

Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Herpetologists' League

12 July 2013

Albuquerque Convention Center, Albuquerque, NM, USA

Trauth called the meeting to order at 1808.

Meetings Management and Planning Committee Representative's Report (Mahoney)

HL will be meeting in Chattanooga in 2014 and in Reno in 2015 (SSAR will be meeting separately). The 2014 Joint Meetings will be a day shorter. The 2016 meeting location is in the process of being determined. The Board of Trustees has changed how HL's representative is appointed to the MMPC.

President's Report (Trauth)

There is a new *Herpetologica* Editor (Mullin). Later this year a new Secretary, Publications Secretary, and Councilors will be elected. Current nominees for President include David M. Green, David M. Sever, and Richard C. Vogt. The nominee for Secretary is John E. Herman. The nominee for Publications Secretary is Kenneth C. Cabarle. Nominees for Councilor include Kim Lovich, Ann V. Paterson, and Christopher E. Petersen.

There were no additional nominations from the floor for these positions.

Allen Press Publisher's Report (Rigeway)

The society's journals are being produced on time, and there have been changes in editorship. AP is working on a new contract to be approved by HL.

Treasurer's Report (Mahoney)

HL is in a balanced financial situation. There has been an increase in the overall value of assets since the investment accounts have been increasing. This is offset by declining membership. Next year's budget is predicted to be similar to the current year.

Membership/Long Range Planning Committee (Mahoney)

There has been an increase in student membership over the past few years. Regular members continue to decline. Before the Joint Meeting, Spotila initiated a conference call among members of the committee to discuss membership issues. The committee plans to continue to address declining membership, what to do with royalty income, and what the role of a society with very few members and a large income would be. The committee also will be working on a strategic plan for the society.

Secretary's Report (Owen)

Electronic elections will be occurring this fall for the positions noted above by Trauth. Again, thanks to Breck Bartholomew for helping to facilitate the electronic elections.

Publications Secretary's/Webmaster's Report (Mullin)

HL is changing its marketing of *Snakes of the World Vol. 1*. Remaining copies that HL owns will be sent to Breck Bartholomew, and he will help HL offer these for sale. They will be offered to HL members at reduced rate and also offered as prizes. Calendar sales did very well last year, and the 2014 mockup is on display at the AP bench.

There is now a Spanish mirror site. Announcements can be posted to the HerpList discussion forum on the HL website, and this forum remains underutilized.

Herpetologica/Herpetological Monographs Editors Report (Mullin)

The journals continue to remain on schedule. There has been a pronounced turnover in associate editors, and these associate editors have been doing a great job. *Herpetological Monographs* is on schedule and is still maintains the quantity and quality of articles of the previous volume.

Symposium Committee Report (Mahoney)

Mahoney thanked the team of reviewers (Robert Fisher, Adam Leache, Sara Ruane, and Mary White) who approved "Reproductive biology and phylogeny of lizards and tuatara", organized by Stanley Trauth, Justin Rheubert, and Dustin Siegel. The symposium is designed to coincide with the preparation of the 10th volume in the *Reproductive Biology and Phylogeny* book series.

Graduate Research Award (Mahoney)

This year there are ten competitors, and the winners will be announced at the banquet.

Mahoney listed the judges from 2012: Kevin de Queiroz, Lisa C. Hazard, Meredith J. Mahoney, Jimmy A. McGuire, Kenneth E. Nussear, Carol L. Spencer, and C. Tristan Stayton.

The 2012 winner was Melissa Amarello, "Social snakes? Arizona black rattlesnake aggregations exhibit hallmarks of sociality."

The 2012 runners up were:

1st: Iris Starnberger, "Multimodal signaling in African reed frogs: attraction through calls, colors and chemical cues?"

2nd: Oliver Griffith, “Lipoprotein lipase expression increases in the uterus of a pregnant skink”

3rd: Daniel Moen, “Convergence in jumping and swimming performance in assemblages of frogs from three continents”

4th: Andrew Gottscho, “Statistical phylogeography of fringe-toed lizards (*Uma*): inferring modes of speciation from multi-locus data”

Williams Award (Paterson)

This was the 4th year for this award, and awards were given in each of 5 categories: Behavior, Conservation, Ecology, Morphology and Systematics, and Physiology.

Last name	First name	Category	Title
Steinberg	David	Behavior	The relationship between sensory and communication systems in anoles
Treglia	Michael	Conservation	Integrating Field Data and Large-Scale Modeling for Effective Conservation of the Endangered Arroyo Toad
Kraemer	Andrew	Ecology	The Impact of Model Toxicity on Batesian Mimicry
Tarvin	Rebecca	Morphology/ systematics	Evolutionary origins and consequences of alkaloid insensitivity in poison frogs.
Durso	Andrew	Physiology	The Effects of Isotopic Routing, Discrimination Factors, and Equilibration on Stable Isotope Studies of Snake Diets

Jones-Lovich Award (Rob Lovich)

The 2013 Jones-Lovich Grant in Southwestern Herpetology was given to Ruben Tovar (Texas State University- San Marcos) for his project: “Texas Blind Salamander and San Marcos Salamander: An ideal system for studying the comparative expression of Pax6 as a mediator of ocular development, a case study in evolutionary developmental biology”. This award is for \$1000 and this is the third time the award was given. Award judges for 2013 were Rob Lovich, Carol Spencer, Marina Gerson, Sean Rovito, and Ted Papenfuss. Nine students applied.

There is enough funding for this award to be given for another 3-4 years. The money includes royalties donated from a new printing of *Lizards of the American Southwest*.

Conservation Committee Report (Kim Lovich)

The committee continues to communicate with AZA (Association of Zoos and Aquariums), which has helped in monitoring important conservation developments in the US Congress. The committee is still looking at ways to involve students in its work. The committee signed a petition on Alpine Golden Salamander. The Jamaican iguana is under immediate threat. IUCN has asked for letters of support for protecting its Hellshire Hills habitat, and the committee wrote a letter of support.

BioOne/AIBS Representative's Report (Savitzky)

BioOne continues to do electronic publishing for HL's journals and to return royalties. AIBS is working on its own strategic planning, focusing on 2-3 core areas representing organismal/ecological biologists, and it has become more involved in undergraduate and K-12 education.

Education Committee Report (Mullin)

The Meritorious Teaching Award in Herpetology was given to Craig Guyer. The committee has planned a Science Café for herpetologists to pitch science to the public at Marble Brewery in Albuquerque on 15 July.

Graduate Student Committee Report (Mullin)

The committee is producing another calendar, and AP will be contracted to print it. Lori is looking for additional help on the committee, especially help selling the calendar and judging photo submissions.

New Business

Turtle conservation worker killed (Sullivan/Kim Lovich)

Sullivan and Lovich indicated that the Conservation Committee would like to publish a piece that focuses on the issue of the dangers and risks of fieldwork in *Herpetological Review* or *Herpetological Conservation and Biology*. This is in response to a recent incident where a turtle conservation worker was kidnapped and killed in Costa Rica. The goal would be to remind professionals of these dangers and to give tips on how to reduce inherent risks. Mahoney noted that the HL Facebook page could be used to support this. Savitzky agreed that this incident deserved an appropriate memorial notice, but noted that all field biologists have risk-assessment protocols as part of their work. David Green suggested a resolution that

memorialized the individual and the tragedy. The Conservation Committee will report their decision on this to the society.

Electronic publishing (Trauth)

Trauth proposed that HL move toward abbreviated online publishing (eventually publishing online exclusively). Bound volumes of journals would be printed at the end of the year for those who would want hard copy. The cost of doing this is being looked into by Rigeway. Sullivan indicated that undergraduate and graduate students are in general in favor of this idea. Some students want hard copy too, but an end of year collection of issues meets this desire. Mahoney indicated that HL membership is currently about 1/3 online only, and this proportion is increasing. White suggested that the environmentally conscious or sustainable choice is to go online.

Herpetological Conservation and Biology (Trauth)

Spotila has approached Malcolm McCallum about making *Herpetological Conservation and Biology* affiliated with HL. This will be discussed later at the JMIH in more detail.

Discussion points in favor of this affiliation were:

- The same abbreviated publishing concept that HL is considering could be applied to *Herpetological Conservation and Biology* with bound volumes printed at the end of the year.
- Many zoo staff are not HL members but are very active readers of *Herpetological Conservation and Biology*, and this could broaden HL's membership and readership.
- Papers deemed to be not a good fit for one journal could be referred to the other journal.
- Conservation issues seem to be an increasing reason why students pay to join societies and come to the JMIH, and this affiliation could broaden HL's conservation appeal.

Concerns about the affiliation included:

- *Herpetological Conservation and Biology* would need to be agreeable to editorial control by HL and be open to conforming to its standards.
- *Herpetological Conservation and Biology* is a free journal and has no production costs. By comparison, the investment in editorial and production activity is much higher in HL's journals, which raises the question about which model would ultimately be applied to the journal.
- There is currently no exploratory committee working on this, which could put together a memorandum of understanding and could outline the rationale for the affiliation and the relative benefits to both sides. These issues need to be articulated to the broader HL membership before a decision is made.

Journal cover photo competition (Trauth)

Allowing students to submit cover photos for the journals could be a way to entice students to join and increase membership.

Trauth adjourned the meeting at 1940.