2011

WILMER TANNER PASSES AWAY ON 28 OCTOBER 2011
Wilmer Tanner passed away of natural causes recently. Details will be forthcoming. He was two months shy of celebrating his 102nd birthday according to an email from Jack Sites.

ROHLF MEDAL FOR EXCELLENCE IN MORPHOMETRIC METHODS AND APPLICATIONS

The Rohlf Medal was established in 2006 to mark the 70th birthday of F. James Rohlf, longtime Stony Brook University faculty member. Recipients of the Medal are recognized for their body of work in morphometrics. Please go to life.bio.sunysb.edu/ee/people/rohlfdinner for further information.

Please join us on October 24, 2011 to present the first Rohlf Medal to Fred L. Bookstein, Professor of Statistics, University of Washington and Universitätsprofessor of Morphometrics, Department of Anthropology, University of Vienna and to celebrate the career of Prof. F. James Rohlf, John S. Toll Professor of Ecology and Evolution, Stony Brook University.

4:30 pm – Presentation of the Rohlf Medal and Provost Lecture: “Biology and Mathematical Imagination: the Meaning of Morphometrics.” Charles B. Wang Center, Lecture Hall. (Lecture open to the public.)

6:00 pm – Rohlf Medal Dinner and Celebration, Charles B. Wang Center, Zodiac Gallery. $60.00 per person for the dinner only. Please register by October 14, 2011 at: http://naples.cc.sunysb.edu/Pres/confsecct.nsf/rohlf.

WINNER ANNOUNCED FOR THE NEW JMIH LOGO! (8 Aug 2011)

Congratulations to Kevin Wang, for submitting a gorgeous full-color logo design that will be the permanent face of JMIH for years to come. The attendees at the 2011 JMIH in Minneapolis cast their votes, and Kevin's submission was the clear favorite. Watch the JMIH website in upcoming months to see its public debut. Many thanks to all who participated; indeed there are some very talented artists among the JMIH (and JMIH-related) ranks!
Best regards,
Joe Mendelson, SSAR President

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS - THE ROLF MEDAL (8 JUNE 2011)

The Rohlf Medal was established in 2006 by his family and friends to mark the 70th birthday of F. James Rohlf, Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolution and longtime Stony Brook University faculty member. Recipients of

the Rohlf Medal will be recognized for excellence in their body of work on the development of new multivariate morphometric methods or for their applications in the biomedical sciences, including evolutionary biology, population biology, physical anthropology, and medicine. The term "morphometrics" is intended to include multivariate statistical analysis of biological shape and its covariation with other variables, especially those that analyze shape in a comprehensive way. The award can recognize advancements in the mathematical or statistical theory underlying morphometric methods, new software that implements or visualizes new or existing methods, or specific new biological findings that rely crucially on contemporary morphometric methods.

Candidates for the Rohlf Medal may be self-nominated or nominated by others. They must have attained the postdoctoral level or its equivalent. Nomination packages should include (1) a description of the body of work (not to exceed two pages) on which the candidacy is based, (2) reprints of no more than three relevant papers and/or software products, (3) a curriculum vitae, and (4) the names and addresses of three referees. Nominating packages should be uploaded to the Rohlf Medal website (http://life.bio.sunysb.edu/ee/rohlf_medal/apply.html) and received by 1 September 2011 to be assured of full consideration.
The successful candidate will receive the first Rohlf Medal and a cash prize at Stony Brook University on Monday 24 October 2011. She or he will deliver a lecture that is appropriate for an educated general audience concerning the morphometric research for which the Rohlf Medal was awarded.

STUDENT TRAVEL GRANTS - 2011 MEETING

ASIH Graduate Student Travel Awards
Travel awards of $300 each ($500 for intercontinental travelers) will be awarded to help defray travel expenses to participate in the 2011 Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. A student may apply for an award in only one category (ichthyology or herpetology). The awards will be chosen by random draw. You are eligible for an ASIH travel award if:You are currently a graduate student AND a member of ASIHYou are presenting your research at the 2011 JMIH (oral or poster presentation)You have not previously received an ASIH travel awardYou are eligible for an intercontinental award if you will be traveling to the meeting from a location that will require an intercontinental flight. Students attending North American schools are eligible for an intercontinental travel award if they will be traveling to the meeting directly from a field site in another continent. If you receive a travel award, you are obligated to work four one-hour shifts at the ASIH raffle table during the meeting. Once you have completed your shifts, you can pick up your check from the raffle coordinator.To apply for an ASIH graduate student travel award, please fill out the http://www.dce.k-state.edu/conf/jointmeeting/docs/ASIH-grad-travel-

application.doc application and send it to Dustin Siegel at dsiegel2@gmail.com by May 3, 2011.The application can be obtained on the JMIH website.

HERPETOLOGISTS NEEDED FOR 2012 SYMPOSIUM - 15 FEBRUARY 2011

I would like to submit a proposal for an ASIH symposium in 2012 on ectotherm ecology with stable isotope analysis. Recently, studies using stable isotope techniques have been focusing on ectotherm ecology.My own research interests are with applications to modern and paleo-elasmobranch ecology. However, I have noted the limited number of papers on ectotherm taxa and think this symposium would greatly benefit from representation across all ectothermic animals, especially turtles, crocodiles, amphibians, and reptiles. Unfortunately, these taxa are not my area of expertise and I do not know many researchers who focus on these taxa. Thus, I am asking researchers and/or potential symposium participants with a specialty in herpetofauna to contact me so that I might gauge interest in this topic. I can be contacted at skim11@uwyo.edu Sora Kim Post-doctoral Researcher Department of Geology & Geophysics University of Wyoming #3006 Laramie Wyoming 82071

GRADUATE COURSE IN EARLY LIFE HISTORY OF MARINE FISHES - SUMMER 2011

This lecture and laboratory course uniquely offers a comprehensive view of the biology, morphology and taxonomy of early life stages of fishes, based on a 190 family teaching collection assembled by the late John Olney. Course takes place from 6-24 June 2011 at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. Instructors are: Professor Edward D. Houde (University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science), Dr. G. David Johnson (NMNH, Smithsonian Institution), Dr. Nalani K. Schnell and Dr. Troy Tuckey (College of William and Mary). For further information about the course and registration details please visit our website http://web.vims.edu/adv/657/

INTERNATIONAL BEHAVIOR CONFERENCE, BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA - 19 JANUARY 2011

The first joint meeting of the International Ethological Conference (IEC) and the Animal Behavior Society (ABS) will be held at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, USA from July 25th - July 30th, 2011.More information can be found at the conference website: http://www.indiana.edu/~behav11/index.shtml .

SABIN AWARD FOR AMPHIBIAN CONSERVATION - 18 JANUARY 2011

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
Thanks to a generous donation from Andrew Sabin, the IUCN/SSC Amphibian Specialist Group (ASG) is seeking nominations for the fourth annual award

to recognize individuals and groups who have made a significant contribution to promoting the conservation of globally threatened amphibians. The award will be open to individuals or groups from all disciplines relevant to amphibian conservation and research anywhere in the world. Nominations of individuals from developing countries are highly encouraged.

ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES

Individuals or groups will be considered based on contributions in any area. Examples include:

- Habitat Protection
- Capacity Building
- Education/Awareness
- Policy
- Species recovery projects
- Advances in understanding threats and how they may be mitigated
- Improving knowledge of status and distribution of amphibians
- Innovative approaches to conservation

AWARD CEREMONY

The award of 25,000 USD will be presented to the selected recipient at a Reception in New York in Spring 2011.

NOMINATIONS

Nominations should be emailed to Robin Moore at rdmoore@conservation. org, including the name of the individual or group and a detailed description of what they have done and its significance for amphibian conservation. Nominees will be assessed by a review panel representing a broad cross-section of disciplines. The closing date for nominations is Jan 31 2011.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION REU PROGRAM FOR UNDERGRADS - 12 JANUARY 2011

The Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, is pleased to announce the 2011 competition for paid undergraduate summer research internships at the museum (Washington, DC). The application deadline is February 7, 2011. Details and applications can be found at http://www.mnh.si.edu/NHRE/. Please forward this email to all interested parties and post the attached announcement to your organization's list-serves and bulletin boards. Smithsonian is an equal opportunity employer and we encourage individuals from groups under-represented in the sciences to apply.

Questions may be addressed to our program administrator, Virginia Power, powerv@si.edu

MERITORIOUS TEACHING AWARD IN HERPETOLOGY - 5 JANUARY 2011

The Herpetology Education Committee is seeking nominations for the Meritorious Teaching Award in Herpetology, sponsored by the American

Society of Ichthyologists & Herpetologists, The Herpetologists' League, and the Society for the Study of Amphibians & Reptiles. The award will be given at the annual Joint Meetings of Ichthyologists & Herpetologists (JMIH) to recognize superior teaching effectiveness and mentoring of students in the area of herpetology. Nomination materials should be submitted to the committee chair, Cathy Bevier (crbevier@colby.edu) by March 31, 2011. For details on this award and the nomination procedure, please contact Cathy or visit this URL:www.herpetologistsleague.org/en/news.php

2010

PETITION TO SAVE THE SAN MARCO MUSEUM IN PERU - 19 NOVEMBER 2010
2010

Dear Colleague:

This message is to inform you of a threat to the future of the largest biological scientific collections in the oldest Peruvian institution, the Natural History Museum (Museo de Historia Natural). The authorities of the University of San Marcos in Lima, Peru have unilaterally decided to propose the construction of a building in the area presently occupied by the Natural History Museum. Their plan under the pompous name of Academic, Cultural and Research Complex does not offer the needed housing for the largest scientific collection in the country, nor for any improvement of research facilities for the study of its biodiversity. Despite that the role of the museum in the life of the University has been widely recognized and praised by the same authorities, since their affiliates contribute a large part of the scientific publications of the institution (in peer reviewed journals like PNAS, Science, Nature); they have ignored or diminished the role and needs of the scientific legacy housed in the museum. There is almost a complete lack of financial support of the authorities of the university to the Natural History Museum with a budget of less than 108000 US dollars per year, only 35% of which is devoted to the activities related to the scientific collections. The Natural History Museum in Lima is an institution over 80 years old that includes the largest collections of the flora and fauna of the country. The herbarium includes over 500,000 plant specimens, the mammal collection near 37000, birds 28000, amphibians and reptiles 50000, fish 450000, insects and arachnids 750000, mollusks 30000, geological samples and fossils 9000. It also includes historical collections made by naturalists during the XIX and part of the XX centuries such as Raimondi, Taczanowski, Jelski, Stolzman, Weberbauer, Weyrauch, Eigenmann, and Koepcke.

To sign the petition online please visit:
http://www.petitiononline.com/musm1710/petition.html

OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF LIFE - 18 NOVEMBER 2010

The Encyclopedia of Life Learning + Education Group would like to introduce undergraduate biology instructors to a new set of tools that enable students to research and publish species accounts to the Encyclopedia of Life (www.eol.org). The EOL Learning + Education Group, based at Harvard University's Museum of Comparative Zoology, works in collaboration with <http://education.eol.org/collaborations/undergrad_init2>three partners (<http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/index.html>Animal Diversity Web, <http://amphibiaweb.org/>AmphibiaWeb and <http://mushroomobserver.org/?_js=on&_new=true>Mushroom Observer) who provide online collaborative tools to facilitate the writing of species accounts by undergraduate biology students for specific taxonomic groups. EOL's <http://www.edulifedesks.org/>Education LifeDesk is another species page authoring tool suitable for any taxonomic group. The opportunity to research and publish these accounts to the Encyclopedia of Life is a challenge that many students find highly motivating and rewarding.

If you are interested in incorporating writing species accounts into your course, visit:
http://education.eol.org/collaborations/undergrad_init2
email us at
http://education.eol.org
education@eol.org

About The Encyclopedia of Life
The Encyclopedia of Life (EOL, www.eol.org) is a global collaboration between scientists and the general public to make authoritative information about all 1.9 million named species freely accessible online. Please visit:
http://education.eol.org/collaborations/under_init1
to hear some first-hand accounts from students and professors.

SECOND MEDITERRANEAN CONGRESS OF HERPETOLOGY - 27 OCTOBER 2010

Dear Colleague,

We are very pleased to transmit to you in the attached file the Second Circular and the registration form of the Second Mediterranean Congress of Herpetology (CMH2) which will be held at Marrakech (Morocco) from 23 to 27 May 2011. For additional information, check our web site http://www.ucam.ac.ma/cmh2 . Complementary information will be progressively added in this web site. We would be very grateful if you could forward this message to everyone who may be interested in this congress.

Sincerely,
The CMH2 organizing committee.

Pr. Tahar Slimani
Comité d'Organisation du CMH2
Département de BiologieFaculté des Sciences
SemlaliaBP : 2390,
Marrakech 40 000.Maroc
Téléphone : + 212 5 24 43 46 P. 462,
Fax : + 212 5 24 43 74 12
E-mail : cmh2@ucam.ac.ma
web site : http://www.ucam.ac.ma/cmh2

NATIONAL EVOLUTIONARY SYNTHESIS CENTER OPPORTUNITIES - 27 OCTOBER 2010

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS IN EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY AND RELATED FIELDS
We are now accepting proposals for Postdoctoral Fellowships at The National Evolutionary Synthesis Center (NESCent). We are looking to support innovative approaches to outstanding problems in evolutionary biology. Proposals are due December 1. For more information, please see our website at https://www.nescent.org/science/proposals.php.
CALL FOR PROPOSALS - SABBATICAL SCHOLARS AND COLLABORATIVE WORKING GROUPS
Proposals for Sabbaticals and for collaborative working groups (Working Groups and Catalysis Meetings) are now being accepted at The National Evolutionary Synthesis Center (NESCent). We are looking to support innovative approaches to outstanding problems in evolutionary biology. In particular, proposals that have a clear interdisciplinary focus, or involve evolutionary concepts in non-traditional disciplines, are strongly encouraged, as are proposals that demonstrate international participation and a mix of senior and emerging researchers, including graduate students. Proposals for Working Groups and Catalysis Meetings are accepted twice a year, with deadlines on July 10 and December 1. Proposals for Sabbaticals may be one semester to a full year (deadlines July 10 and December 1) or they may be for short-term visits (2 weeks to 3 months; deadlines on January 1, April 1, July 1 and September 1). For more information, please see our website at https://www.nescent.org/science/proposals.php.
GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS IN EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY AND RELATED FIELDS
NESCent is now including graduate training in its portfolio, by offering one-semester fellowships for graduate students to pursue research with a NESCent sabbatical scholar, a NESCent postdoctoral scholar, or a NESCent Working Group. Deadlines are January 1 (for a fall semester fellowship) and July 1 (for a spring semester fellowship). For more information, please see our website at https://www.nescent.org/science/proposals.php.

NEW BOOK ON FISH BIOGEOGRAPHY - J. ALBERT & R. REIS - 11 October 2010

New book: Historical Biogeography of Neotropical Freshwater Fishes (edited by James Albert and Roberto Reis) UC Press Hardcover, 424 pages (ISBN: 9780520268685) $85.00, £59.00.

Description: The fish faunas of continental South and Central America constitute one of the greatest concentrations of aquatic diversity on Earth, consisting of about 10 percent of all living vertebrate species. Historical Biogeography of Neotropical Freshwater Fishes explores the evolutionary origins of this unique ecosystem. The chapters address central themes in the study of tropical biodiversity: why is the Amazon basin home to so many distinct evolutionary lineages? What roles do ecological specialization, speciation, and extinction play in the formation of regional assemblages? How do dispersal barriers contribute to isolation and diversification? Focusing on whole faunas rather than individual taxonomic groups, this volume shows that the area's high regional diversity is not the result of recent diversification in lowland tropical rainforests. Rather, it is the product of species accumulating over tens of millions of years and across a continental arena.

Advanced orders can be placed online at:
http://www.ucpress.edu/book.php?isbn=9780520268685

NEW BOOK BY GOVERNOR THEODORE W. PIETSCH - 2 October 2010

THE CURIOUS DEATH OF PETER ARTEDI: A MYSTERY IN THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE
Theodore W. PietschOctober 2010, 242 pp., Scott & Nix, hardcover, $25.95 (9780982510285)
Eighteenth-century contemporaries saw only a tragic accident when the promising ichthyologist Peter Artedi himself joined the fishes as he tumbled to his 1735 death in an Amsterdam canal. But in this fascinating and impeccably researched novel, Pietsch opens a more sinister possibility. For in a lightly fictionalized account of Artedi's intense but strained friendship with the revolutionary biologist Carl Linnaeus, readers brush up against dark hints that the senior scientist connives in the younger researcher's death. Even if Pietsch moves slightly beyond the historical evidence, the factually grounded bulk of the narrative makes his artistic interpolations entirely plausible. For more than any other man in Holland, Linnaeus has the motive, means, and opportunity for snuffing out his brilliant young rival. Readers see, in particular, how the brilliant but arrogant and impulsive Linnaeus becomes inflamed with jealousy at his collaborator's accomplishments, finally boiling over with covetousness for Artedi's groundbreaking manuscripts, craved as a vital prop for his own meisterwerk in biological classification. Himself a distinguished marine biologist, Pietsch recognizes what is at stake in these men's science. But it is through imaginative vision, not science, that he fathoms the turbid emotions that can turn a towering but merciless genius against a vulnerable

collaborator. A truly highbrow whodunit that will be of interest to readers of historical fiction, literary thrillers, and scientific history.Bryce Christensen, Booklist, the magazine of the American Library Association, October 2010.

INTERNATIONAL BIOGEOGRAPHY SOCIETY MEETING - JAN. 2011

The International Biogeography Society will hold its 5th Biennial Conference in Crete, from 7th to 11th January, 2011. Registration, abstract submission for symposia and contributed papers open late-August 2010. Symposium themes include: Mediterranean biogeography, new perspectives on Comparative Phylogeography, synthesizing Biogeography and Ecology, and analytical advancements in Macroecology and Biogeography. Contributed paper sessions will focus on the biogeography of islands, climate change, conservation, palaeoecology, marine environments. More information: http://www.biogeography.org/html/Meetings/index.html

FIRE SALE - ASIH INVENTORY OF PUBLICATIONS

All special publications of the ASIH and all existing back issues of Copeia are on sale from today until 31 December for $0.50/Copeia issue and $5.00/ book-length publication, plus shipping (Copeia issues: $4 domestic, $12.50 international/ea; books: $15 domestic, $34 Canada and Mexico, $56 other countries/ea.) and handling ($5.50 each). The fire sale ends on 31 December 2010. On 1 January 2011 we will instruct Allen Press to reduce our inventory, so get in on this great deal today. Prices for any remaining inventory will then return to their current rates on 1 January 2011.

Special Publication 6: "An Empirical Synthetic Pattern Study of Gars (Lepisosteiformes) and Closely Related Species, Based Mostly on Skeletal Anatomy. The Resurrection of Holostei" by Lance Grande will be published soon, and one free copy made available to each ASIH member for the cost of shipping and handling. Shipping rates will be determined after the book is printed. Additional copies will be available to members for $100 each and to nonmembers for $200 (plus shipping and handling) after we complete distribution to the membership.

Allen Press will begin accepting orders on 30 August 2010.

JOB POSTINGS ON ASIH WEBSITE
Andres Lopez has taken over this responsibility for the ASIH. Please send job ads to: jalopez2@alaska.edu
JMIH LOGO COMPETITION -6 AUGUST 2010

JOINT MEETING OF ICHTHYOLOGISTS & HERPETOLOGISTS

(JMIH)
OFFICIAL LOGO CONTEST

Concept: As is well known to all memberships, the Herpetologists' League, American Elasmobranch Society, American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, and Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, have embarked on a plan to meet jointly in most years for the foreseeable future. Thus, the Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (JMIH) is the official name for this annual meeting of the four societies. The JMIH needs a logo of its own, in part to facilitate a registration website that can be made active before the annual "local logo" may be prepared, and in part to identify the reality of this important ongoing partnership of our societies. Note that this JMIH logo will be a permanent symbol of the JMIH and will not replace the popular annual "local logo" that makes the t-shirts, programs, and other materials of each year's JMIH both memorable and unique. JMIH will hold publishing rights to the logo.

Contest: The JMIH logo needs to reflect our interests in cartilaginous and bony fishes, amphibians, and reptiles. If you are artistic and would like to submit a logo for consideration, please:

· Notify Joe Mendelson and submit your logo as a TIFF file by 1 March 2011

· Method of voting will be determined by the number of entries. If there are more than five entries, then an on-line voting mechanism will be used to identify the top five entries. This would take place from 15 March to 30 April. All members of all of the societies will be notified of the URL for the on-line voting platform.

· The five finalist entries will be on display at the 2011 Minneapolis JMIH, where the attendees will have a chance to vote for their favorites, and the winning entry will be selected and announced at the JMIH banquet. Submissions should be sent electronically (e.g., high resolution TIFF file) to Joe Mendelson: jmendelson@zooatlanta.org

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE 5TH NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE ECOLOGY, STATUS, AND CONSERVATION OF THE DIAMONDBACK TERRAPIN - 30 JULY 2010

LUMCON W. J. DeFelice Marine Center, Chauvin, LA, 12-14 November 2010. The Diamondback Terrapin Working Group is made up of individuals from academic, scientific, regulatory and private institutions/organizations working to promote the conservation of the diamondback terrapin, the preservation of intact, wild terrapin populations and their associated ecosystems throughout their range. DTWG is committed to and supports research, management, conservation, and education efforts with the above goals in mind. This conference is a forum for the presentation of current information on terrapin research and conservation. In addition to updating colleagues on current research, the conference can serve as a forum to identify research needs, foster friendships, and rekindle interest in

terrapins by bringing people with diverse backgrounds together. All interested individuals are invited. We are accepting abstracts for oral papers and posters from now until 1 October 2010. Posters will be on display on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday morning. The poster session will be on Saturday afternoon. Presentations are planned to be 20 minutes in total length (15 min. presentation, 5 min. questions). For more information please see http://www.dtwg.org or contact Dr. Russell Burke, Department of Biology, Hofstra University, 516.463.5521, mailto:biorlb@hofstra.edu

2010 Higlights from the Meeting:

ASIH Elections

In the Board of Governor's elections, Henry R. Mushinsky was elected to serve a three-year term on the Henry S. Fitch Award Committee, Eric J. Hilton was elected to serve a three year term on the Robert H. Gibbs, Jr. Memorial Award Committee, and Alan H. Savitzky was elected to serve a three-year term on the Robert K. Johnson Award Committee. In the general election, all incumbent officers were re-elected. Jacob Schaefer was elected to serve as an associate editor for Ecology & Ethology. W. Leo Smith was elected as an associate editor for Genetics, Development & Morphology. Richard Vari was elected to serve as the chair of the nominating committee. Stephen T. Ross, Rafael de Sa, and Roger Anderson were elected to serve on the nominating committee. Andrew Storfer will replace Anne Maglia in the BOG Class of 2011, but unlike the other members of that class, he will be eligible for re-election next year. The herpetological members of the Class of 2015 are Chuck Crumly, Bobby Espinoza, Ann Paterson, Steven Richter, and Mary White. The ichthyologists in the Class of 2015 are: John Friel, Edie Marsh-Matthews, Tom Munroe, Mark Pyron, and Jacqueline Webb. The President-Elect for 2011 is Steven J. Beaupre. Congratulations to all and thanks to all those who agreed to stand in nomination. The society could not run without your volunteerism.

STUDENT AWARD WINNERS:

The Stoye Winners for 2010 were: Justin Davis (Conservation); Katie Groom (Ecology & Ethology); Jennifer Eichelberger (Genetics, Development & Morphology); Neil Aschliman (General Ichthyology); Sean Graham (Physiology & Physiological Ecology)

The Storer Winners for 2010 were: Edward Stanley (Herpetology); Malorie Hayes (Ichthyology)

Congratulations to the 2010 winners!

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS:

John G. Lundberg (Robert H. Gibbs, Jr. Memorial Award), Thomas W. Schoener (Henry S. Fitch Award for Excellence in Herpetology), and Joseph S. Nelson (Robert K. Johnson Award)

Please join us next year in Minneapolis, MN (6-11 July 2011)

MESSAGE FROM GOVERNOR JAMES ATZ (FROM JOSH ATZ)

Dear ASIH Members:

My name is Josh Atz and it is quite possible that my dad, James W. Atz, is one of the oldest current members of the organization. His 95 th birthday will be the 23 rd of this month. Although he is not strong enough to attend the meeting he did send along his remaining copies of Dopeia , his compilation of cold blooded critter cartoons from the 1991 ASIH meeting in New York City. He hopes that at least some of you attending the meeting have had a chance to see it and chuckle.

My dad would welcome any greetings and updates from the membership. They can be sent to my email address, babatz@aol.com (James Atz in the subject line would help me) or by mail to his address at Room Fir 602 Caleb Hitchcock Health Center, Room Fir 602, 10 Loeffler Road, Bloomfield, CT 06002.

Thank you for your attention.

Josh Atz

ASSISTANCE FOR THE BUTANTAN INSTITUTE - 18 MAY 2010

By now most of you may have heard of the terrible accident that wiped the largest snake and invertebrate collection in Brazil (80,000 snake specimens and 450,000 invertebrates). There aren't many large collections in Brazil, and this is by far the largest lost we ever had of scientific material. The collection contained the largest geographic coverage, the largest number of type specimens, and the largest number of ongoing projects on snake taxonomy in the country. Students lost their dissertations and thesis, professors lost a life of research. It is hard to quantify the magnitude of this lost at the moment, but the accident will likely defray the growth of our knowledge on neotropical snake taxonomy for decades. At this moment researchers in Brazil have been discussing how we can help. The building will need to be demolished, as the fire condemned it beyond reconstruction. Specimen donations will occur only after this problem is solved.

Another terrible aspect of this accident was the lost of bibliographic material. Again, as with collections, we do not have many comprehensive libraries. The curator of the snake collection, Dr. Francisco Franco (aka Kiko) is a bibliophile and likely had one of the largest libraries on neotropical snakes. All his books and reprints were lost in the fire.

Many of us have spare reprints an book copies. Because of this, we

are now organizing donations to the herpetology lab of Butantan Institute.

If you could please advertise this to anyone who can help, we would be very grateful. Donations can be sent to the following address:

Dr. Francisco Franco; Instituto Butantan; Laboratório de Herpetologia; Av. Doutor Vital; Brazil, 1500, São Paulo, SP05503-900Brazil; flfranco@butantan.gov.br

COLLECTION REBUILDING - UNIVERSITY OF CONCEPCION FISH COLLECTION - CHILE
I am told by my friend and colleague, Victor Hugo Ruiz, that their fish collection was about 95% destroyed during the earthquake. Victor's office was in the fish collection room. Here is what he wrote to me via e-mail: "I think that we will be able to recover a part of the collection in approximately three to four years, but there were fish of great value product of expeditions difficult to repeat and product of the work of many people (Hulot, Fischer, Berra, Beddings, Small, Fields, Mann, Randall, Rendall, Yañez-Arancibia, Olivre Schneider, Ojeda etc.) and of many years." Victor expects to be allowed back into his office to deal with the mess today (Monday 15 March 2010). I asked if there was anything the ichthyological community could do and this was his reply: "In a near future It would be good that some icthyologists could do a few donations of fish to us, to increase our collection. Donations of fishes always will be welcome; this can go to: Dr. Jorge Artigas Coch – Curador del Museo Zoológico de la Universidad de Concepción, - Departamento de Zoología – Casilla 160-C Concepción, Chile. Thank you very much for your good intentions.Please think about sending some specimens to rebuild the collection.
Thanks for the consideration
Tim M. Berra, Ph.D.
berra.1@osu.edu
NESCENT SABBATICAL SCHOLARS AND COLLABORATIVE WORKING GROUPS - 20 APRIL 2010

Proposals for Sabbaticals and for collaborative working groups (Working Groups and Catalysis Meetings) are now being accepted at The National Evolutionary Synthesis Center (NESCent). We are looking to support innovative approaches to outstanding problems in evolutionary biology. In particular, proposals that have a clear interdisciplinary focus, or involve evolutionary concepts in non-traditional disciplines, are strongly encouraged, as are proposals that demonstrate international participation and a mix of senior and emerging researchers, including graduate students. Proposals for Working Groups and Catalysis Meetings are accepted twice a year, with deadlines on July 10 and December 1. Proposals for Sabbaticals may be one semester to a full year (deadlines June 10 and December 1) or they may be for short-term visits (2 weeks to 3 months; deadlines on

January 1, April 1, July 1 and September 1). NESCent is also now seeking to include graduate traineeship to our portfolio by offering one-semester fellowships for graduate students to pursue research either with a NESCent sabbatical scholar or with a NESCent Working Group. For more information, please see our website at:
https://www.nescent.org/science/proposals.php

TEACHING AWARD - HERPETOLOGY - 9 MARCH 2010

REMINDER: The March 31, 2010 deadline to nominate your worthy mentors and teachers for the Meritorious Teaching Award in Herpetology is quickly approaching! A complete description of the award and nomination process can be found at http://ssarherps.org/pages/herpeducation.php OR http://www.herpetologistsleague.org/en/news.php
If you have questions please contact Cathy Bevier (crbevier@colby.edu)

WILD TROUT X SYMPOSIUM 2010 - 22 JANUARY 2010

The Wild Trout X Symposium will bring together a diverse audience of governmental entities, non-profit conservation groups, educators, anglers, and business interests associated with trout fisheries to exchange technical information and viewpoints on wild trout management and public policy. The meeting offers a unique forum for professionals and anglers to interact, where participants will to be exposed to the latest in wild trout science, technology and philosophies. Abstracts on all aspects of wild trout research, management, conservation, education, and recreation are welcome and will be considered
Presentations will be accepted in oral or poster format, so please specify your preference and whether you would be willing to present in either format. Authors who are selected for oral presentations at the symposium must submit a complete manuscript ready for Symposium Proceedings by August 31, 2010.
Abstract submission should be sent electronically to Kevin Meyer (address below) by April 1, 2010 using Word Perfect or MS Word file format. Guidelines for abstract, poster, and manuscript preparation can be found at the Wild Trout X web site: http://www.wildtroutsymposium.com
For additional information and inquiries, contact the Program Committee Co-chairs: Kevin Meyer (Kevin.meyer@idfg.idaho.gov) or Doug Besler (doug.besler@ncwildlife.org)
Award/Scholarship Nomination Deadline: April 1, 2010. Nominations are invited for the Aldo Starker Leopold Wild Trout Medal, the Marty Seldon Student Scholarship Award and the Trout Unlimited-Federation of Fly Fishers Wild Trout Stewardship Award. Details of the awards and scholarships can be found on our website. Please send nominations to Wild Trout X Awards Chairman: Jim Daley (jgdaley@gw.dec.state.ny.us).
AWARD FOR TEACHING HERPETOLOGY - 21 JANUARY 2010

The Herpetology Education Committee announces the inaugural Meritorious Teaching Award in Herpetology, sponsored by the American Society of Ichthyologists & Herpetologists, The Herpetologists' League, and the Society for the Study of Amphibians & Reptiles. The award will be given at the annual Joint Meetings of Ichthyologists & Herpetologists (JMIH) to recognize superior teaching effectiveness and mentoring of students in the area of herpetology. The award recipient will receive a cash prize of us $500°°, recognition in the form of an official letter from HEC, and a plaque. To nominate an individual, please submit a letter of nomination to Cathy Bevier (crbevier@colby.edu) by March 31, 2010 that 1) describes specific evidence to support the nomination (e.g., teaching modules, lab or field exercises), 2) includes names and contact information of at least two peers who are each qualified to review the merits of the nominee, and 3) includes names and contact information of two current or former students or program participants.

For details on this award and the nomination procedure, please contact Cathy Bevier (crbevier@colby.edu) or visit www.herpetologistsleague.org/en/news.php.

CORNELL LIBRARY NOW ONLINE - 21 JANUARY 2010

Cornell University libraries has completed a massive conversion of books in their system published prior to 1923 to digital format. The website for the archives is: http://archive.org/details/cornell (submitted by Steve Busack).

NEW COPIEA ONLINE VERSION - 7 JANUARY 2010

ASIH and Allen Press will deploy a new version of Copeia online in mid-January 2010.

Following upon the successful deployment of the new Copeia print version launched in January 2008, Copeia will be available in a new and improved electronic version. The new versioninvolves an improved presentation, better navigation, and a number of new and enhanced features for saving and searching among publications, exporting and tracking of citations, among other exciting and useful features. Published papers can be viewed on screen as either pdf or full text in an appealing new form and layout, complete with embedded links to internal and external resources. Users will be able to search for other publications by authors, search for other papers citing a particular Copeia paper, create a list of favorites and customize email alerts about new publications, notifications, and special offers. Journal contents and abstracts can be viewed by all, but only ASIH members have access to full papers and all other features-- yet another benefit to ASIH membership!

During the course of the next months, the editorial office and society leadership will beworking to deploy a number of additional features and enhancements to the online version of Copeia. Watch for further announcements as these efforts develop.