

Conservation Committee

Committee Members: A. Ali, J. B. Arbogast (Chair), C. Aylward, P. Barboza, E. Beever, A. Chavez, J. Cook, M. Dyck, J. Frey, A. Giordano, J. González-Maya, D. Green, M. Hawkins, J. Heffelfinger, D. Kaufman, J. Koprowski, A. Krevitz, T. Lacher, H. Lutz, J. Malaney, M. Matocq, L. Randa, M. Rentz, S. Sheffield, W. Smith, M. Snider, S. Stephens, N. Upham, E. Wilson.

Mission:

The Conservation Committee (CC) was established by the American Society of Mammalogists (ASM) in 1927, a few years after the Society passed a resolution condemning the unscientific and propagandistic extermination campaign against predators at its 4th Annual Meeting in 1924. First known as the Conservation of Land Mammals Committee, the committee's name was changed to the Conservation Committee in 2002 to reflect the fact that it dealt with conservation issues that included all mammals, terrestrial and marine. In 2002–2003, the Aldo Leopold Conservation Award subcommittee that CC had recently established was moved to full standing committee status. The CC promotes research, education, and science-based solutions to conservation and management of native mammals in North America and globally.

Information Items:

(1) Activities of the ASM CC from June 2022 to May 2023 included:

(a) President Lessa appointed a new Chair, Marjorie Matocq, as Brian Arbogast completed his term.

(b) Four subcommittees were established to coordinate the main past and new areas of activity for the committee: 1) the Letters and Resolutions Committee, 2) the Social Media Committee, 3) the Conservation Education Committee, and 4) a subcommittee to develop a set of best practices with regards to mammalian conservation in State Wildlife Action Plans. These plans direct all State level funding for biodiversity conservation, so the committee adopted this new task to collaborate with state management agency personnel to ensure that mammalian conservation is maximized in these plans.

(c) The Social Media Committee initiated a monthly social media posting that highlights a case of mammalian conservation. These posts include photos, links to further information, links to recently published papers, and highlights how to reach mammalogists engaged in the research and conservation of the species, especially early career mammalogists.

(d) Steve Sheffield (member of the Conservation Committee and Chair of the ASM Resolutions Committee) is taking the lead role in drafting a resolution focused on highlighting and condemning predator control in Alaska. Steve has also been coordinating with the Marine Mammals Committee on the Gulf of Mexico (Rice's) whale.

Action Items:

With the new focal subcommittees, we hope to attract new members to the committee to maximize the effectiveness and reach of our work.

Otherwise, there are no new action items.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marjorie Matocq, Chair
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