

Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Herpetologists' League

1 August 2014

Chattanooga Convention Center, Chattanooga, TN, USA

Spotila called the meeting to order at 1802.

1) 2013 Business Meeting minutes – Herman

The 2013 Business Meeting minutes were approved as amended.

David Green moved to accept, Aliko Panagopoulou seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

2) Meeting Management and Planning Committee report – Mahoney

David Green will be taking over as Chair of this committee.

SSAR will be meeting separately from the JMIH for 2015 in Reno.

Committee recommends that we meet with the other societies in New Orleans for 2016.

Committee recommends that we meet with the other societies for 2017.

3) Past President's report – Trauth

No comments for now.

4) President's report – Spotila

Society is in good shape financially. Ken Cabarle and John Herman are doing very well in their new roles. We need to be proactive in recruiting new members and in making the League relevant to graduate students and young professionals.

The Distinguished Herpetologists' Award was increased to \$1,500 and a plaque was given.

Trauth - Could past awardees also receive a plaque? Spotila - It will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Honorary members can be nominated at the board meeting and the general meeting. We are trying to increase diversity, so if anyone has a nominee just send Spotila an email.

5) Treasurer's report – Mahoney

Positive financial year, net assets increased. Publication sales are our big money item, while journal publication costs are our largest expense followed by meetings.

6) Long Range Planning –Green

The committee had a meeting on Friday, August 1st to discuss ideas. The league membership is declining and journal subscriptions are being seen as less valuable.

How do we make HL distinctive to the other societies? It was suggested that we try to enhance the early career herp professionals. This may help the membership issues. A Service to the Profession Award, companion to the Distinguished Herpetologists' Award, would encompass service outside HL and would include contributions to the profession as a whole.

The graduate student committee needs to be refreshed. So if any of the grad students are interested look for an email to get involved and participate in the creation of the calendar. This calendar will be given to grad student as an incentive for membership.

7) Secretary's report – Herman

Please keep an eye on your email for any electronic votes that may happen.

8) Membership- Trauth

Membership has dropped despite our financial increases. The senior individuals aren't signing up nor the students. If you have ideas to increase membership let us know. Remember that we have to also implement those ideas. Spotila reminded the membership to think about why we are a society, why we are here. It is more than just the journals. We have specific ideals and goals as a society and we should work to promote them.

9) Publications Secretary/Webmaster's report – Cabarle

We sold some back issues this past year and Breck Bartholomew scanned some additional back issues, so look for those to be for sale soon. Website hits are about the same. The website should be re-designed. It needs to be more user-friendly and attractive. We also have a Facebook page that we need to do a better job with.

10) Herpetologica Editor's report – Mullin

The journal is on schedule and manuscripts are in the pipeline for the next issues. 46% acceptance, 54% rejection rate, and submission rate about the same. New author guidelines are available so use them to make the transition easier. An underutilized resource is additional resources, such as figures, videos, photos that appear on-line but not in print. Color figures are free for on line publication, so take advantage of that. Our journals are amongst the highest ranked, in terms of impact factor, for all herpetology journals.

11) Herpetological Monographs Editor's report – Harvey

Mullin reported that everything is going well.

12) Allen Press publishing report – Karen Ridgway

Nothing to report.

13) Conservation Committee report – Lovich

We write letters for support or not on conservation issues, such as the rattlesnake gassing ban, which is being proposed in Texas. We want more grad students on the committee, so get in touch if you want to be involved. Web page will be updated with a conservation section for more funding opportunities.

14) Symposium Committee report – Mahoney

2015 Reno we will have Don Rosen Symposium, very diversified speaker list so something for everyone.

Tomorrow begins the Lizard and Tuatara Symposium, please attend.

We need more ideas submitted for future symposia, there is money available.

15) Williams Award Committee report – Paterson

Majority of students are getting really good feedback. This is a valuable resource even if they don't win. We would also like to hear any comments about the process.

E.E. Williams Award winners 2014:

last name	first name	category	title
Addis	Brett	Behavior	How random is dispersal? Detecting a genetic basis underlying dispersal behavior in <i>Gyrinophilus porphyriticus</i>
Bauder	Javan	Conservation	Conservation Genetics of the Federally Threatened Eastern Indigo Snake (<i>Drymarchon couperi</i>) in Central Florida
Folt	Brian	Ecology	Does Leaf-drop Phenology Regulate Abundance Cycles of Terrestrial Amphibians and Reptiles in Wet Neotropical Forests?
Title	Pascal	Morphology/ systematics	Does niche conservatism drive population divergence?
Lewis	Zack	Physiology	Using Transcriptomics to Understand the Development and Physiology of Lung Loss During Salamander Evolution

E.E. Williams Honorable Mention awards 2014:

last name	first name	category	title
Rhymer	Rachel	Behavior	Determining the role of parental care in an Argentinean lizard
Rose	Jonathan	Conservation	Integrating environmental DNA and occupancy modeling for invasive species detection
Paez-Vacas	Monica	Ecology	Do environmental differences along an elevation gradient promote local adaptation in tropical frogs?
No award	No award	Morphology/ Systematics	No award
Gangloff	Eric	Physiology	A metabolomics test of thermal tolerance in the gartersnake <i>Thamnophis elegans</i>
Neuman-Lee	Lorin	Physiology	Physiological consequences of evolutionary adaptations to a natural toxin (tetrodotoxin) and a similar pesticide

16) Jones-Lovich Award Committee report – Spencer

Rob Lovich was pleased to offer the award in its fourth year. The number of students has increased. A 5 person committee reviews the proposals. The proposals are very high quality and diverse. The 2014 Jones-Lovich Grant in Southwestern Herpetology was given to Matthew Holding (Ohio State University) for his project entitled: *Different Arms in the Same Race: Local Adaptation of Multiple Activities, Venom Toxicity and Resistance in Rattlesnakes and Their Prey*. This award is for \$1000.

The award has funds for another few years but will try to extend it as long as possible.

17) Graduate Studies Committee report – Neuman-Lee

No additional information to report.

18) BioOne/AIBS report – Savitzky

AIBS has many organismal societies that reside under their umbrella. They have two main foci: public policy and education. In particular, conservation and funding, mostly NSF. It represents a notification center for breaking news on funding opportunities and issues.

BioOne provides an on-line subscription base. Provide us with substantial funds.

19) Graduate Research Award Committee report – Espinoza

Bobby Espinoza was the organizer the judges were: Mary White, Dawn Wilson, Sara Ruane, Fred Zaidan III, Chris Feldman, Marion Preest, and Stephen Mullin.

There were 19 graduate student talks. It was a difficult decision. The bylaws state we can award 1 winner and up to 4 runner ups, this year we will issue 3 runner ups (\$250 and Snake Species of the World) and 1 winner (\$750, ten years of back issues of their choosing, Snake Species of World, and publication as lead article in some issue of Herpetologica after peer-review).

last name	first name	Award	title
Denton	Robert	Winner	Sexuality on the Move: Dispersal of Unisexual and sexual Mole Salamanders (<i>Ambystoma</i>) Across a Fragmented Landscape
Grummer	Jared	1 st Runner-up	Those Dammed Frogs: Investigating the Impacts of River Dams on the Micro-population Genetic Structure of the Tailed Frog (<i>Ascaphus truei</i>) Using Thousands of SNPs
Anderson	Thomas	2 nd Runner-up	Multiple Predator Effects and Habitat Complexity Alter a Larval Salamander Intraguild Predation Module
Long	Andrea	3 rd Runner-up	The Effect of Red-imported Fire Ants on Eastern Fence Lizard Recruitment and Survival

20) New Business

- Journals published in 2015 will be the next 20 year block that will need to be indexed. This is a difficult process and we would appreciate anyone that would be willing to help or contribute to the effort.
- There are a few HL anniversaries that are coming up over the next few years, which we will need to decide on how to celebrate.

Meeting adjourned at 1852.