

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING  
OF THE HERPETOLOGISTS' LEAGUE

NCED/Marriott Conference Center  
Norman, Oklahoma  
28 May 2004

President Mushinsky called the meeting to order at 1710 h.

After introductions of Herpetologists' League (HL) officers, Mushinsky reviewed business from the 26 May Board of Trustees Meeting. This included:

- Overview of joint meeting venues over the next several years.
- Overview of Treasurer's report, noting that the HL started the fiscal year with \$223,500 and ended with \$229,800. The HL presently has 864 individual and 446 institutional members.
- HL is becoming a member of JSTOR, which will minimize the need to continue large numbers of back issues of our journals.
- HL in 2005 will sponsor a symposium titled "Introduced Amphibians and Reptiles: Reaching Beyond Case Studies" that will be chaired by Todd S. Campbell (University of Tampa, FL).
- The cost of publishing Darrel Frost's update of *Amphibian Species of the World* will be underwritten by HL.
- Revisions to the HL by-laws were passed at the Board of Trustees meeting. The new version will be posted on the society's website. Life memberships can now be purchased for \$1500.
- Brief discussion of the evolution from hard copy to electronic formatting, and its implications for both the future of library subscriptions and the financial health of the HL. As a result of a meeting with representatives of BioOne, there are clearly many options available and the future appears to be optimistic.
- Announcement that members will be contacted one time regarding the journal *Systematic Biology*.

Mushinsky made several announcements in which he solicited volunteers or input from the audience. These included:

- Formation of a Long Range Planning Committee. Volunteers interested in participating with this committee should contact its chair, Robert Jaeger.
- Formation of an Education Committee in conjunction with our membership in AIBS, devoted to outreach to the general public.
- We need a replacement for Roger Conant as an honorary member. We encourage nominations of individuals from the US or Canada who are distinguished herpetologists worthy of this recognition.

The HL wishes to express its appreciation of the service of Steve Tilley as Associate Editor of *Herpetologica*. We are open to suggestions for a replacement. Dean Adams accepted an invitation to serve as Associate Editor of Ecology (amphibians).

Aaron Bauer announced the 2005 World Congress of Herpetology that will be in South Africa, close to Cape Town.

There was a discussion about what the HL can do for its membership, particularly in the area of helping graduate students become better scientists. Brian Smith, Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee, encouraged members with ideas to contact him; graduate students are particularly welcomed. 30-40 graduate students attended this year's workshop titled "Tips on Grantsmanship". Several graduate students present acknowledged the value of the June 1998 Supplement of *Herpetologica* that gives advice on how to give presentations, write papers, etc. Remaining stock should be retained and distributed as appropriate when back issues of our journals are disposed of.

Christopher Sheil reported for the Jaeger Award Committee. This year's judges were Christopher Beachy, Brian Crother and Christopher Sheil. Four finalists were identified from eight participants: David G. Chapple (Australian National University, Canberra, Australia), Richard E. Glor (Washington University, St. Louis, MO), Rachel M. Goodman (University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN), and Jennifer B. Pramuk (National History Museum and Biodiversity Center, Lawrence, KS). Finalists received \$200, 10 years of *Herpetologica*, and were treated to dinner. The winner will receive all available back issues of *Herpetologica*, \$300 more, and an invitation to submit an expanded full-length manuscript to *Herpetologica/Herpetological Monographs* (which will be subject to normal review) as a lead article identifying the author as winner of the Award.

The meeting was adjourned at 1800 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mac F. Given, Secretary