

American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists

Board of Governors Meeting



New Orleans Marriott – Galerie 2

New Orleans, Louisiana

6 July 2016



Prosanta Chakrabarty
Secretary
Louisiana State University
Museum of Natural Science
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Baton Rouge, LA 70816
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347-556-5690

7 June 2016

Dear ASIH,

I'm honored to submit my first "BOG Book" as Secretary of the ASIH. The ASIH Board of Governor's is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, 6 July 2016 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm in Galerie 2 of the New Orleans Marriott. This is the 100th Anniversary Meeting and it promises to be a good time: *Laissez les bons temps rouler!*

President Donnelly plans to move blanket acceptance of all reports included in this book that cover society business for 2015 and 2016 (in part). The book includes the candidate information for the 2016 elections that will take place after the meeting via electronic voting through Allen Press. The Board of Governors will vote on the candidates for the four awards committees at the meetings.

Governors can ask to have items exempted from blanket approval. These exempted items will be acted upon individually. We will also act individually on items exempted by the Executive Committee during their meeting. Please remember to bring a version of this booklet with you to the meeting. Wireless internet access will be provided to all JMIH 2015 attendees and the Twitter hashtag for the meeting is #JMIH16 (follow @ASIHCOPEIA for breaking news).

Please contact me directly (ASIHsec@outlook.com) with any questions you may have. Please notify me if you will not be able to attend the meeting so I can share your regrets with the Governors.

The Annual Business Meeting will be held on Saturday 9 July 2015 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm in Galerie 2. Please plan to attend both the BOG meeting and Annual Business Meeting.

I look forward to seeing you in NOLA.

Sincerely,

Prosanta Chakrabarty
ASIH Secretary

ASIH BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2015

Past Presidents		Executive Committee	Elected Governors (Sectional Editors)
Beaupre, S.J.	Matthews, W.J.	Allen, L.G.	Buth, D.G.
Burr, M.B.	Mayden, R.L.	Beachy, C.K.	Chakrabarty, P.
Cannatella, D.C.	McDiarmid, R.W.	Donnelly, M.A.	Espinoza, R.E.
Cashner, R.C.	Mushinsky, H.R.	Martin, F.D.	Grande, T.
Cohen, D.M.	Page, L.M.	Matthews, W.J.	Kerby, J.
Collette, B.B.	Parenti, L.R.	Retzer, M.	Klepadlo, C.
Douglas, M.E.	Pietsch, T.W.	Shaffer, H.B.	Lannoo, M.J.
Frost, D.R.	Pough, F.H.	Zaidan, F.	Litzgus, J.D.
Gilbert, C.R.	Rabb, G.G.		Martin, K.L.
Greene, H.W.	Robins, C.R.		Near, T.J.
Greenfield, D.W.	Savage, J.M.		Orr, J.W.
Gregory, P.T.	Savitzky, A.H.		Reis, R.E.
Hanken, J.	Shaffer H.B.		Schaefer, J.
Highton, R.	Smith, G.R.		Siegel, D.S.
Hutchison, V.H.	Trueb, L.		Smith, W.L.
Inger, R.F.	Wake, M.H.		Snodgrass, J.M.
Lundberg, J.G.			Stuart, B.

Class of 2015	Class of 2016	Class of 2017	Class of 2018	Class of 2019
Crumly, C.R.	Allen, L.G.	Burbrink, F.T.	Baldwin, C.C.	Cole, K.S.
Espinoza, R.E.	Austin, C.C.	Conway, K.W.	Craig, M.T.	Feldman, C.R.
Friel, J.P.	Bevier, C.R.	Douglas, M.R.	de Queiroz, K.	George, A.L.
Marsh-Matthews, E.	Cashner, M.F.	Montgomery, C.E.	Diaz, R.E.	Harris, P.M.
Munroe, T.A.	Doody, J.S.	Neighbors, M.A.	Leaché, A.D.	Hickerson, C-A.M.
Paterson, A.	Ferraris, C.J.	Rocha, L.A.	López, J.A.	Hilton, E.J.
Pyron, M.	Fontenot, C.L.	Ross, S.T.	Piller, K.R.	Parker, M.R.
Richter, S.C.	Schaefer, S.A.	Siegel, D.S.	Pyron, R.A.	Ruane, S.
Webb, J.	Snyder, A.M.	Watkins- Colwell, G.J.	Turner, T.F.	Smith, W.L.
White, M.E.	Spencer, C.L.	Watling, J.I.	Willson, J.D.	Todd, B.D.

Officers – 2015

President – Larry G. Allen
President-Elect – Maureen A. Donnelly
Past President – H. Bradley Shaffer
Prior Past President – William J. Matthews
Secretary – Maureen A. Donnelly
Treasurer – F. Douglas Martin
Editor – Christopher Beachy

Copeia Staff – 2015

Editor – Christopher Beachy
Production Editor – Kathleen Smith
Figure Editor – Wm. Leo Smith
General Ichthyology Editor – Donald G. Buth
General Ichthyology Editor – Thomas J. Near
General Ichthyology Editor – Roberto Reis
General Herpetology Editor – Michael J. Lannoo
General Herpetology Editor – Bryan Stuart
General Herpetology Editor – Jacob Kerby
Ecology and Ethology Editor – Jacob Schaefer
Ecology and Ethology Editor – Joel Snodgrass
Ecology and Ethology Editor – Jacqueline Litzgus
Genetics, Development and Morphology Editor – Wm. Leo Smith
Genetics, Development and Morphology Editor – Dustin Siegel
Genetics, Development and Morphology Editor – Terry Grande
Physiology and Physiological Ecology Editor – Karen Martin
Index Co-Editor – Cynthia Klepadlo
Index Co-Editor – Jay W. Orr
Book Review Editor Ichthyology – Prosanta Chakrabarty
Book Review Editor Herpetology – Robert E. Espinoza

ASIH Committees - 2015

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Steven J. Beaupre - (Chair)
Members: William J. Matthews, H. Bradley Shaffer

COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

Jon Armbruster - armbrjw@auburn.edu (Chair)
Members: Hank Bart, Jacqueline Litzgus

COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE STUDENT PARTICIPATION

Abbigail Nicholson - aenicholson1s@semo.edu (Chair)
Bill Ludt – wbludt@gmail.com (Chair-elect)

Savannah Michaelson – savannah.michaelsen@selu.edu (Secretary)

Book Raffle Committee:

Cheryl Thelie – theileca@hotmail.com (Chair)

Erica Rottmann – Erica.rottmann@selu.edu

Kim Foster – Kimberly.foster@selu.edu

Workshop Committee:

Helen Plylar – Helen.plylar@selu (Chair)

Kim Foster – Kimberly.foster@selu.edu

Julia Schmidt-Petersen – Julia.schmidtpetersen@gmail.com

Travel Awards Organizer – Drew Davis – drew.davis@usd.edu

Conservation Committee Facebook Coordinators: David Delaney – dmdelane@uab.edu,

Thornton Larson – trlarson@miners.utep.edu, Natalia Bayona – njbayonav@gmail.com, James Cureton – james.c.cureton.ii@gmail.com, and Corey Cates – cdcates@uab.edu

Conservation Committee Representatives: Luke Bower (Luke.Bower@selu.edu), Bryan Frenette – bryan.d.frenette-1@ou.edu

Long Range Planning & Policy Committee Representatives: Malorie Hayes (malorie.hayes@auburn.edu), Shab Mohammadi – shab.mohammadi@gmail.com

Web Content Coordinator – Shab Mohammadi – shab.mohammadi@gmail.com

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Frank McCormick - FMcCormick@fs.fed.us (Chair)

Members: Matt Aresco, Jonathan Baskin, Luke Bower (student member), Noel Burkhead, Todd Campbell, Jacque Carter, Barry Chernoff, Bryan Frenette (student member), Anna George, David Green, Harry Greene, Pat Gregory, Gene Helfman, Karen Lips, Bill Loftus, Nick Mandrak, Joe Mitchell, Henry Mushinsky, Jack Musick, Phil Pister, George Rabb, Stephen Richter, Al Savitzky, Brad Shaffer, Gerald (Jerry) Smith, Peter Unmack, Steve Walsh, Mel Warren, Jim Williams

EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Michael Pauers - michael.pauers@uwc.edu (Chair)

Members: Prosanta Chakrabarty, Steve Kimble Elizabeth Marchio (student member)

ENDOWMENT and FINANCE COMMITTEE

Michael Retzer - michaelretzer@sbcglobal.net (Chair)

Members: Linda Ford (2013-2016), Kathleen Cole (2014-2016), Norma Salcedo (2015-2018), F. Douglas Martin (Ex Officio), Frederic Zaidan (Ex Officio)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Larry G. Allen – larry.allen@csun.edu (Chair & President)

Members: H. Bradley Shaffer (Past President), William J. Matthews (Prior Past President), Frederick Zaidan (Chair of LRPP) Christopher Beachy (Editor), Michael Retzer (Chair of ENFC), Maureen Donnelly (Secretary and President-Elect), F. Douglas Martin (Treasurer)

HENRY S. FITCH AWARD COMMITTEE

Karen R. Lips – frost@amnh.org (Chair)

Members: Richard Seigel (2014–2016), Jonathan A. Campbell (2015–2017)

GAIGE FUND AWARD COMMITTEE

Christopher Tracy – ctracy@fullerton.edu (Chair)

Members: Karen Lips (2015), Cari-Ann Hickerson (2016), Adam Leaché (2015—2017)

HERPETOLOGICAL ANIMAL CARE COMMITTEE

Christopher Parkinson – Parkinson@ucf.edu (Chair)

Members: Matthew Gifford, Alan Savitzky

HONORARY FOREIGN MEMBER IN ICHTHYOLOGY

Bruce B. Collette – collett@si.edu (Chair)

Members: Lynne Parenti, Melanie Stiassny

ICHTHYOLOGICAL ANIMAL CARE COMMITTEE

Edie Marsh-Matthews – emarsh@ou.edu (Chair)

Members: Nate Frassen, Michael Heithaus, Alexandra Snyder

ICHTHYOLOGICAL AND HERPETOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE

Mark Sabaj Perez- sabaj@ansp.org (Chair)

Members: Andy Bentley, Stanley L. Blum, Barbara Brown, Paulo Andrea Buckup, David Catania, Matthew Craig, Ben Frable, J. Tomaz Giermakowski, Dean Hendrickson, Cynthia Klepadlo, Katherine Pearson Maslenikov, Richard Pyle, Nelson Rios, Rob Robins, Jessica Rosales, Gregory Schneider, Randy Singer, Ken Thompson, Lou Van Guelpen, Jens V. Vindum, H.J. Walker, Gregory Watkins-Colwell, Jeffrey T. Williams

JOINT ASIH-AFS COMMITTEE ON NAMES OF FISHES

Lawrence M. Page - lpage1@ufl.edu (Chair)

Members: Carole Baldwin, Lloyd Findley, Carter Gilbert, Karsten Hartel, Juan Jacobo Schmitter-Soto, Robert Lea, Nicholas Mandrak, H.J. Walker

ROBERT K. JOHNSON AWARD COMMITTEE

Robert E. Espinoza – Robert.e.espinoza@csun.edu (Chair)

Members: Kathleen Cole (2014—2016) , Steven J. Beaupre (2015—2017)

LONG RANGE PLANNING AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Frederick Zaidan III – fzaidan@utpa.edu (Chair)

Members: Carol Johnston, Stephen T. Ross, Jacqueline Litzgus, Michael Retzer (Ex Officio)

MEETING MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Henry Mushinsky - mushinsk@usf.edu (Chair)

Members: Kyle Piller, Marlis R. Douglas

JOSEPH S. NELSON AWARD COMMITTEE

Cristina Cox Fernandes - cristina@bio.umass.edu (Chair)

Members: Lynne Parenti (2014-2016), Larry M. Page (2015-2017)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Theodore W. Pietsch (Chair)

Members: Tiffany Doan, Wm. Leo Smith, James van Dyke

PUBLICATION POLICY COMMITTEE

Christopher K. Beachy – copeia@selu.edu (Chair)

Members: all Associate Editors and Book Review Editors

RANEY FUND AWARD COMMITTEE

Paula Raelynn Deaton – paulad@stedwards.edu (Chair)

Members: Kevin Conway (2014-2016), Paulette C. Reneau (2015-2017)

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Brian Crother, Marlis Douglas, Gene Helfman, Margaret Neighbors, Adam Summers, Emily Taylor, and Steve Werman (Announced in Reno)

ROBERT H. GIBBS, JR. MEMORIAL AWARD COMMITTEE

Brian Sidlauskas – brian.sidlauskas@oregonstate.edu (Chair)

Members: G. David Johnson (2014—2016), Carole Baldwin (2015—2017)

STUDENT AWARDS COMMITTEE

Maureen A. Donnelly – maureen.a.donnelly@gmail.com (Co-Chair)

Prosanta Chakrabarty – prosanta@lsu.edu

Members: Stoye & Storer Judges: To Be Announced at Annual Banquet

WEB CONTENT AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Steven J. Beaupre – sbeaupre@uark.edu (Chair)

Members: Maureen Donnelly (ex officio), Melissa Gibbs, Margaret Neighbors, Brian Sidlauskas, Jacqueline Webb

HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY COMMITTEE

David G. Smith - smithd@si.edu (Co-Chair)

Joseph C. Mitchell - dr.joe.mitchell@gmail.com (Co-Chair)

Members: Inci Bowman, Vic Hutchison, Leo Smith, Susan Walls

AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF ASIH

Eric Hilton – ehilton@vims.edu (Chair)

Members: Joe Mitchell, David Smith, Chris Beachy, Inci Bowman, Mark Sabaj Perez, Henry Mushinsky, Martha Crump, William Matthews, Maureen Donnelly

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ASIH MEMBERSHIP

Brian Sidlauskas – brian.sidlauskas@oregonstate.edu (Chair)

Members: David Cundall, J. Sean Doody, Richard Durtsche, Lynne Parenti, Melissa Pilgrim, Luiz Rocha, Scott Schaefer, Mollie Cashner, Malorie Hayes (student)

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON COPEIA

Jacqueline Webb – Jacqueline_Webb@uri.edu (Chair)

Members: Donald Buth, Kathleen Cole, Wm. Leo Smith, Christopher Beachy, Caleb McMahan (student)

REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER SOCIETIES

AMERICAN ELASMOBRANCH SOCIETY - Ed Heist - edheist@siu.edu

AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY – Marlis R. Douglas – mrd1@uark.edu, Michael E. Douglas – med1@uark.edu

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES - Alan Savitzky - asavitzk@odu.edu

BIOONE - Carole Baldwin - BALDWINC@si.edu

HERPETOLOGISTS' LEAGUE - Alan Savitzky - asavitzk@odu.edu

NATURAL SCIENCE COLLECTIONS ALLIANCE - Larry M. Page - lpage1@ufl.edu

SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS - Luiz Rocha - lrocha@calacademy.org

SOCIETY FOR STUDY OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES - Alan Savitzky - asavitzk@odu.edu

Reports and Agenda for the 2016 Meeting of the Board of Governors of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists

Organization and Announcements

1. Call to order - President Donnelly
2. Governors Sign In - Secretary Chakrabarty
3. Distribution of late reports or additions to reports - Secretary Chakrabarty
4. Messages of regret from absentee governors - Secretary Chakrabarty
5. Call for motion to approve minutes of 2015 meeting of the Board of Governors as published in *Copeia* 2015:103(4):1121-1127 (see Appendix E) - President Donnelly
6. Announcement of appointment of Resolutions Committee - President Donnelly
7. Announcement of Stoye and Storer Award Judges (names withheld until Annual Business Meeting) - President-Elect Baldwin
8. Future annual meetings – Governor Henry Mushinsky
2017 – Austin, TX (The Renaissance in the Arboretum District)
2018 – Rochester, New York is under consideration
2019 – To Be Discussed During the 2016 Meeting

Reports

Reports of Officers

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Business Session

54. Call for blanket approval of BOG agenda items and reports of officers, representatives, and committees, exempting those removed by EXEC and BOFG members for discussion
55. Discussion of reports exempted from blanket approval
56. Discussion of Old Business
57. Discussion of New Business
58. Call for BOG approval of Ballots (BOG ballot & General Election Ballot)
59. Board of Governor's Elections: Fitch Committee, Gibbs Committee, Johnson Committee, and Nelson
60. Adjournment

10. SECR: Secretary - Maureen A. Donnelly

The year 2015 was memorable as it was the last year I served as the Secretary for the ASIH. In Miami, my work study students continued to scan our documents and pack up the office so that we can move the ASIH materials to the archives at the Smithsonian. I had hoped that the project would be completed by this writing but it is still a work in progress.

Our webmaster, Dennis Murphy, continues to maintain our electronic presence and the website serves us well. We get immediate help and posts are updated regularly. Thanks also go to Karen Lips and Malorie Hayes (Twitter management) and to Luiz Rocha (Facebook page management) for their work on behalf of the ASIH in the social media arenas. Many thanks to Dennis Murphy, Prosanta Chakrabarty & Luiz Rocha for helping keep our members posted on current events that affect our members.

The email traffic in 2015 was voluminous – over 24,000 messages came into my gmail account in 2015 and of that, the ASIH email accounts for more than 600 pages of 10 point font worth of ASIH activities and information! Managing emails is a Sisyphusian job and I am thrilled that I never again need to track email so fastidiously. I also learned to keep a tally of all official “acts” in an excel spreadsheet so it never gets away from you!

I started copying Secretary-Elect Prosanta Chakrabarty to email messages since the 2014 meeting so he has examples to draw from when he takes the reins on 1 January 2016! I use the email traffic to monitor activity in the Secretary’s office and that email traffic form the basis for this report.

The winners of our awards for publication in *Copeia* are repeated here from Editor Beachy’s report for the 2015 BOG book. The awards were presented during the Annual Business Meeting in Reno, Nevada:

BEST PAPER, ICHTHYOLOGY, Eric J. Hilton, Peter Konstantinidis, Nalani K. Schnell and Casey B. Dillman, “Identity of a Unique Cartilage in the Buccal Cavity of Gars (Neopterygii: Lepisosteiformes: Lepisosteidae).” *Copeia* 2014:50-55.

BEST PAPER, ICHTHYOLOGY, J. Ellen Marsden and Harrison Tobi, “Sculpin Predation on Lake Trout Eggs in Interstices: Skull Compression as a Novel Foraging Mechanism.” *Copeia* 2014:654-658.

BEST PAPER YOUNG SCHOLAR, ICHTHYOLOGY, Christopher Izzo, Terry Bertozzi, Bronwyn M. Gillanders and Stephen C. Donnellan, “Variation in Telomere Length of the Common Carp, *Cyprinus carpio* (Cyprinidae), in Relation to Body Length.” *Copeia* 2014:87-94.

BEST STUDENT PAPER, ICHTHYOLOGY, Muchu Zhou, Ashley M. Johnson and Rebecca C. Fuller. “Patterns of Male Breeding Color Variation Differ across Species, Populations, and Body Size in Rainbow and Orangethroat Darters.” *Copeia* 2014:297-308.

BEST PAPER, HERPETOLOGY, Brian K. Sullivan, Marlis R. Douglas, James M. Walker, James E. Cordes, Mark A. Davis, Whitney J. B. Anthonysamy, Keith O. Sullivan and Michael E. Douglas, “Conservation and Management of Polytypic Species: The Little Striped Whiptail Complex (*Aspidoscelis inornata*) as a Case Study.” *Copeia* 2014:519-529.

BEST PAPER YOUNG SCHOLAR, HERPETOLOGY, Dustin S. Siegel, Abigail E. Nicholson, Brian Rabe, Bradley Beran and Stanley E. Trauth, “The Evolution of the Sperm Transport Complex in Male Plethodontid Salamanders (Amphibia, Urodela, Plethodontidae).” *Copeia* 2014:489-502

BEST STUDENT PAPER, HERPETOLOGY, Marcie K. Reiter, Carl D. Anthony, and Cari-Ann M. Hickerson, "Territorial Behavior and Ecological Divergence in a Polymorphic Salamander." *Copeia* 2014:481-489.

In January 2015 I worked with Past-President Shaffer to complete his committee assignments. I directed an inquiry regarding snakes to Governor Burbrink. I learned that one of our Honorary Foreign Members in Ichthyology passed away and informed President Allen so he could form a committee to find a new Honorary Foreign Member in Ichthyology. Upon request from Chair Mark Sabaj, I reconfigured the listing of members of the Collections Committee. I requested a membership list from Allen Press for Heide Burke, the Meeting Planner for JMIH. I worked with the chairs of the Meritorious Teaching awards to get their announcements posted on the ASIH website. I also worked with Marty Crump to test the Abstract Submission site for the Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (JMIH). I approved the rental of our membership list to Sinauer and Associates so they could send out a book announcement. I put Gene Helfman in contact with Chris Feldman, Chair of the Local Committee for the 2015 meeting so Gene could make a book donation to the students for their raffle. I sadly announced the passing of Jim Dixon and Jim Thomerson. I found the Guidelines for the Use of Fishes in Research, published by the AFS on their website. We asked Hank Bart, the Chair of the ASIH Committee working on the guidelines to provide us with a version so we could post it on the website. I worked with Ted Pietsch and the nominating committee to help find candidates for the 2015 election, our first electronic election. I gave the Nominating Committee incorrect information. They should have elected an Ichthyologist in 2015 but I told Ted in my instructions they needed a herpetologist. Nobody caught this error until I discovered it when posting the election results. To remedy the situation, an Ichthyologist will be elected in 2016 (to serve a two year term). I updated the committees on the website and got a requisition to bind the fullsets of *Copeia* in my possession. Binding four volumes took 8 months and I wish Secretary Chakrabarty the best as he tries to find a book binder in Baton Rouge! I sent out four email blasts for the ASIH in January: call for nomination for lifetime achievement awards, call for proposals for student award, announcement of the Meritorious Teaching awards, and the opening of the Abstract Site.

In February, I sent out a blast to the student members of ASIH informing them of funding opportunities from the Carl Gans Foundation (carlgans.org) to attend the summer meetings. I sent the Conflict of Interest statement out to the governors via email on 2 February 2015. I worked with Past President Shaffer to finalize committees and helped a member change his address in the Allen Press system. The annual inventory reduction was conducted in February. We sadly announced the passing of C.L. Smith and Eugenie Clark. We signed a letter in support of legislation that would protect native salamanders from the new emerging fungal disease from Europe. We released copyright to Allison Welch.

In March 2015, I worked with Christopher Tracy on the Gaige awards and with Raelynn Deaton on Raney awards. I passed an inquiry about rattlesnakes to the Conservation Committee that passed it to Betsie Rothermel for action. President Allen appointed Matthew Craig to work with President-Elect Donnelly to find judges for the 2015 meeting. I checked the membership status of the student competitors for the Gaige and Raney competitions. I authorized the Press Run for *Copeia* #1 and asked the webmaster to create an Obituary page. I sent email blasts to the membership regarding submissions for symposia for 2016 and reminded the membership of the deadline for abstract submission. I worked with President Allen to replace a member of the Gaige committee who had already served the society on that committee. The Graduate Student

Participation Committee request \$500 to have a student social and we unanimously agreed to spend those funds. We received a request from the Local Committee for the 2016 meeting for \$30,000 and we agreed to provide that funding.

In April 2015 we had 603 abstracts for the 2015 Reno meeting which exceeded our expectations by about 1000 abstracts. I directed Mark Sabaj's request for having "Collections" as a paper/poster category to Mary Crump. I sent an email blast reminding the membership to nominate their colleagues for the Meritorious Award in Teaching Ichthyology. I checked the membership for all student members on the preliminary schedule provided to me by Marty Crump. I reminded BOG members who were not members to join the ASIH and let Allen Press know they had dropped book reviews and other news from online Copeia.

May 2015 was a busy month as I helped committee chairs complete their tasks for the year, I sent out the Meetings Management and Planning Committee's trip report for Reno, Nevada. I worked with Heide Burke to ensure that the Long Range Planning and Policy Committee and the Endowment and Finance Committees met together in 2015. We were informed that our sister societies in the JMIH had voted to accept Austin, Texas as a meeting site in 2017. After the EXEC voted in favor we called for a BOG vote and were met with resistance by Austin locals who felt the meeting site was too distant from downtown Austin to really call it "Austin." The BOG overwhelmingly voted in favor of meeting in Texas in spite of the negative opinions and reaffirmed their votes when the President and Past Presidents asked them to support the earlier vote to maintain our role in the JMIH consortium. Matthew Craig was unable to attend the Reno, Nevada meeting and President Allen selected Prosanta Chakrabarty to serve as the Co-Chair of STAC with President-Elect Donnelly. Prosanta and Mo recruited judges for the Reno meeting.

I reminded those who were writing reports of the deadline for receipt in June 2015 and asked the LRPP about their informational brochure. I finally sent the book out to the Governors on 16 June 2015. Doug Martin sent me the 990 form and I called for approval of that document by the governors. I sent a corrected version of the BOG book out to governors on 29 June 2015. I provided copyright release to one author for a publication project. I prepared the judging packets for the Stoye and Storer judges and sent them to Chris Feldman so I would not have to carry the paper. I mailed the same paper back to Miami at the end of the meeting.

In July I checked the membership status of the students who signed up for the Speed Networking event. We also got a resolution in favor of the creation of the *Spiritus* award by the Collections Committee. I was informed that I failed to report the winner of the Meritorious Teaching Award in Ichthyology and I replied that I never had reported winners of the Meritorious Teaching awards as they were multi-society awards. I was also informed that the chair of the ENFC was Frank Pezold and we added Governor Neighbors to both the LRPP and ENFC. I provided the count for the Print Quantity for Copeia #2. We provided copyright release to Dr. McIntyre for a publication project. During the Reno meeting the society drafted and passed a resolution regarding the closure of the Illinois State Museum; that resolution was submitted as part of the public comment period. Once I received the names of the Stoye and Storer winners, we prepared the certificates and Treasurer Martin prepared the checks. We worked to get the proposed R workshop on the 2016 meeting agenda. The workshop will be held on the "zero day" of the 2016 meeting and will require a nominal charge. President Allen signed the MOU extension amongst the JMIH societies for a 10-year MOU giving us maximum flexibility for our meetings. I worked with Joyce Lancaster of Allen Press and a small group of governors to test and retest the ballot before we sent it out to the membership. Thanks to all that

helped us get the language “right.” President Allen signed a letter regarding the spill at Usumacinta. I sent revised language to all the award chairs (Fitch, Gaige, Gibbs, Johnson, Nelson, Raney) so we could update the website and submit announcements to Copeia #3.

In August, I revised the Nelson language to clarify part of the announcement. We welcomed Cathy Bevier as an Associate Editor for Physiology and Physiological Ecology and I finished proofing the renewal forms for 2016. We continued to test the ballot in early August before it went live on 31 August. We blasted the membership about the ballot. President Allen was asked to sign an AIBS letter which he signed. I hired Caroline Crother to work with me and the Local Committee on fund raising for the 2016 meeting. We designed a diversity survey which will be posted after the election closes. I sent photos I took of award winners to the winners and Copeia staff. We gave EBSCO permission to share text with third parties as part of our distribution agreement with them.

In September I helped members who did not get the email to vote. More persons voted on day one (281) than voted in any election during my tenure as secretary (2000-2015). Resolutions from the ENFC and LRPP were approved by EXEC and sent to the BOG; the BOG also approved the resolutions. I helped put someone in touch with AES regarding sawfish; we also posted a notice on our website. I had to rush to California to help my brother relocate to a nursing home and had to handle the postal renewal form at the 11th hour. Thanks to the Allen Press team for helping me get that chore done remotely. I approved the galley proofs for the News and Notices for Copeia #3.

We got a series of requests from the Human Resources Committee in October and we will take those up during the 2016 meeting in New Orleans. I released copyright to Dr. Arai. We used the blast to remind people to vote twice in October and we helped the final group of members get the voting done before the polls closed on 31 October 2015. Karen Lips passed an idea about science communication to me and I passed it to Henry Mushinsky and Ed Heist for consideration by the Meetings committees. We rented our membership list to Sinauer. We welcomed a new account manager at Allen Press. Travis Mason replaced Annielaurie Seifert who had been our manager for years. Thanks to you Annielaurie for great years of service.

In November 2015, we announced the election results with an email blast and I contacted every candidate to congratulate them or thank them for placing their names onto our ballot. We also used the blast to announce the diversity survey to gather demographic data on our membership. I sent President Allen the list of committees and approved the print run for Copeia #4. We were asked to allocate the proceeds from the 2015 meeting to the 2016 meeting and we agreed to do so.

During December, 2015 the EXEC received a report from the GSPC and we will consider those requests with the requests from the Human Resources and Education Committee during 2016. I sent one last blast reminding the members to renew their memberships, nominate their colleagues for lifetime awards, and called for Raney and Gaige proposals. I requested the check report to cover the remainder of 2015 so I could finish that task.

As I complete this report, I reflect on all my experience as the ASIH Secretary. It has been a memorable experience made up of thousands of experiences with the ASIH members. It has been an honor to serve the society as Secretary since the new century when Harry W. Greene appointed me in La Paz, Baja California, Mexico in 2000.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maureen A. Donnelly (Past-Secretary, President)

11. TREA: Treasurer – F. Douglas Martin

This report is based on account statements, QuickBooks reports, and supporting materials being audited by Steven W. Cook, Certified Public Accountant, San Antonio, Texas for 2015. The 2015 audit report will be posted on the ASIH website when completed.

In profit and loss reports, ASIH income and expenses for a given year are divided into those associated with programs of the society (awards, annual meetings, dues, subscriptions, and publications) and those related to management and general operations. Income was less than expenses by \$82,448 in 2015 with the inclusion of realized and unrealized investment gains and losses (Appendix B: Table 1). Membership numbers decreased by about 60 members in 2015 while subscription numbers continued to decline and revenue loss was only partly replaced by substantial BioOne and JSTOR profit shares (Appendix B: Table 2). Sales, both in numbers sold and in income, of Special Publications were low. Page charges accounted for \$1370 of income for 2015. The 2015 meetings in Reno showed no profit because the small amount of profit was plowed back into supporting the 2016 Centennial celebration.

The balance sheet (Appendix B: Table 3) lists ASIH assets, liabilities and equities on an accrual basis. ASIH income received by Allen Management is deposited in an account at US Bank. The Wells Fargo Advisors Command Asset performance account is split between two lines, with outstanding income checks at year's end listed under "Accounts Receivable", outstanding debts listed as "Accounts Payable", and the holdings in the brokerage account (Federated Prime Cash Obligations Fund, and bank sweep money market) listed under "Other Current Assets". The value of the investments in the managed account increased in 2015, contributing to an increase in the total asset value at the end of the year (\$1,620,349) compared to that of 2014 (\$1,570,043) on the balance sheet.

The three ASIH accounts in which the individual society funds are comingled held \$1,430,427 on the December 2015 statement (Appendix B: Table 4). Of this total, the holdings in the WFA managed investment accounts were worth \$1,313,144 (Table 5). This fund yielded -3.63% income after fees for this year.

On the surface it appears that the balance sheet (Appendix B: Table 3) and the profit and loss report (Table 1) contradict each other but these two reports report very different things. The profit & loss report can be considered as a moving picture through the report period while the balance sheet is a snapshot taken at a single point in time.

While we lost some value of our invested funds, ASIH remains in excellent financial condition. The current cash available is sufficient to cover expected expenses for the coming year.

See Appendix B

Treasurer's Table 1. ASIH profit & loss on an accrual basis for 1 January to 31 December 2015 with a comparison to 2014 values.

Treasurer's Table 2. ASIH membership and subscription numbers for past years and income from online sources of *Copeia*.

Treasurer's Table 3. 2015 year end balance sheet (accrual basis) with a comparison to the previous year.

Treasurer's Table 4. ASIH accounts and their allocation to ASIH funds as of 31 December 2015.

Treasurer's Table 5. Portfolio detail of the ASIH Wells Fargo Advisors managed investment account (Fund Source Moderate Growth) on 31 December 2015.

12. EDIT: Editor - Christopher K. Beachy

Copeia continues to be produced effectively by Production Editor Katie Smith, Figure Editor Leo Smith and the staff of Associate Editors.

The transition to online early is now completed and it is an excellent addition to *Copeia*. Articles can now appear as many as three months before the print copy is available. Journal statistics show that, in most cases, online early access results in an increase in Impact Factor (IF). The IF of *Copeia* continues to increase. From 2013, the IF has annually increased: 0.670, 0.901, to 1.034 in 2015. This score places the journal directly in the center of the zoology journals that *Copeia* is properly compared to: 76 out of 153. At this writing the 2016 metric is not yet available, but will likely be at the meeting in New Orleans. We project that this year's impact factor will be higher.

Several new features are now part of *Copeia*. **First**, in consultation with our production team (Allen Press, Production Editor Katie Smith and Figure Editor Leo Smith, and me), I have begun a new cost structure for figures. The new language for this cost structure is found in the new "Instructions for Authors" in issue 1 of the 2014 volume and reads as:

Figure production continues to be one of the most expensive parts of journal production. Traditionally *Copeia* subsidized all grayscale images and some of the costs associated with color images for society members. To encourage publication of color images where beneficial and to more accurately reflect the relative cost of figure production, we have transitioned to an explicit cost structure for authors wishing to include figures in their manuscripts.

The cost of each figure is as follows:

Grayscale online/print: \$100
Color online/greyscale print: \$150
Color online/print: \$300

Manuscripts that include an ASIH member as an author receive a subsidy of \$1500. Manuscripts that include an ASIH student member as lead author receive a subsidy of \$2000. The subsidy can be applied to any combination of color or grayscale figures, with authors being responsible for any balance.

Contributors are not charged for images chosen for the cover of each issue. Non-members of ASIH receive no subsidy. Color figures intended for online publication only must be included in the original submission even when opting for grayscale in the paper version.

The accompanying cover letter to the Editor must clearly specify the author intentions for color reproduction. Contact the Editor for further details.

Symposium Special Editors receive a subsidy of \$3500 to distribute to contributing authors at their discretion (this is in addition to the normal subsidy offered to each author). Reviewers for *Copeia* receive a \$500 figure subsidy credit for each review they submit within 20 days. Authors should note this service subsidy in the cover letter when submitting a manuscript that will use this subsidy.

Second, over the past five issues, we have produced three sets of symposia: “Fish out of Water”, “Fishes and Morphology”, and “Plethodontid Biology.” The organizers of one symposium (David Green and Andrew Hendry, “Eco-Evolutionary Dynamics across Taxa: Fishes, Amphibians and Reptiles”) from the 2016 New Orleans have approached me and intend to have their participants contribute to a set a symposium proceedings. As Editor, I have found these special papers to be a very satisfying contribution to the journal. These symposia have also fattened up the journal. That Volume 103 was the biggest is years is clearly due to the inclusion of the two Fish symposia. However, I encourage the BOG to read and consider these symposia and provide their input on the continued inclusion of symposia in *Copeia*.

Third, we are now encouraging/requiring that most supplemental files be deposited in a digital repository, e.g., datadryad. For the most part, these digital repositories require an additional cost to publication to the author. We (AE Smith and me) are in the process of building a digital repository that will be strictly for *Copeia* and the ASIH.

This was the fourth year of awarding special papers published in *Copeia*. I remain amazed and impressed at how eager authors are at the prospect of receiving a plaque! The following papers were considered by a panel, selected by the Editor, of Editorial Board members and ASIH members, to be the best papers published in the 2015 volume (i.e., 103). These awards were initiated for the 2012 volume. Six papers are recognized each year: three in herpetology and three in ichthyology. There are three categories: Best Paper Overall, Best Paper Young Scholar, and Best Student Paper. The Best Paper Overall is chosen without regard to rank. The Best Paper Young Scholar is chosen when the lead author is either a postdoc or untenured at the time of submission. The Best Student Paper is chosen when the lead author is a student at the time of submission. This year, two papers were selected as Best paper, Young Scholar in Herpetology (see below).

BEST PAPER, ICHTHYOLOGY, John G. Lundberg and Kyle R. Luckenbill, “The Extraordinary Occipito-Vertebral Skeleton and Swim Bladder of South American *Hypophthalmus* Catfishes (Siluriformes: Pimelodidae): Improved Illustration, Description, and Interpretation.” *Copeia* 103:806–820.

BEST PAPER YOUNG SCHOLAR, ICHTHYOLOGY, Nathan K. Lujan, Vanessa Meza-Vargas, Viviana Astudillo-Clavijo, Ramiro Barriga-Salazar and Hernán López-Fernández. “A Multilocus Molecular Phylogeny for *Chaetostoma* Clade Genera and Species with a Review of *Chaetostoma* (Siluriformes: Loricariidae) from the Central Andes.” *Copeia* 103:664-701.

BEST STUDENT PAPER, ICHTHYOLOGY, Katherine E. Bemis and William E. Bemis. “Functional and Developmental Morphology of Tooth Replacement in the Atlantic Wolffish, *Anarhichas lupus* (Teleostei: Zoarcoidei: Anarhichadidae).” *Copeia* 103:886-901.

BEST PAPER, HERPETOLOGY, Julia K. Earl and Howard H. Whiteman. “Are Commonly Used Fitness Predictors Accurate? A Meta-analysis of Amphibian Size and Age at

Metamorphosis.” *Copeia* 103:297-309.

BEST PAPER YOUNG SCHOLAR, HERPETOLOGY, Earl and Whiteman, see above.

BEST PAPER YOUNG SCHOLAR, HERPETOLOGY, SECOND PRIZE, Adam D. Leaché and Charles W. Linkem. “Phylogenomics of Horned Lizards (Genus: *Phrynosoma*) Using Targeted Sequence Capture Data.” *Copeia* 103:586-594.

BEST STUDENT PAPER, HERPETOLOGY, Christopher M. Murray, Michael Easter, Sergio Padilla, Davinia B. Garrigó's, Julia Ann Stone, Juan Bolanos-Montero, Mahmood Sasa, and Craig Guyer. “Cohort-Dependent Sex Ratio Biases in the American Crocodiles (*Crocodylus acutus*) of the Tempisque Basin.” *Copeia* 103:541-545.

Congratulations to these authors. Authors will be presented with a plaque at the 2016 ASIH Business Meeting, and these awards will also be recognized on the ASIH and *Copeia* websites. Special thanks to the members of the review panel: Michael Collyer, Cari-Ann Hickerson, David Sever, Robert Espinoza, Windsor Aguirre, and Sarah Gibson.

The 2015 announced retirement of Jackie Litzgus was thankfully premature. Jackie has chosen to remain on staff and the Editor is very grateful for this. Several members' terms on the Editorial Board expired. In addition, we are pleased to have two new AEs: Cathy Bevier (Physiology and Physiological Ecology) and Jackie Webb (Virtual Issues).

In 2015, 1132 pages of *Copeia* were published over four issues: March (262 p.), July (232 p.), October (230 p.), and December (408 p.). These figures are an increase of 339 pages (i.e., up 43%) from 2014 (which had 793 p.).

The 2015 volume included 78 research and review papers (963 p or 85.1% of the volume). The remaining 169 pages (14.9% of the volume) was distributed as follows: three obituary, five historical articles, twenty-six book reviews, an ASIH Presidential Address, editorial notes and news, instructions to authors, summary of the 2015 annual meetings, award announcements, listing of honorary foreign members, subject, taxonomic, and author indices and back matter comprising societal advertisements not counted in total pagination for the volume.

Of the research and review papers published, 30 (38%) were herpetological and 48 (62%) were ichthyological. For comparative purposes, these statistics for the past several years (% ichthyological / % herpetological) are 53/47 for 2014, 51/49 for 2013, 46/54 for 2012, 53/47 for 2011, and 50/50 for 2010. Of the ichthyological contributions, 25 were part of two fish symposia. If the symposia are excluded from comparison, 57% were herpetological and 43% were ichthyological.

There were 162 new submissions in 2015 and 293 combined new and revised submissions in 2015, representing a 27% increase from 2014 (230). This is an average of 24.4 new and revised submissions each month, up from 19.2 in 2014. In terms of new submissions, February and August (21 each) were the most active months, while April (7) was the slowest month. Of these new submissions, 123 were from the United States and the rest were received as follows: Australia (2), Brazil (7), Canada (5), Colombia (3), Costa Rica (1), France (1), Iran (5), Italy (1), Japan (3), New Zealand (1), Nigeria (1), Pakistan (2), Russia (1), Sweden (1), and Switzerland (1).

Generally, performance statistics for editorial staff are similar for 2015 compared to 2014. For comparison, performance statistics for 2015 are followed by values for 2014 in brackets. The median time from submission to AE assignment was 11 [8] days, securing of first reviewer by the AE was 8 [8] days, securing of final reviewer by the AE was 17 [14] days, days in review was 39 [49] days, days from last review to AE recommendation was 4 [9] days, and days from AE recommendation to Editor Decision was 11 [20] days. In total, all new

submissions required an average of 51 [56] days to initial decision (i.e., accept, reject, or further revision). The 2015 statistics indicate that Editorial Staff work rapidly. We will continue to work to improve in this statistic. The easiest and fastest way to improve these statistic lie in this author's (i.e., the Editor) hands: reduce the initial handling time.

In particular, our AE staff should be commended for their efforts to recruit reviewers. As is surely known by everyone in the ASIH, securing reviewers is more challenging every year. The number of "reviewer declines/ignores" was higher this year than in any of my years as Editor (beginning in September 2011). I served as AE on several manuscripts and can verify that reviewers simply are hard to get. We discuss this every year during our PPC meeting, but the only serious solution we arrive at is to be tenacious.

It should also bear notice that the reviewers that did serve the ASIH in 2015 were 10 days faster than in 2014. This is outstanding. I encourage the membership to examine the list of reviewer in issue 2 of each volume and be sure to thank them for their service. *Copeia* can only be as good as the reviewers that volunteer their professional expertise in order to serve. Kudos to them.

AE workload and average duration (from receipt of submission to decision by AE) under each AE were as follows for 2015: C. Beachy (7 new, 44 days), C. Bevier (3 new, 66 days), D. Buth (14 new, 52 days), T. Grande (7 new, 115 days), J. Kerby (11 new, 54 days), M. Lannoo (5 new, 68 days), J. Litzgus (5 new, 68 days), K. Martin (3 new, 39 days), T. Near (1 new, 166 days), R. Reis (8 new, 65 days), J. Schaefer (12 new, 45 days), D. Siegel (14 new, 42 days), L. Smith (6 new, 111 days), J. Snodgrass (10 new, 72 days), B. Stuart (7 new, 85 days). These statistics do not include those for four members of the Editorial Board that served as Special Editors to symposium proceedings.

Reviewers offer an essential service. Their service is noted annually in the #2 issue of *Copeia*. There were 240 reviews in total from 210 reviewers, and the average length of review duration was 29 days.

The following statistics are for a three-year cycle. [It was agreed at the 2014 meeting of the Publication Policy Committee (PPC) that a three-year cycle better described rejection/acceptance rates associated with AEs.] For the three-year period of 2013-2015, rejection rates by AE were as follows: C. Beachy 11%, C. Bevier 33% (only 2015), D. Buth 9%, T. Grande, 5%, J. Kerby 30%, M. Lannoo 16%, J. Litzgus 0%, K. Martin 18%, T. Near 8%, R. Reis 6%, J. Schaefer 17%, D. Siegel 19%, L. Smith 15%, J. Snodgrass 9%, B. Stuart 23%. During the 2015 Publications Policy Committee meeting, AE Buth requested that the overall rejection rate be included in this report. I am agreeable to doing this, but the reporting is not clean. Perhaps the best description of the rejection rate is contained in this text from the 2015 PPC meeting minutes:

Acceptance rates: in a series of emails with CB, DB wanted to know our acceptance rate. The answer depends. Many submissions have enough merit to be published; it's just that they are not yet clearly ready. With AE and review suggestions, these manuscripts come into shape and are published after one-three more rounds of review. CB wishes for any manuscript of merit and good fit to get published in *Copeia*.

With that being said then, about 5-10% of submissions are returned to the author by CB (sometime with consultation of an appropriate AE) without being reviewed, having been judged as "inappropriate" or simply bad and not worthy of the review process. After this, very few manuscripts are rejected outright and not invited back:

approximately 8%. Of the remaining 92%, none have ever been ready outright. In my time (being in September 2011), every paper published has been a revision.

So, in summary, CB's answer was a qualified "I don't know." Historically, Ed. Mike Douglas wanted a 50% rejection rate. DB reported that it was actually around 35%. DB requested that the rejection rate of that we can report on be included in the Editor's report of 2016. CB was agreeable to this.

13. PRES: President's Report – Maureen A. Donnelly

The change in ASIH leadership took place on New Year's day when I started my term as President. I have advised Prosanta Chakrabarty on ASIH business protocols since he started in January. In February, 2015 I moved the bound set of Copeia to Baton Rouge so the would be with our new Secretary as mandated by the Policy and Procedures manual.

In January I notified the webmaster and Secretary of the Carl Gans Conference grants available to support students to attend the 100th Meeting in New Orleans in July, 2016. I also notified the webmaster of links to past-meeting archives because he was asked about the materials. I also sent Governor Carl Anthony's concerns about the decision to list native salamanders on the Injurious Wildlife list to the Executive Committee and the and the Chair of the Conservation Committee. I sent all Past Presidents a message from myself and Past President Allen requesting donations to the "Let the Students Ride Campaign". While I hoped to finish all the letters by this point, I have generated 644 letter and sent over 570 of them via email. I also sent letters of thanks to those who have contributed.

In April of 2016 I was contacted by Andy Bentley about the NSF decision to put funding for collections on hold. I drafted a letter that was approved by EXEC and sent to NSF asking them to reconsider the plan. I sent a copy of that letter to the Collections Committee and charged them with drafting a letter that could be submitted to the BOG and Resolutions Committee for 2016 endorsement to emphasize our support of collections and those that work to maintain those valuable resources.

We received a revised version of the Spiritus proposal and I circulated that to the Executive Committee for their approval and then moving the approved seconded motion to the Board of Governors for their approval.

14. PPRE: Past President's Report – Larry G. Allen

I served as President through December 31, 2015, and have been Past-President since January 1, 2016. This report covers the time between the meetings in Reno, NV and the present. Over this period ASIH continues to run efficiently and was gaining even more momentum toward our 100th Anniversary! We are in strong financial shape which has allowed us to invest significantly in our future by dramatically increasing our support for student involvement. We have reduced membership dues for students and invested \$200k into our support of the Raney and Gaige research awards and doubled our financial support of the Stoye and Storer best student paper and poster awards at our annual meetings. As proposed by President Donnelly, we initiated the

“Let the Students Ride in 2016” campaign to minimize costs to students by reducing registration costs, increasing travel awards, and providing free tickets for the ASIH Picnic. We hope to continue this practice well past the NOLA meetings. Students are the lifeblood and future of our Society contributing 50% of both the meeting attendees and contributed papers and posters each year!

The JMIH meetings in Reno were a great success with 612 presentations and posters despite the absence of our SSAR partners who met separately in 2015. ASIH remains steadfast in its support of the JMIH consortium and is advocating that the next MOU commit the partnered societies to 10 years of successful joint meetings thereby taking much of the uncertainty of meeting planning and execution. We are much stronger together than apart.

15. PUBC: Publications Policy Committee - Christopher K. Beachy

Publication Policy Committee (PPC) Meeting (15 July 2015; 2:00 pm)

Present: Chris Beachy (CB), W. Leo Smith (WLS), Katie Smith (KS), Don Buth (DB), Cindy Klepadlo (CK), Jay Orr (JO), Robert Espinoza (RE), Tom Near (TN), Prosanta Chakrabarty (PC), Dustin Siegel (DS), Karen Martin (KM), Jacqueline Litzgus (JL)

Guests: President Larry Allen, Treasurer Doug Martin

Editor Beachy began the meeting by calling for brief introductions. Beachy presented his agenda for the meeting that included a long list of items and it was agreed that discussions would begin and continue and items would be checked off as they were covered. As usual, the meeting was long and full of thoughtful discussion. (This is always a good meeting: professional, considerate, direct, honest, funny and fun. I challenge anyone to have a meeting this long that doesn't seem so long.)

DISCUSSION TOPICS

The “retirement” of Jackie Litzgus: Jackie is willing and interested in staying on board. She indicated it's a matter of teaching vs. editing. Ed. Beachy stated if that's the only reason, he is able to concentrate most her AE duties to non-teaching periods and lighten the load during teaching periods. CB values the experience and leadership that JL brings and is willing to provide provisional loads to any AE that needs it. Rest of AEs agreed. In addition, this is not the first time that CB has done such a thing. JL agreed to stay on board and for that, we said “Thank you!”

The Ad Hoc Committee on *Copeia*: Jackie Webb, chair of the Ad Hoc Committee, agreed to come speak with us if we wished it. The Committee is officially done after completion of its agenda that it was tasked with by (now) Prior Past President Bill Matthews. CB reported that most of the items in Webb's report (found in the 2015 report to the BOG) have been

discussed and either done or are in progress. PPC agreed that we did not need to call Webb to our meeting.

Impact Factor (IF): CB provided a slide documenting *Copeia*'s climb out of the Impact Factor "Pit of Despair" (i.e., the black hole of Impact Factor < 1.0). *Copeia*'s climb to an integer (and above) was discussed. Current is 1.034, ranking 76th out of 153 journals. All seem eager to continue a climb.

Reasons for the climb were discussed. We all are concerned to determine if the increase is random fluctuation or if there are causes. We have taken measures that will directly increase IF (e.g., combining back matter things like book reviews under one DOI, seeking review papers) but these measures vary in the time it takes few to have their desired effect. WLS and TN point out that online early papers will directly improve our IF.

Open access: Editor Beachy suggested this for discussion: Make ALL of *Copeia* "open access", i.e., no fees to anyone, ever. At present, one must use their membership of their library's membership to access papers "for free." DB asked what is financial effect of doing that. WLS said that open access means no income from BioOne or JSTOR downloads. Treasurer DM reports that income to ASIH from BioOne is \$4,000 per year. JSTOR income is less.

PC asked if authors' whose papers are open access are charged. Treasurer DM reports that it can be whatever we wish. TN says that the data are that open access does seem connected to IF.

The discussion boiled down to how much income is there. Treasurer DM reported that without online income, *Copeia* basically pays for itself. With online income, it makes some profit. Editor Beachy said that was a surprise to him and considers it good news; was worried that the journal was a cost albatross to the ASIH, which is in excellent financial shape. RE asked questions about putting costs for open access on authors. WLS and TN added more to this discussion; indeed, WLS thinks that we need to eventually be completely open access. (The first paper ever being made open access by CB is Matthew's Presidential Address; being done at no cost to Matthews.)

What followed was lots more discussion about this issue. CB would continue this discussion with other ASIH members during the Reno meeting. No real resolution about what to do with except that a cost-model should be developed for authors that wish their papers to be open access. This issue will continue to be discussed.

Best paper awards: CB pointed out that one of the year's winners of the "Best Papers" was DS who is an AE. Is this an issue, i.e., should AEs be off the list of potential winners? DS thought that this propagates the image of the "Old Boys Club" (which must mean that he considers himself a member of this club). RE pointed out that several years ago, President Matthews encouraged BOG members to publish their best work in *Copeia*, and RE is glad such an article appeared in *Copeia*. There was a consensus that there is no reason to make AEs (or any other officer) non-eligible. WLS suggested that most members of the ASIH don't actually know who the AEs are.

Merger with HL?: The upcoming Hist. Perspective article by Jay Savage suggested the eventual merger of ASIH and HL. This issue has come up over the past several years, mostly in conversation, but sometime in print. CB asked the PPC is anyone knew something that he didn't

or if anyone had perspective on this. DS pointed out the poor financial condition of the HL, and RE added that if EXEC isn't talking about it, then it's probably nothing. CB reported that EXEC doesn't talk about it.

Editor's reports: DB pointed out that the allocation of submission according to AE area (e.g., General Ichthyology) doesn't seem to match up with the other statistics. CB said this was due to at two issues: first, the allentrack reporting is about as good as PeopleSoft reports (which any university admin type is familiar with), i.e., at it's best, it is merely satisfactory. Drilling into data at different "angles" with allentrack sometimes gives data that do not match up correctly; second, sometimes an AE from one area (e.g., Genetics, Dev. And Morphology) will handle a submission to another area. DB wondered if we could remove this section of the report and CB was agreeable. This section does not appear in the EDIT report of the 2016 BOG report.

The name of the journal and Virtual Issues: Because some seem to want to talk about it, a discussion on the name was held. DB, DS, and WLS each suggested that odd journal names are, well, odd and make it hard on practitioners in the field to find the journal. RE mentioned it'd be hard to be an ichthyologist or a herpetologist and not know about *Copeia*. For what it's worth, CB stated he's not interested in being an Editor for a journal that isn't named *Copeia*.

Somehow, we were able to discuss the notion of Virtual Issues into this discussion. TN and KM both mentioned that Virtual Issues are great (and easy) idea for *Copeia* and that other journals (e.g., *Mol. Ecol. Evol.*) have used them to great effect. The Virtual Issues in indeed one of the bits of unfinished business from the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on *Copeia* mentioned earlier in this meeting. The question came up: who would do this. We were all agreed that a newly-created AE could take this one and all agreed that Jackie Webb is an outstanding choice for this. CB agreed to approach with the offer at the meeting. (He did and she agreed; things are moving at this writing for the Virtual Issues component to come together.)

Categories of rejections on allentrack: DS and TN suggested that the categories of recommendation are awkward to work with. CB inherited these and has just been working with tools at hand. At request and discussion, CB is willing to make changes. (As of this writing, he has not done this.)

Members of Editorial Board: WLS requested that we increase the number of women on the Ed. Board. CB has requested occasionally. CB encourages AEs to suggest nominations to me. All agreeable. CB has let several non-active Ed. Board terms "expire", but agrees with DB that members that are good to stay as long as needed. CB appoints Symposium Editors as members of Ed. Board and has used them in service (e.g., fast reviews when needed).

Acceptance rates: in a series of emails with CB, DB wanted to know our acceptance rate. The answer depends. Many submissions have enough merit to be published; it's just that they are not yet clearly ready. With AE and review suggestions, these manuscripts come into shape and are published after one-three more rounds of review. CB wishes for any manuscript of merit and good fit to get published in *Copeia*.

With that being said then, about 5-10% of submissions are returned to the author by CB (sometime with consultation of an appropriate AE) without being reviewed, having been judged as "inappropriate" or simply bad and not worthy of the review process. After this, very few

manuscripts are rejected outright and not invited back: approximately 8%. Of the remaining 92%, none have ever been ready outright. In my time (being in September 2011), every paper published has been a revision.

So, in summary, CB's answer was a qualified "I don't know." Historically, Ed. Mike Douglas wanted a 50% rejection rate. DB reported that it was actually around 35%. DB requested that the rejection rate of that we can report on be included in the Editor's report of 2016. CB was agreeable to this.

Where to publish annual indices? CK and JO pointed out the new challenges of the digital age in putting together the Taxonomic, Subject and Author Indices. Other journals put the index in issue 4, but this has been tough during the last few years. CK, JO, and KS each noted that it was much easier to put them in issue 1 of the following year. If we require it to be in issue 4, then the print issue is delayed substantially during preparation of the indices (which naturally must wait until the final manuscript is ready). The PPC agree that it seems sensible and maybe even better to print the indices in #1 of following year.

In addition, JO asked if we were going to produce a 50 year index. CB said no!

Beachy called for adjournment at 4:20 pm and thanked all for their dedicated service to the ASIH and *Copeia*. (Unbelievable that covered all that in less than three hours!)

16. ENFC: Endowment and Finance Committee – Frank Pezold

ASIH ENDOWMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING, JULY 17, 2015.

In Attendance:

David Cundall (2010-14 – stepped down Dec.30.14) sitting in for Linda Ford
Michael Retzer, (2011-2014 – stepped down as of Dec.30.14) outgoing Chair
Frank Pezold, (2011-16) (Vancouver), Chair as of 2015
Linda Ford, 2013-18) – not present
Kassi Cole (2014-2019)
Margaret Neighbors (2015-20)
Norma Salcedo (2015-20)
F. Douglas Martin, ASIH Treasurer (Ex Officio)
Larry Allen, ASIH President (Ex Officio)
Fred Zaigan (LRPP Chair, Ex Officio)
Jacqueline Litzgus (LRPP, Ex Officio)
Stephen T. Ross LRPP members

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION AND MOTIONS

Topic 1. Financial information

As per a 2014 ASIH Endowment and Finance Committee (ENFC) motion passed at the ASIH meetings last year, members of the 2014 ENFC agreed that they should receive Wells Fargo reports. Following discussion at this meeting, it was agreed that all committee members should

receive quarterly statements from the ASIH Treasurer, Doug Martin (DM), either directly or through the current ENFC Chair, Frank Pezold (FP), to keep committee members updated.

Topic 2. General discussion of health of current ASIH Funds, and where to withdraw funds to increase support for the Raney and Gaige Awards

As reported by Mike Retzer (MR) and followed by group discussion, currently one or more of the ASIH Funds consist of a long list of mutual funds, bonds, commodity funds (most have high Morningstar rankings) having a net yield of ~ 4%. This is in excess of a previously established goal of 3.5 %, so we are meeting our current yield goal. It was noted that Eric Schultz had drafted a policy that we are following. MR noted that the General Operating Funds, currently about \$400,000, is generating about \$17 per year, total.

Margaret Neighbors (MN) pointed out that our managed investment account at WFA consists of portions of many of the ASIH funds, is highly diversified to reduce risk and therefore could be expected to grow slowly. MN stated that quarterly investment reports would provide information for this account (managed investment) as a whole, but would not provide information on the WFA CAP account which includes holdings in cash and cash equivalents, or the US bank account which is a cash account. MN indicated that it would be useful to see a quarterly report for all these accounts (she referred us to Table 4 of the Treasurer's Report), or at least an end-of-year report.

In terms of availability of information relevant to the ENFC, MN noted that the ASIH Investment Policy is posted on the web site asih.org, as is the BOG book for 2015 containing the Treasurer's Report for 2014. Also on the website are the ASIH Guidelines and Procedures for the Conduct of Society Business which has information regarding what the Endowment and Finance Committee is supposed to do, and the ASIH Constitution and Bylaws, which has similar information.

At the 2015 BOG meeting a motion was passed to add \$200,000 to the Raney and Gaige Award funds. The ENFC was tasked with making a recommendation as to where this money was to be obtained (i.e., either the General Endowment Funds or General Operating Funds). DM recommended, after consultation with MN previous to this ENFC meeting, removing \$200,000 out of the General Operating Funds rather than out of any Endowment Funds.

Motion 1

Moved, Margaret Neighbors

Seconded, Frank Pezold

The source of the funding to increase the Gaige and Raney fund as approved by the EXCOMM and BOG will come from the General Operating Funds.

Passed unanimously by the ENFC and approved by all members of the LRPP present.

Topic 3. Recommendations of the 2014 ENFC

It was noted that motions passed by the ENFC at the 2014 meeting were not passed on to the EXCOMM and therefore were not accepted or rejected or otherwise formalized. Therefore several motions passed last year were revisited, resulting in discussion, and a number of new motions.

Topic 4. The Clark Hubbs Student Travel Fund

MP raised the issue of the Clark Hubbs Student Travel Fund noting that money is not being spent down, but instead is accumulating. It was agreed that the students who manage the Clark Hubbs Student Travel Fund need be reminded that this money should be spent down. The ASIH should be more proactive in helping students be aware of the fact that they need to spend down their travel award funds.

On the topic of student travel awards, it was noted that another motion was passed by the 2014 ENFC, to increase the amount of funds available for student travel awards by 50%, provided funds were deemed available. Kassi Cole (KC) asked if the ENFC continues to support the motion made last year to increase the current student travel fund holdings (now about \$20,000) by 50% and if so, did the ENFC wish to make a new motion reaffirming this, and to define the source of this 50% (~\$10,000)? ASIH President Allen requested that the current ENFC make a recommendation as to how money is sourced for increasing the amount of funds available for student travel awards by 50%.

Motion 2

Moved, Kassi Cole

Seconded, Frank Pezold

The ENFC recommends increasing the amount of funds in current holdings in the Clark Hubbs Student Travel Fund as of January 1st, 2016 by 50%, using General Operating Funds.

Passed unanimously by the ENFC

Topic 5. The General Operating Fund

MR noted that the ASIH General Endowment Fund was started by society members to promote symposia, publish books and meet society needs. LR noted that as a non-profit organization, the ASIH should be looking at ways to spend some of the money to promote the Society, and in particular, to support ASIH students who are the future of the Society. MN pointed out that it is important to have liquid assets, which the General Operating Fund provides. KC pointed to a 2014 ENFC discussion in which a motion was passed supporting the retention of a buffer in the General Operating Fund equivalent to double the ASIH annual operating budget. Following discussion it was agreed to repeat this recommendation.

Motion 3

Moved, Frank Pezold

Seconded, Dave Cundall

The ENFC recommends that the General Operating Fund retain 200% of expected ASIH annual operating expenses in the General Operating Funds.

MN requested an amendment that the term “at least 200%” replaces “200%” in the motion. FP and DC accepted the amendment resulting in an amended motion:

The ENFC recommends that the General Operating Fund retain at least 200% of expected ASIH annual operating expenses in the General Operating Funds.

Passed unanimously by the ENFC

Topic 6. The “Let Students Ride” Fund

The EXCOMM, with BOG approval at the 2015 BOG meeting, also established a new ASIH fund, informally called the Let Students Ride Fund, providing financial support for reducing student costs to attend the ASIH 100th anniversary meeting in New Orleans through registration and picnic cost coverage. The principle (capital) of this fund will be used as a one-off to provide funds for reducing student costs to attend the New Orleans meetings. This would also be a trial balloon for future such efforts. FP raised the suggestion that profits from meetings might also be routed into this fund. In order to clarify the intent of any associated ENFC motions, it was agreed to define as clearly as possible the not-yet-formally-named fund approved by the EXCOMM and BOG for providing student support for attendance at the 2016 ASIH meetings in New Orleans.

Motion 4

Moved, Norma Salcedo

Seconded, Frank Pezold

The ENFC recognizes the establishment of a new ASIH fund, informally called the Let Students Ride Fund, providing financial support for reducing student costs to attend the ASIH 100th anniversary meeting through registration and picnic cost coverage.

Passed unanimously by the ENFC

FP asked if it would be possible to add an infusion of cash into the Let Students Ride Fund by taking some of the ASIH profits of recent meetings. DM noted that current profit margins for ASIH income from meetings varied significantly, ranging from \$7,000-\$40,000 depending on the meeting.

Motion 5

Moved, Frank Pezold

Second, Kassi Cole

The ENFC recommends moving residual profits from the ASIH meetings of 2014, and 2015 if there are any, to the Let Students Ride Fund.

Passed unanimously by the ENFC

In following discussion, it was suggested that all monies held in the Let Students Ride should be kept as liquid as possible.

Topic 7. The Usefulness of Merging the ENFC and ASIH Long Range Planning and Policy Committee (LRPP)

The ENFC and LRPP met jointly this year. At the close of the joint meeting, the LRPP and ENFC agreed that joint committee meetings are ineffective and that the two committees should continue to function separately with Chairs of both attending the alternate committee meeting Ex Officio, along with the ASIH Treasurer.

Motion to adjourn, Frank Pezold

Seconded, David Cundall

Passed unanimously

17. EXEC: Executive Committee - Maureen A. Donnelly

The Executive Committee (EXEC) was led by President Larry Allen during 2015. We were an active committee under the leadership of President Allen and voted on 9 issues during 2015 as follows:

In March, 2015 the EXEC voted to give the LOCL \$30,000 to support the Centennial activities in 2016. We voted to support a request from the education committee to host high-school students during the 2015 JMIH (March, 2015). In July we voted to meet in the Austin, Texas area. We voted to have President Allen sign a letter to the NSF in August, 2015. We also voted to give EBSCO permission to distribute content to third parties as part of our agreement with EBSCO. In September the EXEC returned the Spiritus proposal back to the Collections Committee; the EXEC felt the award should be from the Committee and presented during the Annual Business Meeting. We asked the Committee to clarify the procedures and write the policy following the Nelson Award.

In November, 2015 the EXEC voted to pay Dennis Murphy to redesign the webpage to incorporate some of the features suggested by the Ad Hoc Committee on Copeia as well as other changes. In December, 2015 the EXEC voted to give the proceeds from the 2015 Reno meeting to the 2016 LOCL to support the Centennial event.

We sadly report the passing of: Herndon Dowling (24 June 2015), Douglas A Rossman (23 July 2015), Louis Guillette, Jr. (6 August 2015), Victor Morales and Ted J. Case (31 December 2015), Charles Carpenter (10 January 2015), and Richard Vari (15 January 2016). Our condolences to the colleagues, families, and loved ones of those who have passed.

18. GFAC: Gaige Fund Award Committee – Cari-Ann Hickerson

The Gaige Award committee (Adam Leache, Melissa Pilgrim, and Cari-Ann Hickerson) reviewed 35 complete applications for the 2016 Gaige Fund Award. Like most years, there was an impressive array of research proposals, making for a very competitive pool of applications. The committee agreed that awards of \$800 should be made to each of the top 14 applicants.

The 2016 award recipients in alphabetical order:

- **Bennett Hardy**, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Conservation and landscape genetics of Cascades frog (*Rana cascadae*) populations at the southern edge of their range.
- **Clay Noss**, University of California, Berkeley. Does ecological release generate variation? A comparative study at White Sands.
- **Amanda Wilson Carter**, Illinois State University. Defining thermal sensitivity: a novel trait of temperature-dependent sex determination.
- **Sean Harrington**, San Diego State University. Diversity dynamics and morphological evolution in pit vipers.
- **Christopher Robinson**, University of Central Arkansas. Fitness relevance of abdominal color in the prairie lizard.
- **Brian Waldron**, John Carroll University. Genetic analysis of glacial lineages of

Plethodon cinereus at a secondary contact zone in northeastern Ohio.

- **Sara McClelland**, Duquesne University. Effects of sublethal pesticide exposure on induced tolerance and plasticity in amphibians.
- **Milinda Thompson**, California State University, Fullerton. Effect of water restriction on stress in the herbivorous lizard, *Dipsosaurus dorsalis*.
- **Amanda Cicchion**, Queen's University. Sexual selection and gene flow: *Pseudacris crucifer* interactions in secondary contact.
- **Alex Shepach**, Southern Illinois University. Rebounding populations of amphibians in a pathogen enzootic environment.
- **Nicole White**, University of Georgia. How do male mating strategies affect reproductive success in a threatened North American tortoise?
- **Vanessa Young**, Clemson University. Comparative limb bone scaling and shape in turtles: relationships with functional demands.
- **Jennifer McKenzie**, University of Kentucky. Effects of snake fungal disease on populations of Natricine snakes across an urban-rural gradient.
- **Rachel Wilson**, Portland State University. Leptin as a mediator of life-history transitions.

19. GSPC: Committee on Graduate Student Participation – William Ludt

Meeting minutes of Graduate Student Business Meeting

- I. Meeting was called to order on July 18, 2015, at 12:24 pm by the Chair Abbigail Nicholson and Chair-elect Bill Ludt.
- II. Among the reading of last years Business Meeting minutes, several topics were revisited. Discussion followed on the following topics:
 - a. Childcare at future meetings. Update from Malorie Hayes on the ASIH planning committee position. There will more than likely be childcare next year in New Orleans.
 - b. Overview of the 'Let the Students Ride' campaign, which should allow for closing picnic costs of students to be covered next year.
 - c. Discussion of the speed networking event.
 - i. Recommendation for more time between poster session and event
 - ii. Work on promoting the event better
 - d. Expressed an interest for a mentorship program, perhaps in conjunction with SSAR
 - i. Older members are paired with new members to increase their experience.
 - ii. Recommendation for a liaison to SSAR to bring in more Ichthyologists and expand the program to include ASIH members
 - e. Auto-renewing of membership-recommendation to ASIH to have an opt-in option at registration.
 - f. Need to increase graduate student participation
 - i. Ideas included free meals, more trivia nights, and a workshop(s) with more skills training

- ii. Positive response to bowling and trivia, with a recommendation from members to not only continue this, but at more trivia questions pertaining to Ichs and Herps.
 - g. Motion made by Malorie Hayes to create a position to coordinate and plan the opening social. Seconded by Erica Rottmann.
 - i. After discussion, it was decided to have two co-chairs: one Ichthyology and one Herpetology chair.
 - ii. Voted unanimously to create two, co-chair positions.
- III. Book Raffle update
 - a. As of this morning, over \$2000 was raised. ASIH matches the amount raised.
 - b. Next year, credit cards will be taken.
- IV. Discussion of last year's workshop on social networking
 - a. Overall, deemed a successful workshop.
 - b. Helen Plylar, 2015 Workshop Chair, explained this year's workshop on successfully communicating your science to the public and invited all members.
- V. New Business
 - a. Overview of the Board of Governor's meeting held earlier that week
 - i. It was announced that extra money will be available for ASIH graduate students to use, with more discussion at the ASIH business meeting.
 - 1. Gage and Rainey awards for research will receive more funding
 - ii. Travel awards for ASIH graduate students
 - 1. Currently, 20 US students receive \$600 and 3 international students receive \$800.
 - 2. Motion by Malorie Hayes to use part of the funds as hotel awards. This would allow more financial coverage to more students.
 - a. It was suggested by Milton Tan as a good idea, as many other organizations already have this in place for students.
 - b. Also recommended the possible creation of a roommate request system
 - c. \$12,000 could cover 20 rooms, housing up to 80 students.
 - d. Motion seconded by Randy Singer
 - 3. Motion by Erica Rottmann to separate hotel and travel awards, creating two separate categories.
 - a. Discussion ensued on earlier awards, using next year as a trial run, and how to cover international students better.
 - 4. Motion by Malorie Hayes to amend the previous motions to create a new travel award system.
 - a. To increase the number of travel awards from 20 to 25, also adding two more international awards.
 - b. Allow a budget of \$5000 to cover hotel rooms, to be adjusted by year.
 - c. Sign up for one or the other.

- d. The motion was seconded by Erica Rottmann.
 - e. The motion passed unanimously.
 - 5. Motion by Zach Binden to include award application with registration by the early deadline, so that awards may be given earlier.
 - a. Seconded by Erica Rottmann
 - b. Passed unanimously.
- b. Discussion on desire of students for an online directory to browse meeting attendees.
 - i. Motion by Zach Binden to create such an online directory of meeting attendees.
 - 1. Seconded by Helen Plylar.
 - 2. Malorie Hayes volunteered to head this up.
- c. Officer Elections
 - i. Chair-Elect
 - 1. Nominated: Savannah Michaelson by Helen Plylar
 - a. Elected unanimously
 - ii. Secretary
 - 1. Nominated: Helen Plylar by Kim Foster
 - a. Elected unanimously
 - iii. Workshop Committee Chair
 - 1. Nominated: Kim Foster by Helen Plylar
 - a. Elected unanimously
 - iv. Workshop Sub-Committee Members
 - 1. Nominated: Malorie Hayes by Bill Ludt
 - a. Elected unanimously
 - 2. Nominated: Helen Plylar by Malorie Hayes
 - a. Elected unanimously
 - v. Book Raffle Chair
 - 1. Nominated: Matt Girard by Erica Rottmann
 - a. Elected unanimously
 - vi. Book Raffle Sub-Committee Members
 - 1. Nominated: Erica Rottmann by Bill Ludt
 - a. Elected unanimously
 - 2. Nominated: Kim Foster by Bill Ludt
 - a. Elected unanimously
 - vii. Travel Award Coordinator
 - 1. Nominated: Laura McPherson by Matt Girard
 - a. Elected unanimously
 - viii. Web Content Committee Rep
 - 1. Maintained by Shab
 - ix. Conservation Committee Rep
 - 1. Bill Ludt

- 2. Savannah Michaelson
 - x. Social Chair
 - 1. Herpetology: Nominated: Abbey
 - a. Elected unanimously
 - 2. Nominated: Kim Foster
 - a. Elected unanimously
 - xi. International Liaison
 - 1. Nominated: Diego
 - a. Elected unanimously
- VI. Bill Ludt called for a motion to end the business meeting at 1:24 pm. The motion was seconded by Erica Rottmann.

20. HSFC: Henry S. Fitch Award Committee – Richard A. Seigel

Committee: Richard Seigel, Jonathan Campbell, Robert E. Espinoza

Established in 1998, the Henry S. Fitch Award for Excellence in Herpetology is awarded annually in recognition of “an individual for long term excellence in the study of amphibian and/or reptile biology, based principally on the quality of the awardee’s research; consideration is also given to educational and service impacts of the individual’s career.”

The award is named in honor of Henry S. Fitch, in recognition of his exceptionally long, productive, and ongoing career. The Fitch Award Committee for 2016 consisted of Richard A. Seigel (chair), Jonathan Campbell, and Robert E. Espinoza. Once nominated, an individual can be considered for the award for three years. Three individuals were nominated this year for the 2016 award and four nominees were carried over from previous years.

The credentials and nomination letters for seven nominees were examined and discussed openly by the Committee. All nominated individuals are outstanding leaders in the discipline of Herpetology and all are worthy of receiving the Fitch Award. Each nominee has had a productive career and remains active in research.

Nonetheless, after discussion and a voice vote, the committee settled on one of the nominees to whom the award will be presented at the plenary session on Day 1 of the Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists Meeting in 2016.

21. JSNC: Joseph S. Nelson Award Committee – Lynne R. Parenti

The committee for 2016 was comprised of Lynne Parenti (Chair), Larry Page and Jacqueline Webb. The committee received two new nominations for the award this year. One eligible nominee remained from a previous year (2014). A total of three eligible nominees were considered for the 2016 award.

Nominations were distributed to the committee in advance of a conference call on 14 April 2016 during which the committee successfully concluded its deliberations and chose an awardee. This year’s winner will be announced during the plenary session of the 2016 JMIH meetings in New

Orleans, Louisiana. A full page feature in *Copeia* will include a photo of the winner and the transcript of the award speech to be delivered in July 2016.

The committee urges ASIH members to identify future worthy recipients of the Nelson Award and consider preparing a nomination.

22. LRPP: Long-Range Planning and Policy Committee – Frederic Zaidan

No report. Committee met jointly with Endowment and Finance Committee (see above).

23. MMPC: Meetings Management and Planning Committee – Henry R. Mushinsky

The ASIH MMPC met in New Orleans Louisiana 30 March – 1 April, 2016 along with representatives of the other three JMIH participating societies. Collectively this group comprises the JMIH Meetings Management and Planning Committee. The ASIH Committee was consisted of Henry Mushinsky (Chair), Marlis Douglas and Kyle Piller. Also present at the April meeting were Edward Heist (representing the AES), David Green (HL Representative), Dustin Siegel and Robert Aldridge (representing SSAR) Marty Crump, (JMIH Program Director) and Heide Burke from the Kansas State University Continuing Education Program.

The main goal for the meeting is to develop the scientific program for the JMIH Meeting in July 2016 and that mission was accomplished successfully. In all more than 1100 oral papers and posters were submitted, those entering any student competition are scheduled first to facilitate timely evaluation by the judges. Generally at least two full days are devoted to student competition sessions.

The ASIH MMPC also reviews and selects proposed symposia for the next JMIH meeting. This year one symposia was proposed for the 2017 meeting, it was awarded \$1500.00, in support from ASIH and is co-sponsored by the SSAR and the HL as well.

The funded symposium is: The Science, Management, and Policy of Amphibian Conservation: Extending the Legacy of Ray Semlitsch. Symposium Organizers are: Julia Earl, Michelle Boone, Katie O'Donnell, Freya Rowland

We have been contacted by the Larval Fish Society and have extended them an invitation to have a larval fish symposium at the 2017 JMIH.

An important second goal while in New Orleans we to meet with representatives of the local committee and facility staff to review logistics and coordinate details about field trips, social events and other JMIH activities. We met with Kyle Piller and Brian Crother and summarized the information about the meeting venue and the city to help our membership prepare for the July meeting. This narrative was posted on the ASIH website to inform the membership about what to expect in New Orleans and anticipate an exciting meeting. As we were reviewing the various

venues it became apparent to us that the local committee was unable to offer all that it had intended because of a lack of outside support for the social events. Therefore, on behalf of the local committee and the MMPC, I sent a request to the ASIH BOG to approve additional funds to better support the 2016 ASIH celebration of the 100th year anniversary. The BOG approved the additional funds.

Meeting Sites: Thanks to Heide Burke and the K. State crew, we have conference venues scheduled through 2017, including:

2017 – Austin Texas, Dr. David Hillis is chair of the local committee

2018 – Rochester New York is under consideration, we are in contact with a potential chair of the local committee.

The committee has sent information to Heide regarding contacts from each society to solicit symposia proposal for future meetings. That information is to appear in the meeting booklet. A complete guide to submitting symposia to the ASIH MMPC is posted on the ASIH website. Two additional topics were discussed by the MMPC. The first involved providing child care during the annual July meetings in support of young families the want to bring a child to the meeting. A major portion of the discussion revolved around liability. A committee has been formed to investigate costs, liability and opportunities. The committee has representatives from the four sponsoring societies. As Chair of the MMPC, I have been asked and agreed to sit on the committee. The second topic involved the actual composition of the oral presentations. We discussed integrating herp and fish papers in the oral sessions. Many recent symposia have had integrated contributions ichthyologists and herpetologists and have been well received. We took no definitive action at the planning meeting but would be interested in any feedback we can get from the BOG and the general membership.

24. NOMC: Nominating Committee – Tiffany M. Doan

The Nominating Committee for 2015-2016 was chaired by Tiffany M. Doan and assisted by Whitney Anthonymsamy, Mollie Cashner, Caleb McMahan, and Larry G. Allen (past president). The information on all candidates is provided in Appendix C.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

Tiffany M. Doan, Chairperson

25. RFAC: Raney Fund Award Committee – Kevin W. Conway

Committee Members: Paulette Reneau and Brad Erisman

In 2016, the Raney Fund Award Committee received 19 submissions on or before March 1st. Of the 19 submissions, 10 were from PhD students, eight from Master's students, and one from an undergraduate student. These 19 submissions represent 14 different universities, including 13 US and two Canadian institutions.

All 19 submissions were compliant with grant guidelines and were accepted by the committee for review. The committee noted that the number of submissions received this year was unexpectedly low compared to previous years but were greatly impressed by the quality of the submissions, all of which were of a very high standard, many exceptional. Due to the extra funding available for use by the Raney Fund award committee in 2016 (\$10,000 instead of the usual \$5,000), the committee decided to recommend the top ten submissions for funding, with \$1200 awarded to submissions ranked in the top five and \$800 awarded to submissions ranked 6th-10th.

The 2016 Award winners are as follows:

Yordano E. Jimenez, Brown University, \$1200
Biomechanics of Bite-and-Thrash Feeding in Piranhas

Frances E. Hauser, University of Toronto and Royal Ontario Museum, \$1200
Visual opsin gene loss, expression, and diversity in a predatory Neotropical cichlid

Jeanette Huber, College of Charleston, \$1200
Comparing historical and contemporary genetic variation in global populations of the endangered sawfish (Family Pristidae)

Sarah Steele, University of Toronto and Royal Ontario Museum, \$1200
Role of Ontogeny and Body Size Evolution in Diversification of Neotropical Cichlid Fishes

Joshua G. Stonecipher, Austin Peay State University, \$1200
The effects of dams, distance, and big rivers on dispersal and gene flow in a small, benthic fish

Kelly Diamond, Clemson University, \$800
Impact of migration timing on migration success in the waterfall-climbing Hawaiian stream fish, *Sicyopterus stimpsoni*

Samantha C. Leigh, University of California-Irvine, \$800
The Resource Acquisition Strategies of Seagrass-eating Bonnethead Shark

Rene Martin, St. Cloud State University, \$800
Evolution of Variation in Dentition in Deep-sea Lanternfishes (Teleostei: Myctophiformes)

Sharmaine Miller, Pennsylvania State University, \$800
Why is stress stressful? Determining how adaptation to natural stressors promotes behavioral, physiological, and genetic resilience in the fish brain.

Kara Million, Indiana University, \$800
Is the gill parasite *Aethycteron moorei* locally adapted to its preferred host, the Fantail Darter (*Etheostoma flabellare*) in populations native to India.

Recommendations were sent by the Chair to Secretary Chakrabarty for approval, who checked for current membership. The Chair then notified recipients and requested addresses, which were sent to Treasurer Martin, who issued checks to students. The Chair encouraged all recipients to attend the 2016 meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana.

26. RHGC: Robert H. Gibbs, Jr. Memorial Award Committee – G. David Johnson

In May of 2016, the Robert H. Gibbs, Jr. Memorial Award Committee, consisting of G. David Johnson (Chair), Carole Baldwin and Kyle Piller evaluated the credentials of six nominees for the 2016 award for excellence in systematic ichthyology. The six nominees include new and renewed nominations for the award. The recipient of the 2016 award will be announced in July at the plenary session of the annual ASIH meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana. A full-page announcement detailing the winner's accomplishments, along with a photograph, will be published in *Copeia* 2017(1). As with previous awardees, this year's recipient will be encouraged to submit a paper on systematic ichthyology for review and consideration for publication as the lead paper in the second year following the award. For 2017, G. David Johnson departs the committee after three years of service. Carole Baldwin assumes duties as committee chair, assisted by Kyle Piller and a third member to be elected at the New Orleans meeting.

27. RKJC: Robert K. Johnson Award Committee – Kathleen S. Cole

The Robert K. Johnson Award for Excellence in Service honors the memory of former ASIH Secretary and *Copeia* Editor Robert Karl Johnson, whose long service and lasting contributions to the Society included production of the first guide to ASIH policies and procedures. The Johnson Award recognizes individuals who have made major contributions to the Society through their service to the organization and is awarded to either an ichthyologist or a herpetologist in alternate years. This year's award will be presented to an ichthyologist. The 2016 Johnson Award Committee consisted of Steven J. Beaupré, Emily N. Taylor and Kathleen S. Cole (Chair). The committee evaluated the nominations of several distinguished and highly qualified ASIH members. The committee has reached a decision which will be announced at the Plenary Session of the JMIH in New Orleans, LA. The results will also be featured in an upcoming issue of *Copeia*. Kathleen Cole will rotate off the committee at the end of this year and a new ichthyology member will be elected at the JMIH in 2016 to join the committee, which will be chaired by Steven Beaupré.

28. AES: Representative to the American Elasmobranch Society - Edward J. Heist

The American Elasmobranch Society held its 31st annual meeting in Reno as part of the Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. AES had 74 oral presentations and 31 poster presentations.

Jennifer Wyffels delivered an emotional plenary address in memory of AES distinguished fellow Eugenie Clark. AES announced the new “Genie” award co-sponsored by the Save Our Seas Foundation and Mote Marine Laboratory in Dr. Clark’s memory. The new award was designed for “female early-career scientists who demonstrate uncommon perseverance, dedication and innovation in biological research and public outreach on elasmobranch fishes.”

Results of the society’s election were announced at the business meeting. Our new President is Dean Grubbs. Returning executive committee members are Secretary Jennifer Wyffels, Treasurer Cathy Walsh, Editor David Shiffman, and Past-president Chris Lowe. Tobey Daly-Engel and Nick Dulvy were elected to the Board of Directors. Our new Nominating Committee is Yannis Papastamatiou, Jo Imhoff, Derek Burkholder, Melissa Giresi and Shannon Corrigan. Approximately 135 people attended the AES banquet on Sunday night where plaques and checks were provided to award winners. The Samuel H. Gruber best student paper award was won by Darcy Bradley for a paper entitled “Managing a Moving Target: A Spatially Explicit Capture-recapture Reef Shark Population Density Estimate at an Unfished Coral Reef.” The Jeffrey and Carol Carrier award for the best student poster also went to Darcy Bradley for a poster titled “Do Non-extractive Human Impacts have Quantifiable Behavioral Effects on Palmyra’s Reef Sharks?” AES provided two student research awards: the AES Student Research Award went to Kyle Newton, and the Henry and Anne Mollet Elasmobranch Research Award went to Shannon Barry. With additional support from the Save Our Seas Foundation, AES provided student travel awards to Cassandra Ruck, Diana Churchill, Brendan Talwar, Dovi Kavec, Robert Edman, Darcy Bradley, Elizabeth Vinyard, Bryan Keller, Alex Hansell, Kristin Woolovich. The silent and live auctions raised \$9857 for future student travel.

29. AFSR: Representatives to the American Fisheries Society – Michael E. Douglas and Marlis R. Douglas

AFSR: Representatives to the American Fisheries Society – M.E. Douglas and M.R. Douglas

The American Fisheries Society (AFS) held its 145th Annual Meeting in **Portland, OR**, on 16-20 August 2015. It was, as expected, a large meeting with 3,310 attendees from 32 countries. The scientific program consisted of 101 symposia and 32 contributed paper sessions, with 2,000+ oral papers, 404 posters, and nine Continuing Education workshops.

The **2016 Meeting** will be held in Kansas City (21-25 August) under the theme ‘*Fisheries Conservation and Management: Making Connections and Building Partnerships*’. The early registration deadline is 08 July 2016.

Other AFS societal activities and initiatives of potential interest to ASIH:

(1) A Symposium and a Special Workshop on **Cutthroat Trout Taxonomy** was organized by the Western Division of AFS during the Annual Meeting. Several prominent ASIH members were invited panelists, and will contribute to a forthcoming AFS Symposium volume that will focus on the evolutionary diversity within Cutthroat Trout and potential implications for its

taxonomy. Based on paleontological, phenotypic, genetic perspectives and discussions presented during the workshop, a consensus emerged to revise the current taxonomy of 14 distinct subspecies and instead delineate four major evolutionary lineages and/or ~22 ‘Uniquely Identifiable Evolutionary Units,’ following the unified species concept of De Queiroz as a working hypothesis. Drafts of book chapters are due later in the summer, with the goal of peer-review in early 2017 and publication later that year.

(2) A new AFS Section on **Imperiled Aquatic Species (IAS)** was established. AFS Sections are societal units defined by professional interests with the intent to advance the objectives of the society within the various disciplines, but with activities restricted to their specified interest area. As its name indicates, IAS Section focuses on conservation and management of imperiled freshwater organisms, and will do so by conducting symposia, workshops, and short courses to collect and disseminate relevant information, and as a forum for the identification and resolution of issues.

(3) **Societal Governance:** In 2015, the presidency transitioned from Donna L. Parrish to Ronald J. Essig, with F. Joseph Margraf as President-Elect.

30. AUDC: Audit Committee – Steven J. Beupre

The 2015 Audit Committee: chaired by Steven J. Beupre with William J. Matthews and Brad Shaffer as members. We have examined the 2015 budget reports provided by Treasurer Martin to the ASIH Audit Committee. In addition, we have examined the monthly checks and charges report. We find the year’s income and expenses to be appropriate for ASIH. However, we note that sub-optimal market performance resulted in a decrease in 2015 revenue: a cause for caution in future budgetary considerations.

31. AIBS: ASIH REP. TO BioOne & AIBS – Alan H. Savitzky

BioOne is a nonprofit consortium that provides electronic publishing services for many independent society and institutional publishers, providing royalties based upon online journal usage, as well as profit-sharing (i.e., distributing net profits at the end of the fiscal year). This year BioOne elected not to convene its annual Publishers and Partners Meeting, typically held in April. However, as a member of the BioOne Board of Directors I attended two meetings of the Board since last summer, and I draw on information from those meetings to provide this report.

BioOne continues to provide an outstanding level of service and income for its member publishers. As of the end of 2015, BioOne has published 1.2 million pages and has generated a total of 15 million hits by readers. BioOne has returned over \$35 million to its member publishers. Net sales of the BioOne collection increased by 2% over 2014, reaching \$6,520,427. After operating costs are paid, the remaining funds are returned in the form of both royalties and profit-sharing, and are based on an algorithm that reflects relative use of the journal within the collection. BioOne Complete (the total collection of titles, formerly two separate collections known as BioOne.1 and BioOne.2) now includes 184 publications from 140 society and other

nonprofit publishers. Subscription costs are graduated according to the size of the subscribing institution or consortium. Importantly, even at the highest subscription rate the per-title cost to libraries is only \$205. That is **93% less** than the average biology journal cost in 2015, which was \$2,977. Needless to say, this represents a very high value to subscribing libraries, and the renewal rate for the BioOne collection remains well above 90%. Furthermore, BioOne continues to provide free access to its content for over 2,500 libraries in developing countries.

Additional information concerning BioOne can be found at <http://www.bioone.org/>.

The **American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS)** is an umbrella organization of over 150 member societies and organizations (MSOs), many of which focus on organismal biology or ecology, as well as individual members. AIBS has continued to concentrate on restructuring and sharpening its mission. That mission continues to involve a strong commitment to the AIBS Public Policy Office, which provides direction communication between our societies and legislators and other lawmakers. AIBS publishes the highly regarded journal *BioScience*, which lost its long-time editor, Tim Beardsley, this year. However, Scott Collins of the University of New Mexico has assumed the role of Interim Editor in Chief, as a search for a permanent editor proceeds.

AIBS continues to provide direct access to legislators on behalf of its professional society constituents. Society members are again encouraged to consider signing up with the AIBS Legislative Action Center (LAC; <http://policy.aibs.org/>), which provides immediate alerts regarding relevant legislation and simplifies contacting individual legislators to express an opinion on those issues. Many of the issues that emerge through the LAC involve conservation or the federal funding of science. AIBS also maintains a formal partnership with the Natural Science Collections Alliance, the activities of which have obvious relevance to members of our society.

I rotated off the Board of Directors of AIBS at the end of 2015. Accordingly, the society may wish to consider appointing a new representative to this organization.

32. CONS: Conservation Committee – Frank H. McCormick

Usumacinta River Disaster. In response to the ecological disaster in the Usumacinta River basin (Guatemala and Mexico), CONS prepared a joint letter to government authorities of México and Guatemala, asking the ministries of the environment and natural resources to carry out a rigorous investigation of the event and apply corrective and preventive measures. Contamination of the river by a pesticide caused massive mortality of fishes and many other aquatic species in Guatemala extending into México. The spill extended over more than 180 kilometers and affected at least 25 species of fishes important in the local fishery and the loss of 40 tons of fishes that severely impacts the subsistence and economic well-being of the local Mayan communities.

Bsal. CONS worked with the committees of the joint societies to support a joint letter to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service requesting emergency measures to prevent the import of live animal imports infected with a new species of chytrid (*Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*) that is

highly virulent to numerous salamander taxa but which is not yet present in the US. The request included bans of imports infected with other diseases like ranavirus).

CONS has subsequently worked with the joint societies to provide comment to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service regarding its proposed rule to restrict transport of even native North American salamanders, including tissue samples. The societies expressed concern that this would severely impact many aspects of research on salamanders.

Pascagoula River. CONS provided public comment to the US Army Corps of Engineers regarding proposed impoundments of the Pascagoula River, expressing concerns about the inadequacies of the Environmental Assessment and suggesting that a full Environmental Impact Statement was appropriate. The committee detailed the ecological value of the Pascagoula as a free flowing river and expressed its opposition to the proposal.

AES Joint Resolutions. The committee approved four resolutions from the American Elasmobranch Society and presented them for approval by ASIH at the annual business meeting. The resolutions addressed the **International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)**, requesting that the National Marine Fisheries Service work in favor of adoption of proposals to set science-based catch limits for shortfin makos and blue sharks, and prohibit at-sea shark fin removal at the upcoming annual meeting of ICCAT; urged the National Marine Fisheries Service to promptly propose **Dusky Shark** management measures to achieve the required 58% reduction in fishing mortality on the population; urged the National Marine Fisheries Service to immediately finalize and implement science-based **Atlantic Smoothhound** management measures; and urged the U.S. and Canadian governments to elevate the priority of additional **Thorny Skate** safeguards to promote recovery at a national level, and to work with the European Union at the September 2015 NAFO annual meeting to secure a NAFO skate TAC that does not exceed the level advised by the NAFO Scientific Council.

33. EHRC: Education and Human Resource Committee – Michael Pauers

MEMBERSHIP AND CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP:

Current Members:

Michael J. Pauers - Chair
Carol Johnston
Steve Kimble
Peter Konstantinides
Elizabeth Marchio

Changes to Membership:

Due to his election as Secretary of the ASIH, **Prosanta Chakrabarty** stepped down from the EHRC, and recommended **Konstantinides** to serve in his stead. Fortunately, **Konstantinides** accepted, and we welcome him to the committee.

ACTIVITIES 2015-2016:

Activities Completed/In Progress:

We received one identification request this year, a set of photos of Indo-Pacific coral reef fishes. I forwarded this to **Randy Mooi** of the Manitoba Museum.

We also received an information request, via an aquarium hobbyist website, from a high school student interested in pursuing Ichthyology as a career. I immediately advised this individual to seek psychiatric help, and possible lifelong institutionalization, but also suggested courses to take while finishing high school and beginning undergrad.

Much vigorous discussion occurred via e-mail this year, resulting in the very first ASIH Diversity Survey [Appendix G: added by Secretary Chakrabarty], released earlier this year, as well as a pair of proposals centered on undergraduate engagement in the ASIH (Appendix F). Many thanks are due to **Chakrabarty** and **Marchio** for inspiring these discussions and shaping the proposals.

Pauers once again convened the Ichthyology Education Committee, consisting of **Johnston, Lara Ferry, Ed Heist, and Chris Lowe**, in order to review the nominees and select the winner of the 2016 Meritorious Teaching Award in Ichthyology. As of this writing (01 June 2016), a winner has very recently been selected (i.e., about 20 minutes ago...), and I thank the IEC once again for their efforts this year.

Items Needing Attention; to (hopefully) be addressed in 2016-2017:

Resume consideration of an EHRC webpage (on the ASIH site) that 1) outlines committee functions and 2) provides links to other basic info (like the career guides).

Continue to solicit discussion and ideas from the EHRC regarding our role within ASIH, as well as ways we can further and better address the needs of student members.

Continue to identify new committee members – an absolute priority if the committee is to continue. We respectfully request nominations from the BOG, especially for herpetologists!

34. HACC: Herpetological Animal Care and Use Committee – Christopher L. Parkinson

Over the last year we have received email requests for clarifications regarding the use of reptiles and amphibians in research and IACUC compliance in field studies. Currently, we are discussing with Robert Sikes (President-Elect, American Society of Mammalogists) the ramification of the National Science Foundation moving all animal compliance to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW). OLAW requires all institutions that are PHS assured to follow the 8th edition of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, within which there requirements that are not possible or appropriate when

working with wildlife. Unfortunately, OLAW does not recognize taxon specific guidelines published by Societies as standards.

The committee will update our HACC guidelines this year, we need volunteers to help with this process

35. HSOC: Representative to the Herpetological Societies (SSAR and the HL) – Alan H. Savitzky

Activities among the three societies continue to revolve around the JMIH. Last year SSAR chose to meet separately from ASIH and HL, holding its annual meeting at the University of Kansas. This year SSAR returns to the JMIH, with a major impact on the size of this year's meeting.

The continuing competition for members, at a time when membership in taxon-focused societies in general is declining, continues to be an issue of concern. The same is true for the duplication of member services (e.g., collection of dues and maintenance of membership rolls and subscription records). However, no efforts appear to have been initiated to address those issues, even in light of the pending closure of the organization providing membership services to SSAR. Thus, the role of this Representative may need to be revisited.

36. IACC: Ichthyological Animal Care and Use Committee – Phillip Harris

Members of the Ichthyological Animal Care and Use Committee (IACC) are Phillip Harris (Chair), Edie Marsh-Matthews, Michael Heithaus, Nate Franssen, and Alexandra Snyder. The charge of the IACC includes: 1) maintenance and update to the guidelines, 2) service to JMIH members in navigating protocol submission and approval, and 3) service to government and regulatory agencies (e.g. local IACUCs) that may need taxon-specific assistance in the evaluation and approval of protocols.

The IACC had no items of business in 2015.

37. IHCC: Ichthyological and Herpetological Collections Committee – Mark Sabaj Pérez

IHCC MEMBERSHIP AND SUBCOMMITTEES

The IHCC is a “Continuing Committee”, one that is normally renewed yearly (Johnson et al. 1999 et seq.). Regarding IHCC appointment and tenure, the 2012 ASIH Procedures Manual states 1) all positions on the IHCC are filled by the ASIH President upon recommendations from the chair and IHCC members 2) the IHCC chair is appointed by the President and serves for one

year unless reappointed, 3) members of the IHCC can be reappointed by the President, and 4) the total number of IHCC members and periods of appointment are not established. Furthermore, the Procedures Manual stipulates that the rearrangement, combination or elimination of IHCC subcommittees is at the discretion of the full committee in consultation with the Society President.

Mark Sabaj Pérez was appointed Interim Chair of the IHCC in 2009, and confessed that it took him over six years to become aware of such details. For an excellent summary the IHCC's history and mandate, one should read the ASIH Procedures Manual (Johnson et al. 1999 et seq.).

Although the IHCC has been increasingly active in recent years, those activities did not emanate from the confines of four subcommittees approved at the 1997 annual meetings: 1) Supplies and Practices, (2) Newsletter, (3) Ichthyological Data Standards, and (4) Herpetological Data Standards. Instead, those who attended IHCC meetings at recent JMIHs have, for the most part, initiated and led IHCC activities. Along those lines, committee membership has come to reflect attendees of the annual IHCC meeting in addition to legacy members who do not regularly attend the JMIH (unless those members voluntarily resigned).

During the 2015 IHCC meeting in Reno, Sabaj motioned to dissolve the approved subcommittees because of their inactivity. That was a bit premature. Upon reading the "charges" of the four original subcommittees, clearly one, "Supplies and Practices", was established to address issues that the current IHCC considers a priority, such as updating the collections "best practices" guide for ASIH.

BEST PRACTICES

At the 2015 JMIH, Karsten Hartel noted that the IHCC (est. ca. 1973-74) formed a subcommittee on "Curatorial Supplies and Practices" in 1977. That subcommittee produced: Fink, W.L., K.E. Hartel, W.G. Saul, E.M. Koon, and E.O. Wiley. 1979. A report on current supplies and practices used in curation of ichthyological collections. Report of the Ad hoc Subcommittee on Curatorial Supplies and Practices of the ASIH Ichthyological Collections Committee. 63 p (available via ASIH website).

That report was based largely on a questionnaire sent to most of the fish collections listed by Collette and Lachner (1976). The report's authors considered their data to accurately represent "state-of-the-art" curation of fish collections in the US and Canada. That goes without question. But, that report is now over 35 years old, and our art has changed. Furthermore, that report did not address issues specific to herpetological collections.

The IHCC agreed it was time to update "Best Practices" for fish and herp collections, so I resurrected the momentarily deceased "Supplies and Practices" subcommittee for the task. Randy Singer, doctoral student at the University of Florida, offered to take a leading role in updating the society's "Best Practices" documentation. Nelson Rios, Chair of the old "Supplies and Practices" subcommittee, later agreed to hand the chairperson reigns over to Randy. Thanks to Nelson for his long service as Chair, and for continuing to serve as a member of the subcommittee. Herpetologist Greg Watkins-Colwell later agreed to co-Chair the subcommittee reincarnate.

Ideally the “Supplies and Practices” subcommittee should be composed of an equal number of herpetologists and ichthyologists ranging from students to seasoned collection managers. Sarah Baker-Wylie and Ethan Kessler (herpetology students advised by Chris Phillips at INHS) have already agreed to be on the subcommittee. Others currently on the subcommittee are listed at the end of this report. Those interested in joining should contact Randy Singer (rsinger@flmnh.ufl.edu) or Greg Watkins-Colwell (gregory.watkins-colwell@yale.edu).

Ideally, the IHCC “Supplies and Practices” subcommittee also should work closely with members of the SPNHC Best Practices committee who are developing similar documents for posting via the SPNHC wiki. Andy Bentley noted that some years ago Chris Collins of the NHM in London spearheaded another effort to document “Best Practices” (see: <http://conservation.myspecies.info/node/36>). Although that document requires some polishing, it can certainly inform or seed similar efforts by the IHCC and SPNHC.

For more information on the SPNHC initiative, contact Breda Zimkus (bzimkus@oeb.harvard.edu) and Jessica Cundiff (jcundiff@oeb.harvard.edu), chairs of the SPNHC Best Practices committee, and/or Greg Watkins-Colwell, SPNHC Representative to ASIH. Also, keep Luiz Rocha, ASIH Representative to SPNHC, in the loop.

COLLECTIONS WORKSHOP AT 2016 JMIH

At the IHCC meeting in Reno, we discussed holding a workshop on July 11, the day after the 2016 JMIH in New Orleans to help develop 1) ASIH “Best Practices” documentation, and 2) a proposal for a fluid-preserved vertebrate TCN for submission to the NSF’s Advancing Digitization of Biodiversity Collections (ADBC) program.

A TCN (Thematic Collections Network) is a network of institutions with a strategy for digitizing information that addresses a particular research theme or “big question”, such as impacts of climate change or shifts in regional biota. In the first 5 years of the ADBC program, no TCN with a vertebrate focus has been funded. On the heels of their successful Collaborative Georeferencing Project, Hank Bart and Nelson Rios spearheaded a proposal for a Fish Specimen Imaging TCN that was submitted to NSF ADBC in the Fall of 2014. That proposal received decent reviews, but was declined for funding. The efficient and useful digitization of fluid-preserved specimens remains a challenge – one that any new proposal must address.

Attendees of the IHCC meeting in Reno discussed such challenges and strategies to overcome them. It was generally noted that the digitization of fluid-preserved fishes and herps takes time, dedicated personnel and technological improvements. Some institutions (e.g., MCZ Fishes) have already imaged their type specimens. Many catfish and minnow types have been imaged in 2D with support from NSF PBIs. Chris Phillips is developing workflows for imaging amphibians and reptiles at INHS. Compared to imaging whole specimens, capturing 2D images for proper identification is an order of magnitude harder because the specimen requires special orientation and the photographer must know which characteristics are informative.

The TCN submitted by Hank and Nelson proposed to advance technology for imaging fish specimens in 3D with emphasis on types. Katherine Maslenikov and others agreed that imaging type specimens makes the most sense. Larry Page pointed out that we should be thinking about image usage beyond research. Images of types and non-types can be useful to educators, conservationists, artists, exhibits people, etc. Gil pointed out that one “not-so-secret” objective of ADBC, iDigBio and TCNs is to make museums more visible to the public, thereby building constituencies beyond scientists. Along those lines, it is important to track users and usage of images posted to on-line databases. iDigBio is developing means for tracking such statistics.

TCN proposals must address a research question, one larger than resolving the taxonomy or systematics of a particular group. Furthermore, taxonomic questions that cannot be answered via standard 2D views of a specimen are unlikely to be solved by standard 3D imaging (i.e., difficult taxonomic questions will always require first-hand observations on type specimens). That said, 2D images might rule out or rule in the need to visit a museum or ask for a loan of material. Norma Salcedo pointed out that CT scanning provides a wealth of data on internal and external anatomy, and is easier on fluid-preserved specimens than prolonged photo shoots that require the specimen to be maintained in air. Maintaining fluid-preserved specimens in air for image capture is a major concern, and will likely rule out participation by some collections if such airtime risks specimen dehydration.

The major goal of any new TCN proposal is to establish a “big question” that can be answered with a large number of specimen images. Caleb McMahan noted FMNH’s participation in a funded TCN that involves imaging of vertebrates (i.e., fishes, particularly those invasive to the Great Lakes) at different life stages (adults vs. juveniles).

Near the end of the discussion, Hank announced that his proposal to IMLS to develop new technologies for imaging fluid-preserved fishes was funded (Congrats!). Hank also noted that NSF proposals are rarely funded during their first round of submission; successful NSF proposals are the product of an iterative process that involves submission, rejection, revision and resubmission (i.e., a well-reviewed, but once rejected NSF proposal is generally one year closer to funding than a brand new one).

Near the close of the IHCC meeting in Reno, Gil Nelson and Larry Page, members of the iDigBio Steering Committee, offered the support of iDigBio to underwrite the workshop (i.e., no cost to ASIH). The workshop is scheduled for Monday, 11 July 2016, the day after the JMIH in New Orleans. Big thanks to Randy Singer and Greg Watkins-Colwell for organizing the workshop with help from Gil Nelson.

Via an email to those who attended the IHCC meeting in Reno, Gil briefly recapped items that were generally agreed upon with respect to the TCN proposal:

- 1) An initial organizational meeting between Larry, Hank, and Gil to discuss the general way forward,
- 2) Schedule of several online meetings of IHCC members and other interested parties to hash out ideas about what a fluid-preserved vertebrate TCN might entail and strategies for developing a comprehensive proposal,

- 3) Schedule and issue invitations to a planning workshop [held March 2016 at the University of Illinois]
- 4) Establish one or more writing teams to address specific parts of ADBC proposal,
- 5) Prepare complete proposal by early September 2016 for submission to ADBC by 16 October 2016.

In sum, the 2016 workshop will provide an important opportunity for IHCC members and stakeholders to discuss and develop “Best Practices” for ASIH and a fluid-preserved vertebrate TCN proposal to NSF. Assuming success, collections-related workshops may accompany future JMIHs.

ASIH WEBSITE

Margaret Neighbors, member of the Web Content and Management Committee, noted the death of the link to the “Collections Supplies Database” under the Resources tab of the ASIH website. The link has since been removed, but the interest in such a database remains.

The original “database” (i.e., excel spreadsheets of supplies and vendors) was compiled by Nelson Rios from a questionnaire sent to CMs ca. 2001-2002 by Jessica Rosales. Efforts to reboot the list of supplies and vendors will be discussed at the 2016 JMIH. In the meantime, one may find information on some equipment and supplies here:

<http://symbiont.ansp.org/ixingu/supplies/index.html>.

ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM

On 2 June, Governor Bruce Rauner announced that the Illinois DNR “will begin the process to suspend operations and close the five state museums to visitors” while continuing “to maintain and secure the museums to protect the artifacts and exhibits”. The public closure of five museums, including the Illinois State Museum (ISM, founded in 1877 as a natural history museum), was one of several cutbacks intended to offset the near \$4 billion dollar deficit in the state budget for FY 2016 passed by the Illinois Senate.

Shortly before the JMIH in Reno, Carol Spencer communicated with Meredith Mahoney (ISM Zoology Curator) and wrote a letter on behalf of the IHCC to be submitted as public comment on the ISM closure. Secretary Donnelly, also working with Mahoney, drafted separately a Resolution on ISM for the ASIH business meeting. Both actions were discussed at the IHCC meeting in Reno and the committee agreed that the Resolution coming from the entire society was stronger. The IHCC unanimously supported the Resolution, as did ASIH members at the business meeting. Secretary Donnelly submitted the ASIH Resolution to the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability in Springfield, IL, and it was included among 536 pages of public comments compiled as of 21 July 2015 (see:

<http://cgfa.ilga.gov/upload/ILStateMuseumFacClosPublicComments.pdf>).

Public comments on the ISM closure poured in from throughout the US and abroad via email, letters and postcards. By my glance, commentators filled a broad spectrum of artists, educators, lawyers, scientists, small-business owners, students, state elected officials, and private citizens,

as well as representatives of museums and cultural centers (e.g., Burke Museum, Cleveland NHM, Field Museum, Kanagawa Prefectural and Gunma museums of natural history, Japan, NHM London, NMNH, YPM), museum associations and advocacy groups (e.g., AAM, AIBS, NSCA, SPNHC), representatives of schools, colleges and universities (e.g., AFSCME, Drexel U, Indiana U, Kyoto Prefectural U, Lehigh U, Loyola U Chicago, McGill U, Montana St U, Royal Holloway U London, SMU, U Bergen Norway, U of Amsterdam, UCLA and UCSB, UCONN, U Chicago, U Iowa, U Notre Dame, UT Austin, Washington U St. Louis, Weinberg College), non-profit organizations and societies (e.g., AMQUA, ASIH, Chicago Zoological Soc., Herpetologists League, IAAA, LOESS, Nature Conservancy, Paleontological Soc., Palynological Soc. of Japan, Soc. of Herbarium Curators), the US Dept. of the Army and Dept. of the Interior, and the Chief of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma.

Many comments noted that the ISM annual budget of \$6.29 million is 0.0072% of the FY 2015 state budget and 0.157% of the \$4 billion shortfall. Museum closures are gaining entry to fiscal nostrums advanced by irresponsible politicians. That will persist and must be swiftly met with overwhelming rejection.

As of 3 May 2016, the ISM home page reads “We regret that all Illinois State Museum facilities are closed to the public until further notice.”

SPIRITUS AWARD

On 3 July 2015 and on behalf of the IHCC, Sabaj submitted the resolution below to Brian Crother, Chair of the ASIH Resolutions Committee, via email cc'd to Secretary Donnelly. For background on the resolution, Chair Crother was referred to the ASIH Collections Committee BOG Report submitted 8 June 2015.

Whereas natural history specimens and their derivatives serve as the foundation for diverse research on the biology and conservation of fishes, amphibians and reptiles...
And, whereas the repositories of such objects serve as archives of biodiversity, providing historical continuity between past, present and future studies...
And whereas the enduring value of such specimens and repositories to science and society is dependent upon those dedicated to their preservation, management and advancement...
Therefore be it resolved that the ASIH will recognize Excellence in Service to Natural History Collections with the annual Spiritus Award.

The *Spiritus* Resolution was not among those officially read at the ASIH business meeting in Reno. After a couple of inquiries from the floor, a desultory read of the *Spiritus* resolution was awkwardly met with stilted applause.

Shortly after the 2015 JMIH, Brad Shaffer and Larry Allen offered to help flesh out a proper proposal for the *Spiritus* Award before the 2016 JMIH. With a green light from EXEC, an award development committee (Greg Watkins-Colwell, Brad Shaffer, Gerald Smith and Mark Sabaj Pérez) was formed in Oct 2015. That committee submitted the proposal on behalf of the IHCC to EXEC on 29 Mar 2016. ASIH President Mo Donnelly called for a vote on 9 Apr and EXEC promptly approved. The proposal was forwarded to the BOG and similarly met swift approval.

As of 1 May, the *Spiritus* Award is official and will recognize those curators and collections managers that have made significant contributions to museum collections.

NEW IHCC CO-CHAIR

In Dec 2015, outgoing President Larry Allen officially recognized Gregory Watkins-Colwell as IHCC Co-Chair for his trusted service in recent years.

NSF PROGRAM COLLECTIONS IN SUPPORT OF BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH (CSBR)

In March 2016, the NSF Directorate for Biological Sciences placed the Collections in Support of Biological Research (CSBR) Program on hiatus for fiscal year 2017. As expected, members of the natural science collections community responded with deep disapproval. With encouragement from Mo Donnelly, Greg Watkins-Colwell and Mark Sabaj Pérez drafted a one-page letter expressing IHCC concerns to Dr. James Olds, NSF Assistant Director for Biological Sciences. At the time of this report's submission, the letter was in the hands of Donnelly for review prior to sending to the BOG for endorsement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

H.J. Walker announced his retirement from full-time employment at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. One might ask: How could that be? He looks so young!

Born and raised in New Orleans, Harold Jack Walker, Jr., completed a MS degree in Fisheries Biology with a minor in Experimental Statistics at Louisiana State University in 1978. His advisor was Prof. Frank Truesdale, a fisheries biologist and planktologist who mostly loved shellfisheries and was a good mentor.

Circa April Fools Day 1982, SIO Curator Richard (Dick) Rosenblatt hired H.J. as a Museum Scientist/Collection Manager for a starting salary circa \$18000. In that capacity, and presumably for more pay, H.J. served for 33½ years...a time convergent upon the speed at which he still plays his LP's. "That's vinyl for you young people!".

During his time at SIO, H.J. researched the taxonomy and systematics of various marine fishes, fostering a penchant for watching them in their natural habitats. From 1988 to 2007 he and seven co-authors described 10 new fishes representing nine separate families. Those species hail mostly from the eastern Pacific, his base of operations, along with a chiasmodontid from the Indian Ocean and *Schindleria brevipinguis* from the Great Barrier Reef. According to H.J., *S. brevipinguis* is the world's smallest vertebrate (a title defined by mass, with spurious claims based on length).

In addition to descriptions and revisions, H.J. has published on larval fishes, marine surveys, and most recently, the molecular phylogenetic relationships of tropical eastern Pacific snappers. With Philip Hastings and Grantly Galland, H.J. also co-authored "Fishes: A Guide to their Diversity", a comprehensive reference book that showcases the basic anatomy, diagnostics and diversity of all 82 orders of fishes and more than 150 of the most commonly encountered families.

As CM, H.J. has accessioned untold thousands of fish lots, many of which he helped collect, and added about 2000 tissues to the SIO collection. He also coined the technical term “tank diving” in reference to the frustration one experiences when a sought after specimen is found at the very bottom of its very large fiberglass or stainless steel container.

H.J. is a longtime regular of ASIH meetings. Except for a few in the 1980s, he has attended them all since Gainesville, 1977. Over the years he sincerely has enjoyed serving on the IHCC, AFS/ASIH Names Committee, and ASIH Board of Governors, as well as sharing time between talks with society members.

For the next year or so H.J. will continue to work part time at SIO to break in the new hire [TBD] and finish up a few projects. Thanks for handling all those loans!

The IHCC meeting at the 2015 JMIH in Reno was attended by:

Mariangeles Arce H.	The Academy of Natural Sciences
Hank Bart	Tulane University
Cristina Cox Fernandes	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Ben Frable	Oregon State University
Karsten Hartel	Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology
Dean Hendrickson	University of Texas, Austin
Eric Hilton	Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Cynthia Klepadlo	Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Peter Konstantinidis	Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Katherine Maslenikov	Burke Museum, University of Washington
Caleb McMahan	The Field Museum of Natural History
Susan Mochel	The Field Museum of Natural History
Gil Nelson	iDigBio & Florida State University
Larry Page	Florida Museum of Natural History
Chris Phillips	Illinois Natural History Survey
Mark Sabaj Pérez	The Academy of Natural Sciences
Norma Salcedo	Francis Marion University
Randy Singer	Florida Museum of Natural History
Alexandra Snyder	Museum of Southwestern Biology
Kevin Swagel	The Field Museum of Natural History
Ken Thompson	Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania
H.J. Walker	Scripps Institution of Oceanography

ASIH COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE as of 1 DEC 2015 (submitted to Larry Allen)

Chair

Mark Sabaj Pérez

Co-Chair

Greg Watkins-Colwell

Committee at large

Mariangeles Arce H.	The Academy of Natural Sciences
Hank Bart	Tulane University
Cristina Cox Fernandes	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Karsten Hartel	Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology
Dean Hendrickson	University of Texas, Austin
Eric Hilton	Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Cynthia Klepadlo	Scripps Institution of Oceanography
Peter Konstantinidis	Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Katherine Maslenikov	Burke Museum, University of Washington
Caleb McMahan	The Field Museum of Natural History
Susan Mochel	The Field Museum of Natural History
Gil Nelson	iDigBio & Florida State University
Larry Page	Florida Museum of Natural History
Chris Phillips	Illinois Natural History Survey
Norma Salcedo	Francis Marion University
Alexandra Snyder	Museum of Southwestern Biology
Kevin Swagel	The Field Museum of Natural History
Ken Thompson	Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania
H.J. Walker	Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Supplies and Practices Subcommittee

Sarah Baker-Wylie
Andy Bentley
Paulo Andreas Buckup
Ben Frable
Ethan Kessler
Nelson Rios (ex Chair)
Gregory Schneider
Randy Singer (co-Chair)
Gregory Watkins-Colwell (Co-Chair)

Dissolved as of 4 August 2015

Newsletter Subcommittee
Ichthyological & Herpetological Data Standards Subcommittee

38. NFJC: Joint ASIH-AFS Committee on Names of Fishes – Larry M. Page

The Committee on Names of Fishes met in Phoenix, Arizona, 4-8 April 2016, as guests of the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) to review of names of species of *Gila* in the Gila River system of Arizona and New Mexico, and to consider changes to the List of Names since the 7th edition of the *Common and Scientific Names of Fishes from the United States, Canada, and Mexico* was published in March 2013. A report on names of species of *Gila* in the Gila

River system of Arizona and New Mexico will be sent to AGFD after information is obtained from ongoing studies.

The committee approved the addition of 980 names of deep-sea species (those occurring deeper than 200 m but within the EEZ), prepared by Karsten Hartel and HJ Walker, with assistance from Hector Espinosa-Pérez. An explanation for the addition of these species will appear in the introduction to the List, but Appen notes will not be added. A "D" will be added to the occurrence column for each species, indicating that it is exclusively or primarily a deep-sea species.

Proposed corrections and additions to the List (prepared primarily by Carter Gilbert, Bob Lea, and Juan-Jacobo Schmitter-Soto), in addition to those for deep-sea fishes, were reviewed. In future lists, the committee will assign a "U" to each marine species that is found in the U.S. to enable the creation of a list of marine fishes for the U.S., which cannot be done under the current system. The U will go in the occurrence column along with C and M.

Hector Espinosa-Pérez, Juan-Jacobo Schmitter-Soto, and Lloyd Findley will coin Spanish names for all species in the List, and Nick Mandrak (possibly with help from Claude Renaud) will coin French names for all species in the List. This is to make the List more internationally useful. Names of all species confined to Greenland will be deleted from the List.

39. NSCAR: Representative to the Natural Science Collections Alliance - Larry M. Page

The NSC Alliance is a nonprofit association that supports natural science collections. The approximately 100 institutional members are part of an international community of institutions that house natural science collections and utilize them in research, exhibitions, academic and informal science education, and other outreach activities. Significant initiatives and accomplishments of the NSCA in the past year included sponsorship of the plenary program at the annual meeting of the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC), hosting the Biodiversity Collections Network (BCoN) meeting on collections communications at the Field Museum in Chicago, discussions with lawmakers in Washington during a December 2015 science briefing for members of Congress and other federal policymakers, participation in national advocacy events to promote the importance of collections to decision-makers, and providing testimony to Congress requesting increased funding for natural history collections. Recent investments by the National Science Foundation in digitization of natural history collections data are increasing and highlighting the benefits of collections data. NSCA played a pivotal role in promoting the importance of digitization, which led to NSF's Advancing Digitization of Biodiversity Collections Program.

Objectives of a new strategic plan for NSCA include promoting of the importance of research and education based on natural science collections, enhancing the services offered to NSC Alliance members, providing leadership within the collections-based research community, and building the Alliance's financial and organizational capacity to ensure long-term success.

40. SPUC: Special Publications Committee – Jonathan W. Armbruster

Report of the Special Publications Committee

Sales have dropped since 2014, and Special Publication #6 sales are slim. In 2013, we made the recommendation that the volume be made available via Amazon as the other books are, but this was not followed. We reminded EXEC of this in our report in 2015, and it was not followed. We strongly suggest that Special Publication #6 be made available on Amazon for \$110.

Total Sales Figures

Special Publication #3: Collection Building	2004: 16 copies, 2005: 14 copies 2006: 13 copies 2007: 14 copies 2008: 11 copies 2009: 9 copies 2010: 29 copies 2011: 6 copies 2012: 7 copies 2013: 8 copies 2014: 17 copies 2015: 5 copies	\$542.00 \$448.50 \$453.00 \$440.25 \$372.00 \$285.00 \$796.25 \$284.50 \$292.75 \$226.50 \$606.00 \$167.00
Special Publication #4: Fishes of Bermuda	2004: 16 copies, 2005: 19 copies 2006: 18 copies 2007: 14 copies 2008: 6 copies 2009: 3 copies 2010: 24 copies 2011: 2 copies 2012: 4 copies 2013: 18 copies 2014: 9 copies 2015: 1 copy	\$601.50 \$811.00 \$604.00 \$499.00 \$199.00 \$116.50 \$627.50 \$68.00 \$166.00 \$570.50 \$318.00 \$36.00
Special Publication #5: Living Marine Resources	2004: 97 copies, 2005: 49 copies 2006: 22 full sets, 4 volume 2, 3 Volume 3 2007: 8 full sets, 38 individual volumes 2008: 7 full sets, 4 individual volumes 2009: 4 full sets, 4 individual volumes 2010: 30 full sets, 18 individual volumes 2011: 11 full sets, 6 individual volumes 2012: 7 full sets	\$10,540.00 \$5,432.00 \$2,494.00 \$1,962.00 \$861.00 \$517.00 \$2,917.50 \$1,199.30 \$702.00

	2013: 14 Vol 1, 5 each Vol 2 and 3	\$684.00
	2014 8 Vol 1 and 3, 9 Vol 2	\$979.99
	2015: Vol. 1 (2), Vol. 2 (5), Vol. 3 (4)	\$390.00
Special Publication #6	2010: 161 copies	\$3,786.00
An Empirical Synthetic	2011: 26 copies	\$993.00
Pattern Study of Gars	2012: 6 copies	\$638.00
	2013: 20 copies	\$953.5
	2014: 3 copies	\$217.00
	2015: 3 copies	\$300.00
Total 2015		\$893.00

41. WCMC: Web Content and Management Committee - Missy Gibbs and Steven J. Beaupre

2015 members: Steven Beaupre, Missy Gibbs, John Lundberg, Margaret Neighbors, Jacqueline Webb, and Mo Donnelly (ex Officio).

The WCMC met in Reno from 4:00-6:00PM on Saturday July 18, in Cascade 2. The primary items of discussion during the 2015 WCMC were:

1. A proposal for a Copeia web page – this new page is currently under development.
2. Search for a New WCMC chair - as a result of this discussion, Missy Gibbs was appointed Chair of WCMC.
3. The meeting was attended by Dennis Murphy, who is our professional web host / webmaster. Dennis facilitated more detailed discussion of several possible modifications to the ASIH web site, as we move forward. In addition, a discussion of broken links and other functional issues ensued.

To the Membership:

Please submit to the Image Bank

To remind the membership, an attractive feature of the new website is the image bank (under “Resources”). Society members can submit images of habitats, organisms, and people, under varying public use conditions. These images appear randomly on the webpages as users browse. The membership (especially Ichthyologists) is strongly encouraged to contribute to the image bank through following instructional links on the ASIH.org website. Approval to access the image bank for contribution starts with a simple request email to Missy Gibbs (mgibbs@stetson.edu). Please let us know if you want access, we verify membership status, and set you up with a password.

Planned activities, 2016 meeting in New Orleans

The 2016 Web Content and Management Committee will meet in New Orleans from 4:00-6:00PM on Saturday July 9, in Studio 10. If you have any input you would like to share about the web site, please contact Missy Gibbs, or any member of the committee above. We hope to make the ASIH web site an evolving and dynamic tool for the society.

The WCMC will review and discuss a mock-up of the new Copeia page. This page will be a stand-alone (separate from Allen press) page on the ASIH website to feature Copeia, and facilitate access to the journal for the membership. The committee will make final recommendations, prior to activation by Dennis Murphy. We will also discuss potential changes to the site and functionality as we approach the need to migrate to newer technology.

42. HIST: History of the Society Committee - David G. Smith & Joseph C. Mitchell

The History Committee continued to emphasize its work related to the ASIH Centennial while continuing to produce biographical articles.

Five Historical Perspectives articles were published in 2015. They were “Arthur Wilber Henn: Unsung Hero of the ASIH” by Inci Bowman and David Smith, 103(2); “Murray John Littlejohn and Patricia Gordon Littlejohn” by Brian Sullivan, Angus Martin, Margaret Stewart, and Jack Fouquette, 103(2); “Ichs and Herps, My Story” by Jay Savage, 103(3); “George Bernard Rabb” by Joe Mitchell and Joe Mendelson, 103(4); and “Historical Notes: the Alexander G. Ruthven Award” David Smith, 103(4).

Work was completed on three papers that appeared in 104 (1): a biography of C. Richard Robins by David Smith, a paper on the 50th anniversary meeting of ASIH in 1963 by David Smith and Inci Bowman, and a paper on Honorary Foreign Members by Eric Hilton. In addition, a manuscript on the role of women in the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists by Lynne Parenti and Marvalee Wake was completed and will appear in 104(2).

Several Historical Perspectives are in the works on herpetologists: Robert Mount by Mark Bailey and Greg Guyer; Bayard Brattstrom by Mo Donnelly; David Wake by Nancy Staub; Bill Duellman by David Canatella; and Vic Hutchison by Joe Mitchell.

43. Ad Hoc Committee on the 100th Anniversary – Eric J. Hilton

This report documents the 2015 activities of the Ad Hoc Committee on the 100th Anniversary. Although activities were conducted throughout the year, many of the activities were discussed at the second physical meeting of the Centennial Committee, which took place on July 17, 2015 in conjunction with the 2015 meeting of the ASIH. This meeting was attended by most members of the committee and several other interested parties, including all members of the Local Host committee for the 2016 ASIH meeting in New Orleans, LA. The results of this meeting and its discussions will serve as the center piece of this report to the BOG.

The first order of business was discussion of the symposium planned for the 2016 meeting to celebrate the ASIH Centennial. The proposal for this symposium – ASIH at 100: Setting the Stage for the Next Hundred Years – was submitted to the symposium committee in

April 2015 and selected as one of the ASIH symposia. The symposium sub-committee comprised Eric Hilton, Marty Crump, Bill Matthews, and Brad Shaffer. All invited symposium participants were asked to incorporate into their talks personal reflections and stories of their own interactions with the Society, the Society's impact on their career, and their perspectives regarding the next 100 years. Participants were encouraged to develop a presentation that touches upon their research and training programs and their career development, how participation in ASIH has shaped his/her career, their perspective on the future of the ASIH as a taxon-oriented professional society. This was planned as a full-day symposium, and most talks will be 15 minutes in length; two 30-minute presentations will open and close this symposium. Invitations were extended to ASIH members with long-standing participation in the organization, governance, and structure of the ASIH and participants are equal number ichthyologists and herpetologists. Symposium participants include students, mid-career colleagues, and more senior members with a diverse involvement in the Society. We have also asked two Honorary Foreign Members (one ichthyologist and one herpetologist) to participate and offer their reflections on the Society. Several presentations, in addition to being asked to prepare a contribution as outlined above, specifically address the history of ASIH or other general aspects of the impact of the society.

Following general discussion of the symposium, Editor Beachy inquired about the potential of its publication in *Copeia*. It was decided that because of the nature of many of the talks and the charge to the speakers, there likely would be a large redundancy of themes in many of the resulting manuscripts. Following discussion, it was decided that a better model would be publication of a summary of the symposium [following the committee meeting, Hilton and Crump further discussed this and discussed co-authoring such a manuscript, with the goal of including this in issue 4 of 2016, as a final paper in the centennial series of *Copeia* papers; this suggestion was discussed with Editor Beachy and sent around to the Centennial Committee via email for discussion, and with no opposition voiced Hilton and Crump will co-author this publication].

Lynne Parenti and Jay Savage, both active and long-term members of the ASIH, were invited by the Centennial Committee, in consultation with the Local Host Committee, to participate in the 2016 plenary session. Parenti and Savage will both deliver 20 minute presentations on their interactions with the Society.

Plans were discussed for the development of a slide show reflecting the history of ASIH. Mark Sabaj-Perez agreed to take the lead on this, and suggestions for a herpetological co-organizer were made. From the ichthyological side of the house, this slide show will be based on that of historical figures in ichthyology assembled in past years by Brooks Burr. It was noted that many of the early figures had both ichthyological and herpetological interests. The timing of this slide show was discussed, and it was decided that an evening presentation would be best.

At its 2015 meeting, the Centennial Committee discussed the series of historical publications for *Copeia* being published during the Centennial Period (2013-2016). Authors and topics planned for the remainder of the centennial period, with the goal of one per issue, were discussed. In 2015, there were three centennial papers published; due to miscommunication the article intended for publication in the first issue of 2015 did not appear in that issue.

2015(1) – no paper

2015(2) -- Bowman and Smith, Arthur Wilbur Henn: Unsung Hero of the ASIH

2015(3) -- Savage, 2015. Ichs and Herms, My Story

2015(4) -- Smith, 2015. The Alexander G. Ruthven Award

Those centennial publications appearing and planned for 2016 include:

2016(1) – Smith and Bowman, 50th Anniversary Meeting of the ASIH; Hilton, Honorary Foreign Members of the ASIH

2016(2) – Parenti and Wake, Evolution of the Role of Women in the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (in press)

2016(3) -- Nicholson/Hayes/Mohammadi: Students in ASIH (manuscript needs to be accepted by 1 July 2016)

2016(4) – Donnelly et al. A Presidential View of the next 100 Years of the ASIH; Hilton and Crump, ASIH at 100: Reflections on the ASIH based on the Centennial Symposium (manuscripts need to be accepted by 1 October 2016)

During the fall, Hilton interacted as needed with the Local Host Committee, primarily in coordination with that committee in terms of scheduling of centennial speakers during the plenary session and providing a Centennial Committee perspective on Local Host functions for selecting and scheduling activities during the 2016 Centennial Meeting.

There is no scheduled meeting of the Centennial Committee during the 2016 ASIH meeting, as all business of the committee in the final year of its existence has been and is expected to continue to be conducted by email.

44. Ad Hoc Committee on ASIH Membership – Brian Sidlauskas

The ASIH Ad-Hoc Committee on Membership convened July 1, 2015 at the Joint Meeting in Reno, Nevada with the charge to better understand reasons for membership decline, to assemble a concrete set of action items to increase membership, and to help implement those actions. Members present included Brian Sidlauskas (chair), Hannah Owens, Lynne Parenti, Malorie Hayes, Mollie Cashner, and Scott Schaefer. Other members participating through email discussions include Ken Thompson, Sean Doody, Melissa Pilgrim, Richard Durtsche, William Matthews, Luiz Rocha, Larry Allen, Mo Donnelly, Brad Shaffer, and David Cundall.

In earlier years, the committee reached the consensus that the best way to increase membership in ASIH was to augment the draw of the annual Joint Meeting, and we continued work towards that goal in 2015. Some initiatives have already succeeded, such the bar trivia night that the ASIH graduate student committee organized as a welcoming social in Reno, and the introduction of lightning talks. We discussed ways to better advertise and promote these shorter talks, and worked with Heide Burke in early 2016 to make the procedure and rationale for this option more apparent through emails and during the registration process. Thirty-four lightning talks have been registered for the New Orleans meeting, representing a substantial increase in interest, and we hope that these will become a standard feature of JMIH.

Hannah Owens suggested that one certain way to increase the value of the meeting for students was to offer training workshops on the zero day of the meeting. This suggestion was widely lauded, and many topics were suggested, including niche modeling, introduction to UNIX, R programming, phylogenetic comparative methods and the use of Stack Overflow. With support from ASIH and the NSF, Brian Sidlauskas and Hannah Owens took charge of organizing such a workshop (focused on introductory R programming, phylogenetic comparative methods and niche modeling) for the New Orleans meeting. The workshop filled to the capacity of 64

students within days of registration opening, and seems poised to be a highlight of the upcoming JMIH.

The committee spent a substantial portion of time at the meeting and throughout the year on the current lack of childcare at JMIH. That omission has been identified as a major barrier to the participation of parents with young children and potential factor slowing membership growth. We talked about how some other societies have organized child care at their annual meetings, including the Society for the Study of Evolution and the Society of Integrative and Comparative Biologists, and formed a subcommittee to pursue the issue. Over the 2015-2016 year, that committee worked with Heide Burke to assemble a survey that could be sent widely to the ASIH membership, and to investigate childcare options for New Orleans. The subcommittee designed such a survey, but communication issues ultimately interfered with its wider distribution to the ASIH membership. Two potential plans for childcare at New Orleans were formulated, but ultimately not approved by the meeting management committee due to concerns surrounding liability and cost. However, the four JMIH presidents have recently formed an Ad-Hoc Committee on Childcare composed of members from all four societies, with Brian Sidlauskas as chair. Mollie Cashner and Henry Mushinsky also represent ASIH. That committee has begun to research how other societies have addressed liability concerns and how they share costs between parents and general registration, and will ultimately present their findings and a proposed plan of action to the four JMIH societies.

In other business at Reno, we discussed and applauded membership-related business from the Board of Governors meeting, including the increase in funding for student awards and the proposed “Let the Students Ride” fundraiser. Members of the committee also floated ideas about making photos from the meeting more visible on the society’s website and on Twitter, and on placing promotional materials encouraging participants to join ASIH in the annual meeting “swag bag”.

The ASIH Ad Hoc Committee on Membership will reconvene in New Orleans at 5:00 on July 8th, 2016, and will continue its discussions on child care, workshops, socials and other ways to make the annual meetings more attractive and thereby increase membership in the Society.

45. Honorary Foreign Member in Ichthyology – Bruce Collette

The Committee to nominate a new Honorary Foreign Member in Ichthyology to replace Rosemary McConnell consisted of Lynne Parenti, Melanie Stiassny, and Bruce Collette, chair. We reviewed a list of about a dozen candidates, most of whom had been considered previously, and narrowed the list down to two. Checking on publications and other contributions to ichthyology led us to select one, Helen Larson (CV Appendix H). She is a world-renowned expert on gobies, particularly those from the Indo-Pacific. It is particularly appropriate to nominate Helen at this meeting because she was here for the goby symposium at our last ASIH meeting in New Orleans.

46. APPENDIX A. CONSTITUTION

ASIH CONSTITUTION (revised & ratified 2 August 2014)

Article I: Name

The name of this Society shall be "THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ICHTHYOLOGISTS AND HERPETOLOGISTS." The Society is incorporated in the District of Columbia (22 November 1949).

Article II: Object

Section 1. The object of this Society shall be to advance the scientific study of fishes, amphibians, and reptiles.

Section 2. The Society shall be operated as a nonprofit corporation.

Article III: Membership

Section 1. Membership shall be open to persons interested in the object of the Society.

Section 2. The membership of the Society shall consist of the following classes:

a. Active members who pay annual dues in the following categories: Student, Regular, Associate, and Sustaining. In addition, a fifth category, Life Members, pay 25 times (25 x) regular annual dues in one lump sum or four equal consecutive annual payments.

b. Honorary Foreign Members shall be elected by the Board of Governors from among the ichthyologists and herpetologists, located outside of Canada, Mexico, and the United States, who have attained distinction as investigators. The Honorary Foreign Members shall be equally divided between ichthyologists and herpetologists.

Article IV: Officers

Section 1. The officers of the Society shall be: A President, who shall assume the duties of this office for a one-year term immediately following a term as President-Elect. A President-Elect, who shall serve a one-year term; the office shall alternate annually between an ichthyologist and herpetologist; the President-Elect shall be ineligible for another term until two years have elapsed from the end of a term as President. A Treasurer, a Secretary, and an Editor shall be elected annually.

Section 2. The Officers, shall be elected online, 60 days after the Annual Business Meeting by active members of the Society. The slate of nominees shall be furnished by the Nominating Committee to the Board of Governors at their annual meeting. The Board of Governors will approve the slate. Additional nominations may be presented from the floor of the Board of Governors and the Annual Business meetings. All nominations shall be accompanied by a brief statement of qualifications and a written statement of willingness to serve from the nominee. The term of office shall commence on 1 January following the annual meeting at which the officers were elected. In the event of a tie in election for any office, the Executive Committee shall determine the winner.

Section 3. The officers named in Section 1 shall discharge the duties usually assigned to their respective offices (see Bylaws) and shall be members in good-standing during their terms of office.

Section 4. In the event of death or incapacitation of the President during the term of office, the President-Elect will become President. If the position of President-Elect becomes vacant, the person who received the second highest number of votes in the election will become President-Elect. If necessary, the Executive Committee shall make the determination that a President or President-Elect is incapacitated to the extent that required duties of the office are not likely to be performed.

Section 5. A vacancy in either the Editorship, Secretaryship, or Treasurership occurring in the interval between annual meetings of the Society may be filled, until the next election, by Presidential appointment.

Section 6. Executive Committee.

a. The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, President-Elect, Past-President, Prior Past-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Chair of the Long Range Planning and Policy Committee, and Chair of the Endowment and Finance Committee.

b. Each ASIH President will serve a total of four years on the Executive Committee, as President-Elect, President, Past-President, and prior Past-President, in that sequence.

c. All members of the Executive Committee shall agree in writing to abide by the Conflict of Interest policy each year.

Section 7. Between the annual meetings the business of the Society shall be conducted by the officers, acting within their individual responsibilities, and the Executive Committee, and the Board of Governors if they are called upon to vote on society business.

Article V: Board of Governors

Section 1. At the time of the annual meeting the business of the Society shall be conducted by the Board of Governors. The Board shall include not more than fifty (50) elective members, each elected from among regular, associate, sustaining, and life members for a term of five years. Elective members of the Board shall not be eligible for reelection until the annual meeting following the expiration of their terms. The incumbent officers of the Society shall be members of the Board. Associate Editors will be members of the Board of Governors during their editorship. Former Presidents of the Society shall be members of the Board for life. All meetings of the Board of Governors shall be open to all members of the Society.

Section 2. Ten vacancies in the elective membership of the Board of Governors shall be filled through online election. The election will follow the Annual Business Meeting and will include from nominations provided by the Nominating Committee and/or from the floor of the Board of Governors or Annual Business Meeting. All nominations shall be accompanied by a brief statement of qualifications and a written statement of willingness to serve from the nominee. Five of the elected Governors shall be herpetologists and five shall be ichthyologists. Each member shall vote for a maximum of five candidates in the online election. The term of office shall commence on 1 January following the election after the annual meeting at which the Governor was nominated. An additional vacancy shall occur if the President-Elect is a member of a class. If a governor is elected as an officer, he/she will remain on the Board of Governors until their term is complete.

Section 3. The Board shall conduct business during the period between annual meetings only upon call by the Executive Committee.

Section 4. All members of the board shall be members of the Society and shall agree in writing to abide by the Conflict of Interest Policy each year.

Article VI: Meeting of the Society

Section 1. This Society shall hold an annual meeting. The Annual Business Meeting shall be open to all classes of members for the purposes of hearing a report on the transactions of the Executive Committee, the Board of Governors, and of acting upon such business as may properly be considered by the membership at large.

Section 2. The Meetings Management and Planning Committee shall evaluate annual meeting site proposals recommended by meeting organizer and shall report its recommendation(s) to the Board of Governors.

Section 3. The place of the annual meeting of the Society shall be determined by the Board of Governors. Notice of the meeting shall be communicated to all members of the Society at least three months before the date set for the meeting.

Article VII: Quorum

At the Annual Meeting, one hundred (100) members shall constitute a quorum of the Society and thirty (30) a quorum of the Board of Governors.

If the Board of Governors votes electronically between annual meetings, thirty (30) votes shall constitute a quorum of the Board.

One hundred (100) members shall constitute a quorum of the Society for online elections.

Article VIII: Changes in the Constitution and Bylaws

Section 1. Amendments to this Constitution and Bylaws may be proposed: (a) by majority vote of the Executive Committee, or (b) by written and signed petition from at least twenty-five (25) members in good standing of ASIH.

Section 2. Proposed amendments must be circulated to all members at least three (3) months prior to the scheduled Annual Meeting of the Society.

Section 3. Proposed amendments of this Constitution and Bylaws may be adopted at any meeting of the Society if approved by two-thirds of the members of the Board of Governors voting and two-thirds of the members voting at the annual general meeting.

Section 4. Dissolution of the society shall require two-thirds assent from members of the Board of Governors voting and ratification by ballot of two-thirds of the membership voting in response.

Section 5. In case of the dissolution of the Society, its assets shall be transferred to a successor non-profit society organized for educational, professional, or scientific purposes, or if no successor society is designated by the members of this Society, then the assets shall be transferred to some other non-profit organization of like character as determined by a vote of the membership of the society.

BYLAWS

Article I: Dues

Section 1. Annual dues shall be payable 1 January, in advance. Upon payment of arrearage, plus a late fee calculated as 10% of the annual dues, the former member shall be reinstated.

Section 2. A service charge to recover actual costs may be billed subscribers requiring special billing procedures.

Section 3. The schedule of dues will be estimated by the Treasurer, proposed by the Executive Committee, and approved by the Board of Governors to meet the financial needs of the society.

Article II: President

Section 1. The President shall preside at sessions of the Board of Governors and at the Annual Business Meeting.

Section 2. The President shall also appoint the committees prescribed by the ASIH Policies and Procedures Manual, and such other representatives or committees as may prove necessary. The President and President-Elect shall be members of all committees.

Section 3. The President shall be reimbursed out of the monies of the Society for expenses incurred in attending the meeting of the Society that he/she presides over.

Article III: Secretary

Section 1. The Secretary shall keep the records of the Society and report at the annual meeting.

Section 2. The Secretary shall be responsible for sending out notices announcing the annual meeting and for arranging the agenda for the Executive Committee, Board of Governors, and Annual Business meetings held during the annual meeting. The Secretary shall ensure that financial documents are posted on the Society website.

Section 3. The Secretary shall be reimbursed out of the monies of the Society for expenses incurred in attending meetings of the Society.

Section 4. The Secretary shall make such purchases and employ such assistance as is necessary to conduct the business of the Society. All such expenditures will be reported to and are subject to review and ratification by the Board of Governors.

Section 5. Unless other appointments are made by the President, the Secretary shall act as a delegate or representative of the Society at meetings of related societies covering matters of mutual interest.

Section 6. Any copyright requests or copyright-related issues and the associated records-keeping shall be handled by the Secretary in consultation with the Editor.

Section 7. Publications storage.

a. The Secretary shall be charged with the responsibility of ensuring safe storage, sale, and other disposal of back numbers of COPEIA and other Society publications.

b. The Secretary may employ such assistance including outside contractual assistance as may be necessary to discharge these functions.

c. The Secretary will report annually to the Board of Governors on the status and disposal of inventoried items.

Article IV: Treasurer

Section 1. The Treasurer shall be in charge of the funds and securities of the Society.

Section 2. The Treasurer shall arrange for an independent annual professional audit of the financial records of the society, shall prepare the IRS form 990, and shall inform the Secretary of the auditor selection.

Section 3. At the annual meetings of the Society, the Treasurer shall present a statement of the funds and monies of the Society, the statement to cover the calendar year.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall file form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, with the Internal Revenue Service annually.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall be reimbursed out of the monies of the Society for expenses incurred in attending meetings of the Society.

Article V. Editor and Associate Editors

Section 1. Editor

a. The Editor shall serve as the Chief Executive Officer for the journal COPEIA, and shall serve as the Chair of the Publications Policy Committee. The Editor shall bear the final responsibility and authority for all materials published in COPEIA.

b. In the processing of manuscripts submitted for publication in COPEIA, the Editor shall allocate manuscript workload among the Associate Editors, and shall receive their recommendations on manuscripts that have cleared the review process.

c. The Editor shall report through the ASIH Executive Committee to the Board of Governors, and shall seek Executive Committee and Board of Governor approval for any substantive change in ASIH publishing product or practice, especially where new or unanticipated expenditures of ASIH funds are involved.

d. In situations that may arise between annual meetings, the Editor (upon consultation with and approval by the Executive Committee) may appoint a substitute (or co-participant) for a given editorial office.

e. The Editor may employ such assistance as is necessary for the production of COPEIA.

f. The Editor's annual dues to the Society, and transportation and lodging at the Annual Meeting shall be reimbursed by the Society.

Section 2. Associate Editors

a. The divisional sections of COPEIA shall be General Herpetology; General Ichthyology; Ecology and Ethology; Physiology and Physiological Ecology; and Genetics, Development, and Morphology. Associate Editors shall select reviewers and solicit manuscript reviews, and shall make recommendations regarding acceptability for publication in COPEIA to the Editor.

b. Two Book Review Associate Editors shall promote the announcement and critical review of important new works in Herpetology and Ichthyology, respectively.

c. An Index Associate Editor or Editors shall be responsible for production of the annual index to COPEIA. The Index Editor(s) shall archive materials for periodic multi-year indices to be prepared as deemed necessary.

d. Associate Editors shall be elected online annually by Society members after the Annual Business Meeting and shall serve on the Board of Governors throughout their terms; all Associate Editors shall be members of the Society.

e. The Associate Editors shall meet with the Editor as the Publications Policy Committee at each Annual Meeting.

f. Associate Editors shall have their annual dues to the Society and their registration for the Annual Meeting reimbursed by the Society.

Article VI: Editorial Board

An Editorial Board representing the five divisional disciplines of COPEIA, shall be nominated annually by the Associate Editors for service in that disciplinary area, and appointed by the President in consultation with the Editor.

Article VII: Meetings

Section 1. The Chair of the Local Committee shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the chairs of the Meetings Management and Planning Committee, if possible, at least six months before the time of the meeting.

Section 2. The Chair of the Local Committee will work with the chair of the Meetings Management and Planning Committee, as well as hired conference planners, to make all local arrangements including the arrangements for printing the program, if necessary.

Article VIII. Committees

Section 1. Committees of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists are categorized as Standing Committees, Continuing Committees, Recurring Committees and Special Purpose Committees. These Committees and their functions are described in the Policies and Procedures Manual.

Article IX: Nominating Committee

Section 1. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members; three in the discipline of the President-Elect to be elected, and two in the alternate discipline. Five ASIH members in good standing shall comprise the Nominating Committee and serve meeting-to-meeting: (a) One of the two members of the outgoing Nominating Committee who is in the discipline of the President-Elect to be elected. This person shall be elected and serve as chair of the new committee. (b) The immediate Past-President of the Society. This position shall be filled automatically. (c) One person in the discipline of the President-Elect to be elected, chosen from at least two persons nominated by the Board of Governors. (d) Two persons in the alternate discipline chosen from at least four persons nominated.

Section 2. If only one of the two persons from the outgoing Nominating Committee is available for election as chair of the new committee, this person shall receive the chairship automatically. If neither person from the outgoing Nominating Committee is available for election as chair, the Past-President shall assume the chairship and the President shall nominate two additional persons in the appropriate discipline. If the Board of Governors fails to nominate the number of persons listed above for positions 1(c) and 1(d), the President shall provide the balance of the nominations.

Section 3. The online election of the Nominating Committee by the Society membership shall occur within sixty (60) days of the Annual Business Meeting of the Society. All nominees, including additional nominations from the floor at the business meeting for positions 1(c) and 1(d), must provide a written agreement to serve on the committee, which would include the possibility of a second year of service as chair.

Article X: Long Range Planning and Policy Committee

Section 1. The Chair of the Long Range Planning and Policy Committee shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the Executive Committee and others. The Chair shall serve for a period of three years and may be reappointed. Six other members shall be

similarly appointed and the expiration dates of the terms of their service shall be staggered in order to provide continuity. Tenure of appointment shall be on a calendar year basis.

Section 2. The Committee shall identify desirable Society policies and activities and shall advise the Board of Governors and Membership on the best way to carry out and fund Society activities.

Section 3. The Committee is responsible for the development and updating, to reflect current practice, of the ASIH Procedures Manual, and from time to time make suggestions for improvements and best response to available technologies and opportunities.

Section 4. The Committee shall maintain close liaison with the Endowment and Finance Committee. The Committee Chairs shall serve as consulting (nonvoting) members of the corresponding Committee and shall keep each Committee informed, as appropriate, of mutually relevant activities.

Article XI: Endowment and Finance Committee

Section 1. The Endowment and Finance Committee shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the Executive Committee and shall consist of five members, including the Chair. To provide continuity, members of the Committee shall have staggered, five-year terms. One member should be someone with experience in investing and money management. Tenure of appointment shall be on a calendar year basis.

Section 2. The Chair-Elect of the Endowment and Finance Committee shall be appointed by the President. The Chair-Elect shall succeed the Chair, each of whom will serve two years in their respective positions. The Chair may be reappointed as Chair-Elect. The Chair and the Chair-Elect will work closely together in planning and organizing the activities of the Endowment and Finance Committee.

Section 3. The Committee shall be in charge of fundraising for the endowment.

Section 4. The Committee shall advise the Society on all matters pertaining to the General Endowment Fund and the Life Membership Fund.

Section 5. The Committee shall maintain close liaison with the Treasurer and other members of the Executive Committee and shall advise officials of the Society in the management of all funds and moneys of the Society.

Section 6. The Committee shall be responsible for investment of the endowment and other Society funds. A recommendation for placement of funds with a professional money manager must be approved by the Board of Governors. The Committee shall advise the Board of Governors on managed funds and shall monitor the activities of outside professional money managers.

Section 7. The Committee shall maintain close liaison with the Long Range Planning and Policy Committee. The Committee Chairs shall serve as consulting (nonvoting) members of the corresponding Committee and shall keep each Committee informed, as appropriate, of mutually relevant activities.

Article XII: Funds

Section 1. Society Funds and income derived therefrom shall be used only for tax-exempt purposes.

Section 2. Funds of the Society shall be as follows:

a. The Frederick H. Stoye Fund shall be invested and used to offer awards for meritorious papers presented by student members at the Annual Meeting. The awards shall be

known as the Frederick H. Stoye Awards. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Student Awards Committee. The Student Awards Committee shall be appointed by the President-elect for service prior to the Annual Meeting.

b. The Tracy Storer Fund shall be invested and used to offer awards to students judged to have prepared the best posters in ichthyology and herpetology at the Annual Meeting. The awards will be known as the Tracy Storer Awards. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Student Awards Committee. The Student Awards Committee shall be appointed by the President-elect for service prior to the Annual Meeting.

c. The Robert H. Gibbs, Jr. Memorial Fund shall be invested and used to award a yearly prize based on an outstanding published body of work in systematic ichthyology by a citizen of a Western Hemisphere nation who has not been a previous recipient of the award. The basis for an award decision shall be determined by a Robert H. Gibbs, Jr., Memorial Fund Award Committee. The Robert H. Gibbs, Jr., Memorial Fund Award Committee shall consist of three ichthyologists, each serving a three-year term. Each year one member is replaced by an individual elected by the Board of Governors from nominees submitted by the Nominating Committee or nominated from the floor. The senior member of the Committee serves as its Chair.

d. The Edward C. and Charlotte E. Raney Fund shall be invested and used to provide support for young ichthyologists in such a way as to enhance their professional careers and their contributions to the science of ichthyology. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by an Edward C. and Charlotte E. Raney Fund Award Committee. A member of the Edward C. and Charlotte E. Raney Fund Award Committee shall be appointed by the President for a three-year term of service. The senior member of the Committee serves as its Chair.

e. The Helen T. and Frederick M. Gaige Fund shall be invested and used to provide support for young herpetologists in such a way as to enhance their professional careers and their contributions to the science of herpetology. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Helen T. and Frederick M. Gaige Fund Award Committee. A member of the Helen T. and Frederick M. Gaige Fund Committee shall be appointed by the President for a three year term of service. The senior member of the Committee serves as its Chair.

f. The Life Membership Fund shall consist of dues received from Life Members. The interest from this Fund shall be added to the principal. When this Fund exceeds by \$1000 or more the sum computed as adequate to pay costs of fulfilling Society obligations to Life Members, the excess shall be transferred to the General Endowment Fund. An amount equal to the annual dues of the new program Life Members shall be transferred to the Society's general operating funds annually.

g. The General Endowment Fund shall be an unrestricted fund to receive money from a variety of sources. Major and minor donations to the Society without any restrictions will be placed in the principal of this Fund. A percentage of the net asset value may be dispersed by the Board of Governors for specified activities of the Society based on recommendations of the Executive Committee.

h. The Henry S. Fitch Fund shall be invested and used to support an annual award for Excellence in Herpetology. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by the Henry S. Fitch Fund Award Committee. The Henry S. Fitch Fund Award Committee shall consist of three herpetologists each serving a three-year term. Each year, the senior-most member serves as chair of the committee. After three years of service, the chair is replaced by an individual elected by the Board of Governors from a slate of nominees submitted by the Nominating Committee or

nominated from the floor. Those nominated from the floor must provide a signed, written statement of their willingness to stand for election and serve if elected. The members of the committee shall be members of the Society.

Section 3. All money, stocks, bonds, or other property offered to the Society for purposes other than application to the publication expenses or other operating expenses of the Society can be accepted only by a majority of the Board of Governors, except that the acceptance of any such funds donated for use by any duly constituted activity of the Society, including the General Endowment Fund, can be approved by the Executive Committee. Acceptance of such money, stocks, bonds, or other property by the Board of Governors shall be only with the establishment by the Board of procedures to implement its use. All proposed funds shall be accompanied by a proffered gift or proposed funding source.

Section 4. The American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists may formally recognize major donors to the General Endowment Fund. Four levels of major donors are: Supporter, \$1000--2999; Sponsor, \$3000--9999; Patron, \$10,000--24,999; Benefactor, \$25,000 or higher. No benefits will be provided to donors.

Article XIII. Robert K. Johnson Award

The basis for the annual Robert K. Johnson Award for Excellence in Service shall be determined by the Robert K. Johnson Award Committee. The Robert K. Johnson Award Committee shall consist of three members each serving three years. The award is given to an ichthyologist in even years and to a herpetologist in odd years. In even years, the committee is made up of two ichthyologists and one herpetologist. In odd years, the committee is made up of two herpetologist and one ichthyologist. Each year, the senior-most member serves as chair of the committee. The chair of the committee is replaced by an election of the Board of Governors from a slate of nominees submitted by the Nominating Committee, or nominated from the floor. Those nominated from the floor must provide a signed, written statement of their willingness to stand for election and serve if elected. The members of the committee shall be members of the Society.

Article XIV. Joseph S. Nelson Award

The basis for the annual Joseph S. Nelson Lifetime Achievement Award in Ichthyology shall be determined by the Joseph S. Nelson Award Committee. The Joseph S. Nelson Award Committee shall consist of three ichthyologists each serving a three-year term. Each year, the senior-most member serves as chair of the committee. After three years of service, the chair is replaced by an individual elected by the Board of Governors from a slate of nominees submitted by the Nominating Committee or nominated from the floor. Those nominated from the floor must provide a signed, written statement of their willingness to stand for election and serve if elected. The members of the committee shall be members of the Society.

Article XV: Honorary Foreign Members

The number of Honorary Foreign Members shall not exceed thirty (30).

Article XVI: Society Sets of COPEIA

The official bound set of COPEIA shall be maintained in the office of the Secretary.

Article XVII: Committees

Such committees as the President shall deem necessary shall be appointed by the President or by the presiding officer at the annual meeting, unless the composition and function of committees be otherwise set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws or in motions passed by the Board of Governors or by the membership at large at the annual meeting. Unless otherwise specified, committees shall serve for a calendar year and shall normally be appointed by the President during or following the previous annual meeting.

Article XVIII: Procedures

The procedures and policies used to govern the Society are detailed in the Policies and Procedures Manual posted on the ASIH website. Procedures and other items, not specified in that Manual, the Constitution or Bylaws of this Society, or by action at the annual meeting shall be in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.