to our past president Dr. Robert Dowler and give a warm welcome to our new president Dr. Celia López-González whom we know will carry on the SWAN traditions to her fullest.

President Dowler then called on Celia López-González to come forward and receive the SWAN Presidential Satchel, noting that it was present at the first meeting of SWAN in 1953 and has been passed down from President to President during the 60-year history of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists. Lopez-Gonzalez reciprocated by presenting Dowler with a plaque commemorating his presidency from 2011-2013.

President Dowler thanked everyone for coming, invited the membership to the 61st annual meeting at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma, in 2014 and declared the meeting adjourned at 21:20 h.

Respectfully submitted,
J. Hayley Gillespie
Secretary