

# American Society of Mammalogists



Annual Reports of the Trustees, Standing  
Committees, Affiliates, and Ombudspersons

89<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting  
University of Alaska Fairbanks,  
Fairbanks, Alaska  
June 2009

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## **I. ASM Board of Trustees**

Section deleted

## **II. Reserve Fund Analyses**

Section deleted

## **III. Standing Committees**

### **Animal Care and Use Committee**

**Committee Members:** B. Danielson, J. W. Dragoo, T. Finley, M. R. Gannon, W. L. Gannon, D. W. Hale, V. L. Jackson, C. N. Jacques, S. A. Macdonald, D. K. Odell, L. Olsen, S. Rissing, R. S. Sikes (Chair), J. Young, T. Zimmerman.

**Mission:**

The ACUC acts as a resource for issues concerning the use of animals in research. The committee maintains information on the ASM website regarding animal use and compliance and publishes revised guidelines regularly.

**Information Items:**

(1) The latest revision of the *Guidelines of the American Society of Mammalogists for the Use of Wild Mammals in Research* was published in the *Journal* in June 2007 (JM 89:809–823). To date, this publication has received 169 citations in a variety of journals. Immediately after its publication, reprints were distributed to all US IACUCs and appropriate federal and non-governmental agencies. Early this year we received word from the Senior Director of AAALAC International that the *Guidelines* were adopted by their Council on Accreditation and made an official reference resource. Additionally, copies of the *Guidelines* were available at AAALAC International/IACUC 101 conference held in San Diego, CA in March of 2009.

(2) Over the past year the committee provided comment on two manuscripts refereed by *Journal* editors for animal use concerns. The Committee readily provides comments and opinions to ASM members as well as IACUC members seeking expertise on non-laboratory species.

**Action Items:** None.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Robert S. Sikes, Chair

([rssikes@ualr.edu](mailto:rssikes@ualr.edu))

## Archives Committee

**Historian:** H. H. Genoways

**Archivist:** A. L. Gardner

**Information Items:**

(1) Accomplishments during the past year have included the following:

(a) Made arrangements with Past President Robert Timm to acquire archival material from the E. R. Hall era currently at the University of Kansas.

(b) Archivist Alfred Gardner continued to process, organize, and prepare finding aids for ASM archival materials for transfer to the Smithsonian Archives.

**Action Items:** None.

**Respectively Submitted,**

Hugh H. Genoways, Historian

Alfred L. Gardner, Archivist

## Checklist Committee

### Committee Members:

R. E. Barry, P. Bloomer, G. N. Bronner, R. L. Brownell, Jr., M. D. Carleton, D. P. Domning, A. L. Gardner, C. P. Groves, K. M. Helgen, H. N. Hoeck, M. E. Holden, S. S. B. Hopkins, R. Hutterer, P. D. Jenkins, C. W. Kilpatrick, C. A. Matthee, J. G. Mead, G. G. Musser, L. E. Olson, J. L. Patton, D. M. Reeder (Chair), A. L. Roca, D. A. Schlitter, A. C. Schunke, N. B. Simmons, A. T. Smith, R. W. Thorington, Jr., G. Veron, D. E. Wilson, C. A. Woods.

### Mission:

The Checklist Committee was established by the Board of Directors in 1980 to provide advice on Mammal Species of the World. The Checklist Committee is charged with compiling and updating the publication, Mammal Species of the World: A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference.

### Information Items:

(1) The first edition of Mammal Species of the World was edited by J. H. Honacki et al. (1982) and published by Allen Press and the Association for Systematics Collections. The first edition recognized 4170 species. Current authors for Mammal Species of the World (MSW) make up the checklist committee. MSW contains the names of all currently recognized species, nested in a taxonomic hierarchy that includes at a minimum Order, Family, and Genus.

(2) The second edition was edited by D. E. Wilson and D. M. Reeder (1993) and published by Smithsonian Institution Press. The second edition recognized 4629 species, including 172 species newly described since the first edition.

(3) The third edition, also edited by Wilson and Reeder, was published as a two-volume set by Johns Hopkins University Press in mid-December 2005. Since its publication in mid-December 2005, 22000+ copies have been sold. MSW3 includes common names, authorities for synonyms, and the recognition of subspecies. Other fields include type species for genera, type locality, distribution, and conservation status for species, and synonyms and comments fields for all taxa. MSW3 also contains an extensive bibliography (~ 9400 references) and an index of scientific names (~ 32,000 valid names and synonyms). MSW3 recognizes 5416 species and is currently available online at [www.bucknell.edu/msw3](http://www.bucknell.edu/msw3). This fully searchable and downloadable database went online summer 2007, and receives approximately 5000 hits daily. The Bucknell MSW3 database will be replaced by a newer version at Smithsonian Institution late in 2009. The checklist committee will update the MSW3 database (and accompanying website) periodically and is currently working on MSW4.

**Action items:** None.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
DeeAnn M. Reeder, Chair  
(dreeder@bucknell.edu)

## Conservation Committee

**Committee Members:** B. S. Arbogast, M. S. Barbour, B. J. Bergstrom, (Chair), B. Blood, N. Dawson, T. J. Doonan, K. Helgen, D. Howell, R. Hoyt, A. Joachim, A. Krevitz, R. J. Larsen, C. Long, S. A. MacDonald, D. McCullough, A. Morzillo, S. Nilz, J. F. Nugent, A. F. O'Connell, Jr., S. Prange, D. R. Rabon, Jr., L. Randa, R. K. Rose, M. Schadler, W. Sechrest, S. R. Sheffield, S. N. Vignieri, J. A. Wilson, and J. K. Young.

### **Mission:**

The Conservation Committee was established by the ASM in 1927. First known as the Conservation of Land Mammals Committee, the name was changed to the Conservation Committee in 2002 to reflect the fact that it dealt with conservation issues that included all mammals. Currently, the committee is subdivided into seven subcommittees: Position Letters, Conservation Education, Coordination with other Organizations, Monitoring State and Federal Legislation in the USA and Canada, Monitoring International Issues, Special Projects, and Resolutions. In 2002–2003, the Aldo Leopold Conservation Award subcommittee was moved to full standing committee status.

### **Information Items:**

(1) The committee welcomed new members Brian Arbogast, Daryl Howell, and Roxy Larsen in 2008-09. Quinn Shurtliff rotated off the committee in the past year; we thank him for his service.

(2) The ASM Conservation Committee (ASMCC) has enhanced its communication and collaboration with other committees, especially Marine Mammals and Resolutions, including chairs of the latter two committees on our ASMCC listserv (which marked its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary this February). We invite all ASM members to visit our page on the ASM website, where you will find committee member contact information and a record of recent activities:

<http://www.mammalsociety.org/committees/index.asp>

(3) During 2008-09, ASMCC researched and developed position letters on the following:

- (a) Letter to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) opposing proposed rule changing “Section 7” consultation procedures under the 1973 Endangered Species Act (ESA). This rule would have allowed various federal agencies to make their own determinations whether their projects would have impacts on listed species, without consulting endangered-species experts in USFWS and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), which had clearly been the Congressional intent. Letter was signed by President McLaren and sent in October 2008. Copies were later sent to the Obama Transition Team and key committee chairs in Congress. Letter posted on ASM website.
- (b) Letter to USFWS opposing delisting of the Montana and Idaho portions of the Northern Rocky Mountain (NRM) Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of the gray wolf. Opposition based on: 1) current lack of genetic connectivity between Yellowstone Area

wolf packs and packs elsewhere in the DPS, 2) excessive culling called for in state management plans, which would place long-term population persistence and genetic health of NRM gray wolves in jeopardy. Latest in series of gray wolf delisting rules under Bush administration, all of which were overturned by court order. Letter signed by President McLaren and sent in November 2008. Copies were sent to the Obama Transition Team and key committee chairs in Congress. Letter posted on ASM website. *Note: On 6 March 2009, new Interior Sec. Salazar approved the late-Bush-era rule and finalized it 2 April 2009. ESA protections are due to expire for Idaho and Montana wolves on 4 May. Several environmental NGOs filed 60-day notice of intent to sue, but lawsuits will not begin before June.*

(4) ASMCC continued to monitor the annual winter culling of bison leaving Yellowstone National Park; this past winter only 2 bison were killed, whereas > 1,600 were killed the previous winter.

(5) As of this writing, ASMCC is researching, among others, the following issues: 1) recovery plan for jaguar (see below), 2) monitoring what appears to be a stalled recovery program for the Mexican gray wolf (in collaboration with Resolutions), 3) reduction of critical habitat designation for the peninsular bighorn sheep, and 4) continuing and escalating programs of predator control by the home state of this year's ASM meeting hosts, the great state of Alaska. Visitors are welcome at our committee meeting in Fairbanks.

**(6) Follow-up on Previous Issues:**

(a) On 20 July 2007, the Interior Department announced it would review and probably overturn the proposed Preble's meadow jumping mouse delisting. ASMCC was heavily involved in this issue in 2005-06. In July 2008, USFWS finalized its rule re-affirming endangered status of the subspecies in Colorado, but, surprisingly, de-listing the mouse within its Wyoming range.

(b) On 14 May 2008, Interior Secretary Kempthorne announced he was listing the polar bear as Threatened under the ESA, but he also explicitly said the administration would do nothing to protect the bear against immediate threats related to the proposal to open vast areas of the Chukchi Sea to oil and gas leases, nor would Threatened Status require the government to address global warming as a specific threat to polar bear survival. ASM sent a strong letter of support for the listing in April 2007, drafted collaboratively by Conservation and Marine Mammals committees.

(c) On 1 April 2009, a U.S. District Court judge in Tucson ordered USFWS to reconsider its 2008 decision not to designate critical habitat and develop a recovery plan for the endangered jaguar; he gave the USFWS until 8 January 2010 to report back. ASM unanimously passed a resolution at its 2007 annual meeting urging USFWS to develop a recovery plan, including border crossing issues, and to designate critical habitat for the jaguar. Conservation and Resolutions committees collaborated on drafting a position letter that followed up on these issues in 2008.

**Action Items:** None.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Brad Bergstrom, Chair  
([bergstrm@valdosta.edu](mailto:bergstrm@valdosta.edu))

## **Conservation Awards Committee**

**Committee Members:** R. T. Bowyer, J. K. Braun, H. H. Genoways, K. M. Helgen, M. C. Kalcounis-Rueppell, T. E. Lacher, P. D. Moehlman, T.J. O'Shea, B. J. Sewall, W. P. Smith, R. W. Thorington (Chair).

### **Mission:**

This Committee administers two awards, the Aldo Leopold Conservation Award and the William T. Hornaday Award. These awards were established by the ASM Board of Directors in 2002. The Aldo Leopold Award was created to recognize a well-established individual who has made a lasting scientific contribution to the conservation of mammals and their habitats. The William T. Hornaday Award was created to recognize a current graduate or undergraduate student who has made a significant contribution as a student to the conservation of mammals and their habitats.

### **Information Items:**

(1) The Conservation Awards Committee solicits nominations for the Leopold Conservation Award and the Hornaday Student Conservation Award. Nominations for these awards were received and evaluated by the committee, and the recommendations of the committee were reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors. The awardees will be announced at the Annual Banquet in Fairbanks.

### **Action Items:**

(1) Budget Items: \$1200 (\$200 for the Leopold Award plaque and \$1000 to bring the Hornaday Awardee to the Annual Meeting in Wyoming next year).

**Respectfully submitted,**  
R. W. Thorington, Chair  
([ThoringtonR@SI.EDU](mailto:ThoringtonR@SI.EDU))

## **Coordination Committee**

**Committee Members:** R. E. Barry, Jr., C. N. Jacques, J. A. Jenks (Chair).

### **Mission:**



This committee was established as the *ad hoc* Committee Review Committee in 1998 by the President and charged to formalize mission statements, clarify responsibilities of each standing committee, and to prepare a working document entitled, "Duties and Responsibilities of Standing Committees," for distribution to officers, board members, and committee chairs. In 2000, this committee was made a standing committee, Committee on Committees, by the Board of Directors. Following the 2003 meetings, the name was changed to Coordination Committee.

**Information Items:**

(1) Committee worked to compile the 2009 Annual Reports Document. Contrary to previous years, >40% of reports were submitted within 4 days of the 1 May deadline, likely a record. Also, the late scheduling of the Annual Meeting allowed more time to construct the report and send it to committee chairs for review.

**Action Items:** None.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Jonathan A. Jenks, Chair  
([Jonathan.Jenks@sdstate.edu](mailto:Jonathan.Jenks@sdstate.edu))

## **Development Committee**

**Committee Members:** S. Anderson, R. J. Baker, J. K. Braun, (Chair), J.R. Choate, H. H. Genoways, A. V. Linzey, M. A. Mares, D. J. Schmidly, M. R. Willig, and D. E. Wilson.

**Mission:**

The Development Committee was established as an *ad hoc* committee in 1989 and became a standing committee in 1993. The mission of this committee is to promote the development of the Society through various forms of planned giving such as bequests, trusts, and gifts of cash or other assets. Coordination is required with other committees and informal groups that have related functions. The Development Committee activated the Pooled-Income Fund in 1998.

**Information Items: No Report Submitted.**

**NOTE:** Mike Willig has agreed to assume the duties of Chair following the 2009 meetings.

**Action Items:** None.

## **Education and Graduate Students Committee**

**Committee Members:** C. Bloch, A. Edelman, E. Finck, J. Goheen, Y. Ten Hwang, H. Lanier, C. McCain (Chair), B. McMillan, J. Murie, T. Nupp, M. Pinto, J. Pitt, Q. Shurtliff, V. Swier, K. Thorington, and G. Wilson.

**Mission:**

The Committee on Education and Graduate Students assists students of mammalogy in making informed choices of career, improving their scientific expertise, and helping them find funding for research and employment in the discipline. To those ends, the committee prepares and distributes brochures, holds periodic workshops, provides evaluations of student presentations at the Annual Meeting, and conducts various mentoring/networking activities.

**Information Items:**

- (1) Evaluation of student presentations continues to be an extremely popular program among students. Due to an error in programming at the 2008 meeting in South Dakota, not as many students were able to sign up for evaluations as in previous years. There were 41 student presenters evaluated. We expect many more student evaluations at the 2009 meeting in Fairbanks; as of 20 April we have received 109 requests for this year. Elmer Finck will continue with the arduous task of assigning evaluators to each presentation, and Brock McMillan will compile and send the evaluations back to students. To eliminate future errors in programming, our committee has prepared an email reminder of important programming points for student evaluations and events at meetings. This is sent in the early fall and again at the start of the year.
- (2) The “Meal with a Mammalogist” program is currently being organized by Christopher Bloch. The program is in its 15<sup>th</sup> year and continues to be popular among both students and scientists. We thank all the scientists who have participated in this program over the years. We encourage students to take advantage of this opportunity to spend time with these scientists. Each year, members of the E&GS Committee nominate scientists to be part of the program and we welcome and encourage nominations from all ASM members, particularly students.
- (3) This is the 15<sup>th</sup> year the Committee will sponsor a luncheon hosted by the President of the Society for Plenary Session speakers.
- (4) The committee also hosts an annual social for student attendees at the meeting. This year the social is being organized by Quinn Shurtliff, and will take place at the Wood Center Pub from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, 25 June. The purpose of the mixer is to allow student attendees of the meeting to meet other students (future colleagues) and establish networks of collaboration and support.
- (5) Elmer Finck continues to coordinate the distribution of the “Careers in Mammalogy” brochure, “The Science of Mammalogy” brochure, and the general information brochure.
- (6) In collaboration with the Membership Committee, we are hosting one of their members, John Hanson, on our committee in an attempt to find fresh ideas for increasing ASM membership. This effort is particularly focusing on student ideas and their potential role in increasing membership.
- (7) Our committee is looking into the possibility of offering a writing seminar and other professional development workshops targeting our student members and coordinated with annual meetings.

**Action Items:**

(1) The Education and Graduate Students Committee requests \$300 to 1) pay for the meal of scientists participating in the *Meal with a Mammalogist Program* that do not have the meal plan and 2) to cover the expenses of the Student Social/Mixer at the 2010 meeting. This requested support has been provided for the past several years.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Christy M. McCain, Chair

[christy.mccain@colorado.edu](mailto:christy.mccain@colorado.edu)

## Grants-in-Aid Committee

**Committee Members:** J. Boyles, M. Brigham, B. Butler, L. N. Carraway, C. J. Conroy, T. L. Derting, J. W. Dragoo, C. W. Edwards, S. D. Gehrt, J. Goheen, G. D. Hartman, L. D. Hayes, G. Hayssen, S. Hooper, D. A. Kelt, J. G. Kie, K. Kilburn, C. W. Kilpatrick, (Chair), J. Light, S. K. Lyons, B. McMillan, M. Matocq, M. L. McKnight, R. W. Norris, E. Oaks, D. K. Odell, L. Olson, J. Orrock, A. W. Reed, D. Reeder, T. E. Roberts, R. Rose, K. Rowe, P. Stapp, R. D. Stevens, K. D. Stone, H. Thomas, M. Worrell.

**Mission:**

The Grants-in-Aid Committee reviews applications for grants-in-aid and fellowships in mammalogy (American Society of Mammalogists Fellowship in Mammalogy and the Albert R. and Alma Shadle Fellowship in Mammalogy) and either selects recipients for these awards or recommends recipients for these awards.

**Information Items:**

(1) The deadline for applications for Grants-in-Aid was set at 1 March, and that for fellowships was set at 1 May. No problems were experienced with the electronic submission of applications in 2009.

(2) Membership on the committee is currently 38 members. John Demboski, Allen Kurta, Chip Leslie, Nancy Monclief, Mike Steele, and Barry Thomas stepped down from the committee during the last year. Thanks to Nancy, John, Allen, Chip, Mike, and Barry for their dedicated service to the Grants-in-Aid Committee. Four new members were added in January 2009 (Justin Boyles, Ginny Hayssen, Ryan Norris, and Michael Worrell). Three additional members have informed me that they will be resigning from the committee this year so we are looking for additional members. Please contact me if you are interested in serving on this committee.

(3) We received 91 applications for Grants-in-Aid for 2009, a little below the average of approximately 100 applications received over the past few years. The budget for Grant-in-Aid was reduced \$32,350 by the Board and the GIA Committee elected to reduce the funding level of each award to approximately \$1000. Seven GIA proposals were not considered for funding due to lack of a letter of support from the student's major professor. The committee ranked the

remaining 84 proposals and 34 were selected for support (31 at \$1000 and 3 at \$450). The quality of the proposals continues to improve. The diversity and high quality of research activities proposed by the student members of ASM is very impressive. Each committee member was asked to review and rank 16 or 17 Grants-in-Aid applications. The committee members continue to make an effort to provide each applicant with some constructive comments on their proposal. Names of the students who either have received a grant-in-aid or qualified for GIA funding but have also applied for a fellowship are attached to the end of this report.

(4) The recipient of the 2009 Elizabeth Horner Award for the best Grant-in-Aid proposal is Brian Klingbeil (University of Connecticut).

(5) In 2008, 18 fellowship applications were received and reviewed. The 2008 ASM Fellowship recipient was Jake Esselstyn (University of Kansas). The Shadle Fellowship recipient was Andrew Edelman (University of New Mexico). We have received 9 fellowship applications for 2009. The fellowship applications received will be distributed to committee members electronically and nominees will be selected during a closed session at the annual meeting. The funding for the American Society of Mammalogists Fellowship in Mammalogy will be \$5,000 (reduced by the Board in March 2009) and the Albert R. and Alma E. Shadle Fellowship in Mammalogy will be \$4,639 in 2009.

(6) There are still a few problems being encountered with the online submissions of letters of recommendation and reports on previous GIA support that will be addressed with representatives of the Informatics Committee; we will continue to work with the Informatics Committee to improve and streamline the online submissions of Grants-in-Aid applications.

**Action items:**

**(1) 2010 Budget Request**

Grants-in-Aid of Research 30 x \$1,500	\$45,000
Horner Award	\$500
ASM Fellowship	\$10,000
Banquet tickets for GIA recipients (10 X \$30)	\$300
Total Request	\$55,800

**(2) 2009 ASM Grants-in-Aid Recipients**

**Brian Klingbeil**, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Connecticut;  
**\$1,000 + Horner Award (\$500) = \$1,500**  
 Multi-scale responses of bats to landscape structure in Puerto Rico

**Christina Booher**, Department of Biological Sciences, Auburn University; **\$1,000**  
Lifetime reproductive output of white-footed mice (*Peromyscus leucopus*) in response to skeletal and dietary calcium availability

**Katy Califf**, Department of Zoology, Michigan State University; **\$1,000**  
Genetic diversity in two species of hyena: influence of sociality and implications for mechanisms of mate choice

**Laura Cisneros**, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Connecticut; **\$1,000**  
Effects of landscape characteristics on the spatial organization of bat communities in fragmented Neotropical rainforests

**Bridget Conneely**, Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia; **\$1,000**  
Habitat selection and the establishment of a grazing succession by reintroduced ungulates in Gorongosa National Park, Mozambique

**Sarah Courbis**, Department of Biology, Portland State University; **\$1,000**  
Population structure of pantropical spotted dolphins near the Hawaiian Islands using DNA and photo-identification

**Bogdan Cristescu**, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta; **\$1,000**  
Ecology and behavior of grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) in response to open-pit mining, and implications for management and conservation

**Lauri Das**, Department of Zoology, Michigan State University; **\$1,000**  
A behavioral mechanism for disparate responses to climate change in Great Lakes' *Peromyscus*

**Ben Dantzer**, Department of Zoology, Michigan State University; **\$1,000**  
Hormone-mediated life history tradeoffs: following up on what avian studies left behind

**Jennifer Duggan**, Department of Animal Biology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; **\$1000**  
The effects of habitat fragmentation on the genetic structure of *Spermophilus franklinii* (Franklin's ground squirrel)

**Eliecer Gutierrez**, Department of Biology, City University of New York; **\$1,000**  
Phylogenetics and biogeography of mouse opossums (Didelphidae: *Marmosa*)

**Chris Habeck**, Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin; **\$1,000**  
The regulation of ecosystem structure and function by herbivorous rodents in grasslands

**Kyndall Hildebrandt**, University of Alaska Museum Mammal Collection, University of Alaska Fairbanks; **\$1,000**  
Phylogeography and environmental niche modeling of the web-footed tenrec (*Limnogale mergulus*) using noninvasive techniques

**Andrew Hope**, Department of Biology, University of New Mexico; **\$450**  
Comparative phylogeography of the northern high latitudes: testing refugial hypotheses

**Angela Horner**, Department of Biological Sciences, Ohio University; **\$1,000**  
Feeling the Squeeze: a comparative analysis of the energetic costs of tunnel locomotion

**Jane Indorf**, Department of Biology, University of Miami; **\$1,000**  
Phylogeography of marsh rice rats (*Oryzomys palustris*) in wetlands of the southeastern United States

**Emily Kay**, Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University; **\$1,000**  
Mate discrimination between two sister species of mice, *Peromyscus leucopus* and *Peromyscus gossypinus*

**Julia Kilgour**, Department of Biology, University of Regina; **\$450**  
Determining the nature of social relationships in big brown bats, *Eptesicus fuscus*

**Rafael Leite**, Department of Biology, Brigham Young University; **\$1,000**  
Biogeography and evolution of Neotropical small mammals, with emphasis on hystricognath spiny-rats

**Kristen Lucia**, Department of Zoology, Miami University; **\$1,000**  
A field test of the effects of inbreeding on adult prairie voles (*Microtus ochrogaster*)

**Janet Maclean**, Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia; **\$1,000**  
Mammalian herbivores, plant defenses, and demographic trade-offs as determinants of landscape heterogeneity in savanna ecosystems

**Cindy Mathiasen**, Department of Biology, University of New Mexico; **\$1,000**  
Survival in an extreme environment: energy and water flux in *Neotoma lepida* in Death Valley

**Marianne Moore**, Department of Biology, Boston University; **\$1,000**  
Innate immune defense against *Geomyces* in the little brown myotis (*Myotis lucifugus*)

**Adrian Munguia-Vega**, School of Natural Resources, University of Arizona; **\$1,000**  
Molecular tracking of three species of rodents in a fragmented landscape from the Sonoran Desert to prevent the extirpation and extinction of endemic mammals from the Baja California Peninsula

**Teri Orr**, Department of Biology, University of California, Riverside; **\$1,000**  
Testing the cost and benefits of reproductive delays in the Jamaican fruit bat

**Bret Pasch**, Department of Zoology, University of Florida; **\$1,000**  
Behavioral and neural mechanisms of altitudinal replacement in singing mice

**Yadeeh Sawyer**, Department of Biology, University of New Mexico; **\$1,000**  
Testing the Coastal Refuge Hypothesis: comparative phylogeography of three mammals in the Alexander Archipelago of the North Pacific

**J. Angel Soto-Centeno**, University of Florida - Florida Museum of Natural History; **\$1,000**  
A multi-locus approach to estimating inter-island genetic diversity, migration, and population structure in an endemic West Indian bat

**Elizabeth St Clair**, Department of Anthropology, Stony Brook University; **\$1,000**  
Morphological and ecological diversity in platyrrhine and prosimian primates

**Megan Strauss**, Ecology, Evolution & Behavior, University of Minnesota; **\$1,000**  
Population regulation in giraffes (*Giraffa camelopardalis*): is the tallest mammal food-limited?

**Eli Swanson**, Department of Zoology, Michigan State University; **\$1,000**  
Effects of human domination of landscapes on gene flow in carnivores

**Zachary Taylor**, Department of Zoology, Miami University; **\$1,000**  
The effects of major landscape barriers on genetic structure in the deer mouse *Peromyscus maniculatus*

**Georgina Voegele**, Center for Functional Anatomy & Evolution, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine; **\$450**  
Limb anatomy and the evolutionary relationships of the aardvark, *Orycteropus afer*

**Mrinalini Watsa**, Department of Anthropology, Washington University in Saint Louis; **\$1,000**  
Genetic structure and chimerism in a free ranging saddle-back tamarin (*Saguinus fuscicollis*) population in southeastern Peru

**Respectively submitted,**  
C. William Kilpatrick, Chair  
([C-William.Kilpatrick@uvm.edu](mailto:C-William.Kilpatrick@uvm.edu))

## Grinnell Award Committee

**Committee Members:** J. R. Choate, T. L. Derting, M. S. Hafner, S. Jansa, S. Mech, P. Myers, S. R. Pugh (Chair), N. A. Slade, N. Solomon, P. D. Sudman, S. Trombulak, and P. Weigl

**Mission:**

The purpose of this committee is to solicit nominations for and select a recipient of the Joseph Grinnell Award. The Joseph Grinnell Award honors individuals who have made outstanding and sustained contributions to education in mammalogy over a period of at least 10 years.

**Information Items:**

(1) This year the committee reviewed two outstanding nominations for the Joseph Grinnell Award. One of these was forwarded to the ASM Board of Directors for their consideration. The award will be presented at the banquet at the 2009 annual meeting in Fairbanks, AK.

**Action Items:**

(1) Budget request of \$350.00 to produce the Grinnell Award.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Stephen R. Pugh, Chair  
([spugh@unh.edu](mailto:spugh@unh.edu))

## Honoraria Committee

**Committee Members:** L. Dizney, V. Hayssen (Chair), M. C. Kalcounis-Ruppell, D. Kaufman, J. Light, M. Matocq, J. Merritt, K. Nutt, T. Roberts, R. Rowe, P. Stapp, K. Thorington, S. Vignieri.

**Mission:**

The committee's mission is to select students to be honored for their research in Mammalogy.

**Information Items:**

(1) The Honoraria Committee awarded 3 graduate honoraria, each for \$1500: the Anna M. Jackson Award to Jennifer Smith, Michigan State University; the Elmer C. Birney Award to Sean A. Neiswenter, University of Nevada; and the A. Brazier Howell Graduate Student Travel Grant to Quinn Shurtliff, Idaho State University.

(2) The Committee awarded 2 undergraduate honoraria of \$800 each to Rebecca Kelley, Miami University and Jennifer McCreight, Purdue University.

**Action Items:**

(1)     \$4500   3 \* \$1500 for graduate travel awards (AM Jackson, B Howell, E Birney)  
       \$1600   2 \* \$800 for undergraduate travel awards  
       \$6100   Total budget

Justification: All funds requested are for the awards.



**Respectfully submitted,**  
Virginia Hayssen  
([Vhayssen@email.smith.edu](mailto:Vhayssen@email.smith.edu))

## **Honorary Membership Committee**

**Committee Members:** G. N. Cameron, T. H. Kunz (Chair), B. Patterson, O. J. Reichman, and R. M. Timm.

**Mission:**

The purpose of the Honorary Membership Committee is to present credentials of potential honorary members for consideration by the membership at the Annual Members' Meeting. Honorary Membership, which is the highest honor awarded by the American Society of Mammalogists, recognizes eminent mammalogists who have rendered "distinguished service to the science of mammalogy." The Honorary Membership Committee is composed of the five most recent past presidents and is chaired by the second-most senior member of that group. The committee welcomes nominations from ASM members. Nominations may be made to any committee member.

**Information Items:**

(1) During the Members' Meeting, the committee will move to elect candidate(s) approved by the Board of Directors.

**Action Items:** None.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
T.H. Kunz, Chair  
([kunz@bu.edu](mailto:kunz@bu.edu))

## **Human Diversity Committee**

**Committee Members:** N. M. Belfiore, L. J. Dizney, C. M. T. Himes, C. B. Jones, D. M. Kaufman (Chair), D. W. Kaufman, D. L. Martinez, K. McBee, I. M. Ortega, J. Ortega, O. R. W. Pergams, K. C. Rowe, J. R. St. Juliana, C. W. Thompson, R. G. Trujillo, C. K. Welch, D. Yang, and C. A. Zugmeyer.

**Mission:**

The purpose of the Human Diversity Committee is to ensure active participation in the ASM by all members, regardless of gender, race, ethnic background, age, physical disabilities, or sexual preference. Further, we remind all ASM members that our ombudspersons (R. W. Thorington and F. A. Smith) are available to listen, mediate, or advise on issues regarding discrimination,

inappropriate conduct, or other unprofessional behaviors (see *Journal of Mammalogy* 78:268 [1997]).

### **Information Items:**

(1) The HDC continues its efforts to promote and support diversity in the ASM. We received very positive feedback on last year's "Human Diversity and Mammalogy in the 21st Century" symposium, which focused on issues related to indigenous peoples and science, retention of minority students in science, and the history of diversity related to the ASM. Based on the success of the symposium and requests we received, the HDC will focus on offering a formal presentation of information on different diversity-related topics every few years in the future. This year, however, we are focused on more informal, one-to-one interactions during the annual meeting. To that end, committee members will wear "diversity" ribbons on our nametags to make us more identifiable to new members and/or meeting attendees and to those who may have specific diversity issues that they wish to discuss.

(2) In order to serve a larger segment of the ASM, the HDC continues its efforts to provide a clearinghouse of information related to diversity and is resolving the logistics of providing such a web page. The aim of this page will be to provide information, data, and approaches to address the value, support, recruitment, and retention of human diversity in science and mammalogy.

(3) We continue to seek feedback from current members and meeting attendees related to the general goals of the committee and possible obstacles to full participation in the ASM. Anyone interested in participating in the HDC should contact the Chair.

### **Action Items:**

(1) The HDC requests \$200 to cover incidental expenses and provide refreshments for a diversity mixer at the 2010 annual meeting.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Dawn M. Kaufman, Chair  
([dkaufman@jsd.claremont.edu](mailto:dkaufman@jsd.claremont.edu))

## **Informatics Committee**

**Committee Members:** M. E. Hopton (Chair), C. A. Iudica, S. P. Maher, S. B. McLaren, D. K. Odell, I. M. Ortega, R. L. Rehmeier

### **Mission:**

The Informatics Committee is responsible for addressing issues that arise with continuing changes in technology and information processing, retrieval, etc. as they relate to mammalogy. In recent years, the committee has been primarily involved with maintaining and further developing the Society's web site.

### **Information Items:**

(1) In 2007, \$10,000 was budgeted for 2008 and the committee was asked to come back with a more specific budget request if needed. At the 2008 Annual Meeting, a request for an additional \$35,159 was approved for 2009 and the Board gave the Committee the latitude to make the final selection of the firm that would do the website redesign, with input from ASM Officers. After an additional round of questions, vetting, and several conference calls, AcroMedia, Inc. was selected by the Committee to redesign the Society's web site in November 2008. Their proposal was forwarded to the Officers for comment in late November. Due to economic conditions, the redesign process was suspended at the request of the Officers on advice from the Trustees on 5 December 2008. In March of 2009, the 2009 line item budgeted for redesign was reduced to \$5,154. The committee immediately approached AcroMedia about proposing an incremental process for the redesign work and received a proposal for a 3-phase process on 3 April 2009. Phase 1 involves the creation of new Information Architecture, which represents the backbone of the redesign process. This work can be completed in approximately 2.5 months for \$5,000 (Canadian), which allows for this work to proceed within the amended 2009 budget even with additional "tweaking" that may be required.

(2) Routine maintenance and updates were performed on an as-needed basis.

(3) Online submission was provided for fellowships administered by the Honoraria and Grants-in-Aid Committees.

(4) Richard Thorington continues to maintain Mammalogists-on-E-mail and the Mammal-L discussion group. We appreciate his efforts.

(5) Requests for information, job postings, and announcements submitted to the web site were received by Dan Odell. In total, 71 requests were made between June 2008 and April 2009; most were requests to post job announcements.

### **Action Items:**

(1) A budget request of \$20,000 for Phase 2 of the website redesign is requested from the 2010 budget. Phase 2 will include completion of web site design, coding and final construction of the site, partial content implementation, and basic content management system.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Matthew E. Hopton

[m.hopton@yahoo.com](mailto:m.hopton@yahoo.com)

## **International Relations Committee**

**Committee Members:** B. H. Blake, J. Campos, I. Castro-Arellano, S. Gardner, L. C. Hester, C. A. Iudica (Chair), W. Z. Lidicker, Jr., A. V. Linzey, I. Martinez-Serrano, S. Reeder Carroll, R. K.

Rose, K. Rowe, D. A. Schlitter, A. T. Smith, S. Solari, J. M. Taylor, R. G. Trujillo, J. A. Wilson, S. M. Wisely.

**Mission:**

The Board of Directors established the International Relations Committee in 1960 to maintain and enhance communication between members of the Society and mammalogists outside North America. The mission of this committee is to advance the field of mammalogy by encouraging and facilitating international collaboration among members of the ASM and mammalogists from other countries.

**Information Items:**

**(1) On-going initiatives:**

**(a) The Sponsored Membership Program:** In collaboration with the Membership Committee, a number of sponsored memberships and subscriptions have been awarded since this program started. The Committee has continued to receive nominations and requests, and has worked towards expanding the geographical distribution of these memberships. Currently we have created a subcommittee charged with the task of developing a set of guidelines to manage the program and maintaining a waiting list of potential recipients. This program started under the visionary guidance of Enrique Lessa, and now is continuing with Serena Reeder Carroll, Mike Gannon, and Kevin Rowe. These individuals are coordinating this initiative and are working on developing formal guidelines for this program to grow into the next phase. Once these guidelines are ready, they will be posted on our website.

**(b) The Buddy System:** The Committee has worked in using a "buddy system" to help international authors prepare their manuscripts for submission to the *Journal of Mammalogy*. An *ad hoc* subcommittee for this program continues working on finding better ways to advertise this service and to coordinate efforts. We are very fortunate that Barbara Blake, Bill Lidicker, and Alicia Lindsey are working to promote and coordinate this great program.

**(c) Links to Mammal Societies of the World:** Committee members have continued to serve as links with mammal societies throughout the world and providing information on mammal meetings that appear in the *Journal of Mammalogy* and other international publications as well. A specific subcommittee maintains an updated list of international mammal societies and their web pages, which will be posted on our website soon. This is an on-going task. Ivan Castro-Arellano has been leading this group and we are looking for volunteers to assist in this interesting and important task (collecting and maintaining an up-to-date list of links [on the web] to the mammal societies of the world). Please, contact the IRC-chair if interested.

**(d) International Meetings and the International Federation of Mammalogists (IFM):** Bill Lidicker (IFM president) is taking the lead on coordinating and keeping us

informed about the next IMC (10<sup>th</sup>, in Argentina, 2009) and Winston Smith will be doing the same on the ASM/AMS meeting schedule for 2011. Also, very exciting times as the IFM has established a new organization under the leadership of a group of fantastic people. See the separate report of the IFM representatives.

**(e) ASM Student Membership Award:** In 2008, the SAREM (Argentina Mammalogist Society) and the ASM Board established an annual award for the best student presentation at the SAREM annual meeting. The award, ASM publications, is presented to “a student - developing country – online only”. The student is chosen annually by a SAREM committee.

## **(2) New Initiatives:**

**(a)** The committee is drafting a new resolution on “access to international biological resources” with the Resolutions, Systematic Collections, and other committees.

**(b)** The Committee welcomes new initiatives as new task forces may develop in the future. The Chair would like to thank the support and commitment of all Committee members. Thanks to all!

## **Action Items:**

**(1) The addition of \$20/year** to the 2010 ASM Budget for the annual “ASM Student membership Award” at the SAREM (Argentina) annual meeting (to pay for a student from a developing country, online membership).

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Carlos A. Iudica, Chair  
([casaiud@susqu.edu](mailto:casaiud@susqu.edu))

## **Jackson Award Committee**

**Committee Members:** R. Baker, B. Blake, J. Braun, G. Kaufman, T. Lacher, Jr., M. O’Connell, N. Slade, J. Whitaker, Jr., and M. Willig (Chair).

## **Mission:**

The Jackson Award, established in 1977 by the American Society of Mammalogists, is charged with nominating a candidate for the H. H. T. Jackson Award, which recognizes individuals with a long and outstanding record of service to Mammalogy and the American Society of Mammalogists. To do so, the committee solicits recommendations, and evaluates candidates based on a letter of nomination, letters of support, and curriculum vitae. Ultimately, the Board of Directors votes on the Committee’s nomination, and the award is presented formally at the Annual Banquet of the Society.

## **Information Items:**

- (1) The committee received and reviewed one complete application for the Jackson Award.
- (2) The committee recommended one individual, and forwarded the name and supporting documents to President McLaren for consideration by the Board.
- (3) The results of the Board's deliberations will be presented at the Annual Banquet.

**Action Items:**

- (1) Budget request of \$150 to produce the Jackson Award plaque.

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
Michael R. Willig, Chair  
([michael.willig@uconn.edu](mailto:michael.willig@uconn.edu))

## **Latin American Fellowship Committee**

**Committee Members:** S. T. Alvarez-Castañeda, J. A. Cook (Chair), G. J. Kenagy, E. A. Lacey, Y. Leite, E. P. Lessa, E. Palma.

**Mission:**

The Latin American Student Field Research Award is made annually to support field research projects by Latin Americans in Latin America. Eligible students must be citizens of Latin American countries (excluding Puerto Rico) and currently enrolled in a graduate program. Projects must be field-oriented investigations of natural history, conservation, ecology, systematics, wildlife biology, biogeography, or behavior. The selection committee, whose membership reflects these diverse fields and has field experience in Latin America, considers each of these areas of research equally important. Five \$1,500 awards are granted each year. The Oliver P. Pearson Award supports a young professional who holds an academic position in a Latin American institution within 5 years of receiving a Ph.D. or equivalent degree. A single \$5,000 award is granted each year. In addition, up to \$2,000 are offered for the recipient to attend the mammal meetings of the year following the award.

**Information Items:**

- (1) Winners of the Latin American Student Field Research awards will be announced at the 2009 Annual Meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska.

**Action Items:**

- (1) A 2010 budget request for \$7500 to cover 5 Latin American Student Field Research awards and \$5,000 for The Oliver P. Pearson Award.

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
Joseph A. Cook, Chair  
([tucojoe@gmail.com](mailto:tucojoe@gmail.com))

## **Legislation and Regulation Committee**

**Committee Members:** A. Abuzeineh, P. K. Anderson, T. Bowyer, R. W. Kays, A. Krevitz, T. J. McIntyre, S. B. McLaren, D. Odell, T. J. O'Shea, E. A. Rickart, S. R. Sheffield, M. J. Smolen, D. W. Sparks, (Chair), W. T. Stanley, V. J. Swier, C. W. Thompson, R. M. Timm.

### **Mission:**

The Legislation and Regulations Committee was formed in 1976 to monitor and provide input into the state and federal regulation and legislation process on such issues as endangered species, trapping and harvesting regulations, and the use of animals for experimental purposes. The committee also interacts with the legislative monitoring groups of AIBS.

### **Information Items:**

#### **(1) Issues Since 2008 Annual Meeting**

- (a) The biggest issue tracked by the Legislation and Regulation Committee was a late executive order from the outgoing administration. This order was designed to allow federal agencies (an action agency) to move forward without an informal consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in cases where the action agency did not expect to impact an endangered species. Despite the change in rules, most agencies continued to contact USFWS about potential issues prior to moving forward with projects. At the end of April 2009, a new executive order was finalized that reinstated the informal consultation as a matter of standard procedure.
- (b) Last year we reported that the Supreme Court had ruled that the EPA was required to regulate carbon dioxide and other green house gasses. The process of developing the regulation is underway. In terms of reading political tea leaves (i.e. this is Dale Sparks's opinion), both major parties as well as many NGOs and some business groups have now all lined up to support an effort to develop a cap and trade policy on green house gasses. Under this system, US green house gas emissions would be capped at a historic level and polluters would be issued a permit to pollute at that level. The idea is that this creates a market for the pollution credits. Companies that reduce their carbon footprint can then sell any "left-over" carbon credits on the open market. In some scenarios, there is a gradual decline in the number of carbon credits that are available.
- (c) Another arena that ASM members should watch is the use of federal stimulus money. The goal of this effort is to jump-start the economy by investing in a wide variety of projects throughout the US. Particularly desired are "shovel-ready" infrastructure projects (mostly road construction). In many cases, these projects have been stalled for

lack of funding. However, one should also be aware that many of the proposed projects will require additional federal oversight for environmental concerns. In fact, the Midwest region of USFWS is currently adding permit personnel to every field office to deal with the expected increase in work load.

- (d) Finally, at the state level, a troubling precedent was set by the state of Illinois this last year. Several state parks were closed to the public after 31 December 2008. The plan was for these to be sold to help recover some of the state's economic shortfall.
- (e) Numerous pieces of legislation actually or potentially impacting mammals were introduced into the new session of congress this year. "Mac" McIntyre has once again done an exemplary job of keeping the ASM leadership aware of these changes. As with previous years, we look forward to making more of this information available on the ASM website so that members can be more up-to-date. We also welcome updates/participation from any ASM members that are willing—in particular it would be nice to have folks with an interest in regulations outside the US.
- (f) Information on all legislation before the US Congress can be found at <http://thomas.loc.gov> and readers can scan for legislation on specific topics at <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/c111bills.html>

**Action Items:** None.

**Respectfully Submitted,**  
D. W. Sparks, Chair  
([dale.w.sparks@gmail.com](mailto:dale.w.sparks@gmail.com))

## **Mammal Images Library Committee**

**Committee Members:** J. Bowman, D. Byman, B. D. Chepko-Sade, J. Fiely, E. J. Finck (Business Manager), J. H. Harris, M. E. Hopton, D. G. Huckaby, K. S. Kilburn, J. Kirchhoff, J. A. Lackey, S. K. Lyons, C. G. Mahan, D. K. McClearn, R. L. Rehmeier (Chair), M. E. Rutzmoser, J. S. Scheibe, R. S. Sikes, J. O. Whitaker, Jr.

### **Mission:**

The Mammal Images Library (MIL) maintains a collection currently totaling >1700 images of mammals representing >800 species. High-resolution images are available at a nominal charge for educational purposes. Most images in our collection may be used as illustrations for non-profit or commercial purposes depending on restrictions specified by contributors. Additional information about the MIL, including contact information for contributors, ordering information, and a complete listing of holdings, is available on the MIL section of the ASM web site at: <http://www.mammalogy.org/imagelibrary/index.html>.

### **Information Items:**



(1) The primary focus of the MIL Committee continues to be the sale of individual images and special series. In 2008, we shipped 16 digital images, a decrease from 2007. This total does not include low-resolution images downloaded directly from the MIL web site. A total of \$1280.00 in income was recorded from sales of images in 2008, up from the \$0 income for 2007. Expenses in 2008 totaled \$1368.13 for an asset change of +\$88.13. Our checking account balance as of 31 December 2008 was \$6418.77. A summary report for 2008 and signed copies of the Business Report were sent to the ASM Treasurer's Office.

(2) The MIL is digitized at a resolution of 4000 dpi. A lower-resolution (generally 450 x 300 pixels at 96 dpi) preview of each image, suitable for projection or web use, is available on the MIL web page.

(3) CDs containing the web-based version of the current library are mailed to Patron Members of the ASM. CDs are also available to Life Members upon request from the committee chair.

(4) Several requests were made by administrators of various websites for use of all MIL images. Most of these requests were denied due to varying use restrictions among images in the MIL collection.

(5) MIL finished reviewing images and updated nomenclature to match the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Wilson and Reeder (2005).

(6) Images donated by the Richard Van Gelder estate continue to be accessioned into the library.

(7) Many taxa could be better represented in the MIL. We encourage all interested parties to consider contributing their high-quality images to the MIL. Please take a few minutes to review our holdings on the web page to determine if some images from your personal collection could improve the scope and quality of the MIL. Anyone interested in submitting images should contact the committee chair.

(8) The grant program for educational institutions in developing countries is not currently serving as many people as was hoped. It is not known whether this is due to a lack of advertisement of its availability, or the increasing availability of digital images on the Internet. Ideas for improving the number of grant applications are requested from the general membership.

(9) The committee thanks Fort Hays State University for supporting the Business Office of the Mammal Images Library and for funding student support.

**Action Items:** None.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Ryan L. Rehmeier, Chair  
([ryan.rehmeier@simpson.edu](mailto:ryan.rehmeier@simpson.edu))

## **Marine Mammals Committee**

**Committee Members:** R. L. Brownell, Jr. (USA), C. Callahan (USA), J. Dines (USA), H. H. Edwards (USA), J. M. Lapsieritis (USA), I. Martinez-Serrano (Mexico), S. L. McDonald (USA), T. J. McIntyre (USA), J. Moore (USA), D. K. Odell (USA, Chair), T. J. O'Shea (USA), C. W. Potter (USA), S. Sheffield (USA), R. J. Small (USA), and J. A. Thomas (USA).

### **Mission:**

The marine mammals committee was formed in 1921 and Chaired by E. W. Nelson. It is the longest-standing active committee of the American Society of Mammalogists. Its mission is to maintain and encourage interest in marine mammals in the ASM, to provide the Society membership with information about marine mammalogy, including conservation and legislative issues, to spearhead resolutions and legislation involving marine mammals, and to serve as a liaison between ASM and the Society for Marine Mammalogy (SMM). Members of the Marine Mammals Committee are frequently active in both ASM and SMM.

### **Information Items:**

(1) The Committee continually watches matters related to marine mammals and their environment. As appropriate, the committee may draft comments for Presidential signature or resolutions on certain items. Many of this committee's information items are short-lived and time-critical. We are looking forward to future posting of information items on the ASM web page.

(2) D. K. Odell will step down as chair of the Marine Mammal Committee after the June 2009 annual meeting of the ASM.

(3) **US Navy exercises off southern California coast**—On 14 October 2008, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued a proposed rule to govern the unintentional take of marine mammals by U.S. Navy activities off southern California. Naval training exercises will occur from 1 January 2009 through 31 December 2013, and possibly beyond. Expected activities include: air-to-surface and surface-to-surface gunnery exercises (machine gun fire), air-to-surface and surface-to-surface missile exercises, bombing exercises, mine warfare exercises, and anti-submarine warfare exercises (mid-frequency and high-frequency active sonar). The first Letter of Authorization was issued by NMFS on 22 January 2009 (authorizations will be reviewed and renewed annually) and include monitoring, mitigation and reporting measures designed to minimize take ("take" is defined to include many things, including harassment and death of marine mammal species).

(4) **2010 National Marine Mammal Stranding Network conference**—The last National Marine Mammal Stranding Network meeting was held in 2005. The next national conference is scheduled for 5-9 April 2010 at the USFWS National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV. A steering committee has been formed that will narrow down the topics to

be covered at the conference but invited presentations, poster sessions, workshops, and hands-on training sessions are planned.

**(5) NMFS Prescott Grant Funding**—Senate Resolution 859 was introduced into the Senate on 22 April 2009. Among other things, this bill would amend Title IV of the Marine Mammal Protection Act to increase the authorization for the Prescott grant program to \$7 million for each fiscal year (\$6 million to NMFS vs. \$4 million currently), increase the maximum award amount for projects from \$100,000 to \$200,000, officially establish an Emergency grant program and waive the matching requirement for emergency grants. It also addresses entanglements. SR 859 mirrors a similar resolution that already passed in the House.

**(6) North Atlantic right whale**—In January 2009, NOAA implemented a 10-knot speed limit in the shipping channels and other areas of the east coast where right whales commonly occur. Speed restrictions are designed to reduce the possibility of ships striking the highly endangered whales, causing death or injury. Restrictions are set to end in 2013, but researchers will evaluate the effectiveness of the speed rule before it expires.

**(7) Cook Inlet belugas**—This population currently numbers about 375 individuals, reduced from about 1,300 in the 1980s. In October 2008, the population was listed as Endangered under the ESA (over objections from AK Gov. Palin); they are threatened by oil/gas development, contaminants, shipping, and other factors. Procedures for designation of critical habitat are ongoing by NMFS (ordinarily designated at the time of listing).

**(8) 1st International Conference on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)** was held 29 March - 3 April 2009 in Maui, HI and attended by >200 marine mammal scientists, MPA managers, and other marine experts from 40 countries. The Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS) presented findings that conclude that current MPAs are too small to adequately serve whales and dolphins; they found that 40% of existing MPAs for marine mammals are too small to offer any protection. Less than 1% of the world's marine mammal critical habitat has been identified; emphasis should be placed on rare and endangered species, but there also is a need to protect healthy populations so they do not become endangered. The WDCS calls for a global network of MPAs to protect whales and dolphins, identification and mapping of critical habitat and hot spots, and creating networks of MPAs.

**(9) Wind energy** (coastal New Jersey) —In April 2009, consultants to the NJ State Department of Environmental Protection issued their authorized report "Ocean/Wind Power Ecological Baseline Studies" (312 pp.). The report states that wind power could potentially be harmful to the NJ coastal marine environment, and that the potential impact of wind turbine farms off the NJ coast includes noise levels that are high enough to disturb marine mammals. The report also found that there could be disruption of marine life due to the electrical current running through the large transmission lines associated with the turbine farms. NJ Gov. Corzine is providing extensive verbal support for wind power and has plans for multiple large wind farms off the NJ coast.

**(10)** The Government of Japan continues its scientific whaling program under Article 8 of the IWC, which allows member countries to unilaterally kill whales for the purpose of scientific

research. In 1987-1988 approximately 300 whales were taken through scientific research whaling; this number has increased to more than 1,000 per year and now includes six species. Since the commercial moratorium in 1986, over 12,000 whales have been taken for lethal scientific research in the Antarctic and the western North Pacific. Japan is currently the only country conducting lethal scientific research. Most members of the IWC believe this research is not needed for the management of these whales under the Commission.

(11) The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has presented a list of Treaties pending for Advice and Consent that it will consider in the 111th Congress. Treaties of interest to the ASM include the Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Convention on Biodiversity and the Convention on Albatross and Seabirds in the Southern Ocean. The URL is <http://foreign.senate.gov/treaties.pdf>

**Action Items:** None.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Daniel K. Odell  
([dodell@cfl.rr.com](mailto:dodell@cfl.rr.com))

## Membership Committee

**Committee Members:** J. Brant, S. Carroll (Chair), E. Finck, M. Gannon, J. Hanson, M. Haynie, K. Phelps, D. Rogers, H. Smith, S. Westerman, and S. Weyandt.

**Mission:**

The Membership Committee tracks current membership trends in the Society and is involved with both membership recruitment and retention. In addition, the committee works with Allen Press to correct membership bookkeeping problems that arise.

**Information Items:**

(1) Current membership figures as reported to the Membership Committee from Allen Press on 15 April 2009 are shown on the following pages of this report.

Readers should note that numbers reported here are different from numbers reported in previous membership reports. Delinquent members paying back dues for membership often cause those membership figures to increase even though the calendar year is over.

Type	Description	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
ENJ	Emeritus Member-No Journal	158	158	154	149	146
HONOR	Honorary Member	11	12	12	13	13
HONORNJ	Honorary Member-No Journal	1	1	1	1	1
HONORPATRON	Honorary and Patron		2	2	3	3

LIF	Life Member	633	637	636	627	623
LIF	Life Member-Full Payment	6	1	0	1	0
LIF06	Life Member			3	5	7
LIF06	Life Member- Full Payment		3	0	1	4
LIF106	Life Member- 1st Install	5				
LIF106	Life Member- 1st Install		6	8	5	5
LIF2	Life Member- 2nd Install	8	4			
LIF206	Life Member- 2nd Install			6	7	5
LIF3	Life Member-3rd Installment	8	6	2	1	0
LIF306	Life Member- 3rd Install		2	0	6	5
LIF4	Life Member-4th Installment	6	8	6	2	1
LIF406	Life Member- 4th Install			2	0	6
LIFNJ	Life Member-No Journal	12	14	15	21	22
MEM	Member	1486	1466	1323	1258	937
MEMDEV	Member Developing Country		45	47	51	49
MEMNJ	Member-No Journal	2				
MEMO	Member- Online Only		125	212	229	262
PATR	Patron Member	64	62	60	58	58
PATRNJ	Patron Member-No Journal	1	1	2	2	2
SPONS	Sponsored Member		37	16	33	12
SPONSO	Online Only Sponsored member			1	1	1
STUD	Student Member	543	552	484	448	318
STUDLIF106	Student Life- 1st Installment	13	2	0	3	1
STUDLIF2	Student Life- 2nd Installment		9			
STUDLIF206	Student Life- 2nd Installment		1	2	0	1
STUDLIF3	Student Life Member-3rd Instal			7	0	0
STUDLIF306	Student Life- 3rd Installment			0	2	0
STUDLIF4	Student Life Member-4th Instal			0	4	0
STUDLIF406	Student Life- 4th Installment			0	1	2
STUDLIF5	Student Life Member-5th Instal			0	0	4
STUDO	Student online only		22	22	38	52
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2957</b>	<b>3176</b>	<b>3023</b>	<b>2970</b>	<b>2540</b>

In addition, these numbers should differ from those in the annual report of the Secretary/Treasurer. That report contains all members who are still on the roster, including those that are three years or less delinquent in dues payment. The numbers above include only those members who are active and have paid dues for that year.

We saw an overall decrease of 53 members for 2008, continuing the downward trend that began in 2007, and membership is down significantly in 2009. In April 2008, at the time that the report was written, we had 2,785 members as compared to 2,540 in April of this year. This is a decrease of 245 members for 2009 when compared to the same period in 2008. If we rely on patterns from recent years, we should expect to see an overall decrease of approximately 200

members by the end of 2009. Factors likely include the increasing availability of the *Journal of Mammalogy* through institutional subscriptions and other online access points, as well as the economic downturn.

(2) Sponsored Membership – The Sponsored Membership Program is now in its 6th year. The numbers of sponsored members reported with this year’s data are not consistent with numbers reported in past years and presented in past membership reports. We will work with Allen Press to correct these numbers and get an accurate accounting of this program.

Number of sponsored members from 2004-2008 (according to ASM records):

2004: 23

2005: 45

2006: 40

2007: 38

2008: 35

At this time, 14 members have been sponsored for 2009. We have 16 unfilled sponsored memberships and are in need of nominations from the membership. The numbers of instances of (1) individuals not receiving journals and (2) sponsored members receiving renewal notices rather than the sponsors continues to decrease as we work to ensure that the program operates smoothly.

We are also working with the International Relations Committee to update the program guidelines and answer concerns presented to us about the program from sponsors.

(3) We are working with the Education and Graduate Students Committee to make the annual meeting friendlier to first time attendees (primarily students) with the hope that they will choose to attend future meetings and retain their membership.

#### **Action Items:**

(1) The Membership Committee, composed of members from all aspects of ASM membership, requests the President, President-Elect, and the Board consider the points below as action items:

(a) Given the decreasing membership numbers and increasing availability of the *Journal of Mammalogy* through other sources, members of the committee propose that additional benefits or incentives be considered to retain members and encourage new members. Some ideas for consideration include:

(1) Discounts for annual meeting registration to ASM members.

(2) Centralized, inexpensive annual meeting locations during the tough economic times so that new members, especially students, are more likely to join and participate in the society.

(3) Temporary membership drive with reduced rates. At the very least, the committee would recommend that no new dues increases be considered for the next two years.

(4) Page fees for non-members publishing in the *Journal of Mammalogy* and page fee

waivers for ASM members.

(b) Online voting or ballot voting—currently, elections are held at annual meetings and only those members who can attend the meeting are allowed to participate. Each year, roughly one fifth of our membership attends the annual meeting. Many members are students or live internationally and cannot afford to attend meetings on a regular basis. Thus, the vast majority of our members are not permitted, under present rules, to nominate officers and participate in the voting process. Many societies have changed to mail or electronic voting for officers and board members, so all of the members have an opportunity to participate in elections and governance of the society. ASM members, as well as the Membership Committee, feel strongly that members of the ASM should be allowed to remain involved in Society business even during years that they are unable to travel to the annual meeting. Members would like the opportunity to participate in choosing leaders as well as meeting localities.

This aspect could be considered as an additional incentive, as discussed in item (a) above. If the *Journal of Mammalogy* is no longer an incentive for Society membership due to its wide availability, then additional membership benefits (such as the ability to vote) become increasingly important. We ask the Board and Officers of ASM to consider this point, address it with the members (both those who can attend the meeting this year as well as those who do not), and strongly consider a change in the bylaws that allows all members to vote in elections.

(c) The Membership Committee maintains a portable membership display available to members who can take it to regional or international meetings to promote membership in the ASM. The committee requests a budget of \$100 to cover the postage costs associated with mailing the display.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Serena A. Carroll  
([awx6@cdc.gov](mailto:awx6@cdc.gov))

## **Merriam Award Committee**

**Committee Members:** R. T. Bowyer, M. D. Engstrom, V. Hayssen, S. A. Jansa, E. A. Lacey (Chair), S. C. Loeb, T. J. Orr, B. R. Riddle, W. P. Smith, J. A. Waterman.

### **Mission:**

The responsibility of this committee is to solicit and evaluate nominations for the C. Hart Merriam Award and to select a recipient of the award to be announced at the annual banquet. The recipient is invited to present a plenary lecture at the meeting of the following year. As per a

1996 amendment of the originally defined award by the Board of Directors, the Merriam Award currently represents a focus on recognition for outstanding research contributions to mammalogy.

**Information Items:**

(1) The committee discharged its duty according to schedule. Three outstanding nominees were considered. The recipient of the 2008 Merriam Award will be announced by the Chair of the committee at the annual banquet.

**Action Items:**

(1) Budget Items: \$50 for engraving and mounting of bison statue given to the Merriam Award recipient.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Eileen Lacey, Chair  
([ealacey@berkeley.edu](mailto:ealacey@berkeley.edu))

## **Nomenclature Committee**

**Committee Members:** J. Brant, B. Coyner, J. L. Eger (Chair), A. L. Gardner, M. S. Hafner, K. Helgen, D. Huckaby, C. Jones, R. Norris, J. L. Patton, R. Pine, S. Solari, and P. Velazco.

**Mission:**

Established in 1928, the Nomenclature Committee provides advice to Society members on problems regarding taxonomy and nomenclature.

**Information Items:**

(1) The Committee has been reviewing the nomenclature of manuscripts with new species descriptions and those with extensive revisions for the Editor of the *Journal of Mammalogy*. In 2008-09, the committee reviewed 4 such manuscripts.

(2) The Committee along with the Nomenclature Committee of the International Federation of Mammalogists continues to review nomenclature for *Mammalian Species* (11 accounts reviewed, 2 in review).

(3) The Committee continues to receive requests for information via the ASM website.

**Action Items:**

(1) To continue working with the Editor of the *Journal* and the Editor of *Mammalian Species* and chairs of other committees as is necessary.



(2) Request renewal of \$250 in support of the AAZN.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Judith Eger, Chair

([judithe@rom.on.ca](mailto:judithe@rom.on.ca))

## **Planning and Finance Committee**

**Committee Members:** G. N. Cameron, J. R. Choate, H. H. Genoways, D. M. Leslie, Jr., A. V. Linzey, M. A. Mares (Chair), B. D. Patterson, D. Reeder, and R. A. Van Den Bussche.

### **Mission:**

The Planning and Finance Committee was formed to develop the Annual Budget as a planning tool rather than as a spending plan. The original charges to this committee included: 1) Developing a philosophy and guidelines for use of the Reserve Fund, including the overall purpose, goals with regard to our Annual Budget, and guidelines defining how we will arrive at spending limits for each year (document approved by the Board in 1999); 2) Determining the cost of insuring officers and the Society to protect against legal action (has become a part of the Annual Budget); 3) Examining how the Society can become more relevant in terms of what it offers members through its publications. This latter charge and the development of the annual budget, on behalf of the President, are now the ongoing duties of this committee.

### **Information Items:**

(1) The preliminary proposed 2010 Budget for the American Society of Mammalogists was circulated to all Board Members prior to the Annual Meeting. The revised version will be presented to the Board at the Annual Meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska.

### **Action Items:**

(1) At the upcoming Board meeting, the proposed budget for 2010 will be presented along with supporting documentation, reviewed, and acted upon.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Michael A. Mares, Chair

([mamares@ou.edu](mailto:mamares@ou.edu))

## **Program Committee**

**Committee Members:** J. A. Cook, A. Fairbairn, J. Hoffman, J. Jenks, K. S. Kilburn, E. Lacey, P. A. Larsen, S. Loeb, K. Mabry, D. K. Odell, D. Post (Chair), S. R. Pugh, M. Schadler, W. Smith, N. Solomon, T. E. Tomasi, P. A. Zollner.

## **Mission:**

The Program Committee is responsible for the solicitation and acceptance of proposals for symposia and workshops, for advertising the meeting to other scientific societies, for soliciting bids to host meetings, and assisting meeting hosts in preparing for annual meetings.

## **Information Items:**

### **(1) Committee Organization:**

Diane Post, Chair, Joseph A. Cook, Amy Fairbairn, Justin Hoffman, Jon Jenks, Kerry S. Kilburn, Eileen Lacey, Peter A. Larsen, Susan Loeb, Karen Mabry, Daniel K. Odell, Stephen R. Pugh, Margaret Schadler, Winston Smith, Nancy Solomon, Thomas E. Tomasi, Patrick A. Zollner.

The committee is organized into three sub-committees:

Pre-Meeting Preparation: T. Tomasi (Chair), M. Schadler, N. Solomon

Symposia and Workshops: D. Odell (Chair); A. Fairbairn, J. Hoffman, E. Lacey, S. Loeb, K. Mabry

Advertising: Stephen R. Pugh; K. Kilburn, P. Zollner

Special Activities:

2011 ASM-AMS Joint Meeting: Winston Smith

Run for Research: Patrick Zollner

### **(2) Subcommittee Activities:**

Advertising: A meeting announcement was sent to 13 societies with a request to post the information on their web site. Six societies published the announcement.

Symposia and Workshops:

The details of a proposal for 2010 are outlined below under Action Item.

Pre Meeting:

### **(3) Future Meetings:**

2010 – A report on preparation for the 2010 meeting at the University of Wyoming will be presented to the membership.

2011 – Luis Ruedas and Fritz Geiser (AMS) will present a bid for the 2011 meeting. They will propose a joint meeting at Portland State University with the Australian Mammal Society.

## **Action Items:**

(1) The Program Committee requests approval of the budget requested to support expenses associated with the following symposium at the 2010 ASM meeting.

Title: *Stable Isotopes in Mammal Research*

Organizers: Merav Ben-David, Elizabeth Flaherty

Speakers: Merav Ben-David, Carlos Martinez del Rio, Don Phillips, Michael Wunder, Seth Newsome, Mark Clementz

(2) Requested Budget:

Registration; Phillips, del Rio, Wunder, Newsome, and Clementz 5 x \$240 = \$1200

Housing; Phillips and Newsome 2 x \$140 = \$280

Meals; meal plan (Phillips and Newsome), picnic and banquet (same as Registration list) (2 x \$100) + (5 x \$30) + (5 x \$30) = \$500

Air Fare; Phillips \$600, Newsome \$650

Total Requested; \$3,230.00

**Respectfully submitted,**

Diane Post, Chair

([post\\_d@utpb.edu](mailto:post_d@utpb.edu))

## **Public Education Committee**

Committee Members: B. Buttler, G. Feldhamer, D. Ginnett, A. Halsall, A. Joachim, D. K. Odell, J O'Neill O. Pergams, K Rowe, B. Sasse, B. Shaw (Chair), S. Sheffield, K. K. Thorington, M Wolf.

### **Mission:**

Established as a standing committee by the Board of Directors in 1993, the Public Education Committee seeks to make education about mammals accessible to grades K-12. Committee members foster outreach projects to raise awareness about mammals for students in their formative years. The committee coordinates its efforts with the assistance of other ASM committees, sister societies as well as elementary and high school science teachers.

### **Responsibilities:**

The Public Education Committee conducts several activities including the Public Education Partnership (PEP) that is an initiative to encourage activity and visibility of ASM members in their local K-12 classrooms. This initiative was launched at the 1995 annual meeting at the University of Vermont with 64 charter members.

### **Information Items:**

(1) The Public Education Committee (PEC) had been relatively inactive for several years. Therefore, the members of PEC have taken this year to assess what directions the committee will take to bring an enriched mammal experience to both formal and informal educational arenas, as well as supporting the ASM membership in their outreach efforts.

**(2)** PEC would first like to propose a change in the description of the Public Education Committee's Mission Statement to incorporate not only K-12 students, but people of all ages:

**(a)** Established as a standing committee by the Board of Directors in 1993, the Public Education Committee seeks to make information about mammals accessible to grades K-12 in formal education settings and to everyone in informal settings. Committee members foster outreach projects in the Society to raise awareness of mammals for children and adults. The committee coordinates its efforts with the assistance of other ASM committees, sister societies, informal public educational organizations, as well as elementary and high school science teachers.

**(3)** To ascertain how the Public Education Committee can best serve the ASM members, PEC has developed a survey. In particular, the committee is interested in outreach being undertaken by ASM membership, and if and how PEC can provide support for the ASM membership in their outreach efforts (survey to be distributed to the membership at the Annual Meeting in Alaska).

**(4)** PEC established a three-year plan. This past year, Year One, PEC efforts have been in the information gathering and idea development phase, especially how to best utilize the ASM website upgrades. Year Two and Year Three, the PEC efforts will be focused on implementing the goals developed this year, including the funding necessary for the website development of public education.

**(a)** Dorothy Ginnett is coordinating the efforts for developing the ASM newly upgraded website to incorporate mammal science educational support for K-12 Formal Education.

**(b)** Katherine K. Thorington is coordinating the efforts for developing the ASM newly upgraded website to incorporate mammal science educational support for Informal Education.

**(c)** Mosheh Wolf is coordinating ideas for recommendations of participating in COPUS (Coalition on the Public Understanding of Science) to the ASM membership (recommendations to be distributed to the membership at the Annual Meeting in Alaska).

**(d)** Barbara J. Shaw is coordinating efforts to develop partnerships with the ASM Conservation Committee and the ASM Human Diversity Committee, utilizing the newly upgraded website.

**(5)** One of the PEC's long-term projects is to provide a State List of Mammals for all 50 states.

**(a)** Members of PEC have completed 25 State Mammal Lists. None have been aligned with Don E. Wilson & DeeAnn M. Reeder editors (2005) Mammal Species of the World: A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference (3rd ed.), and therefore, these states need revising to reflect changes from that edition. PEC is asking for volunteers from the ASM membership to review and align the completed state lists with Wilson & Reeder. Of the

remaining 25 state lists, 2 lists have been completed and need some minor editing before being posted online, and 3 state lists have been assigned, but not completed. PEC is asking the ASM membership to help us complete the remaining 20 states. The following states have not been completed:

Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia.

(6) The Public Education Committee provides recognition to students participating in Science Fairs with a project related to mammals by awarding a Certificate of Achievement. No certificates were requested this year. In response, the PEC will discuss ways to advertise this program to states holding science fairs, and implement that into the three-year plan.

(7) Clearinghouse for K-12 Teachers is a program to connect classroom teachers with mammalogists. No requests were made this year. In response, the PEC will discuss ways to advertise this program to state educators, and implement that into the three-year plan.

(8) Public Education Partnership (PEP) is a program to increase the visibility of the ASM through outreach of the members to their communities. The program is inactive. In response, the Public Education Committee has developed a survey for the membership to recognize those members who have met the goals of the program and receive acknowledgment of their efforts.

(9) In closing, the Public Education Committee would like to thank Tom Tomasi for his years of service to this committee.

(10) Requested funds from the 2010 annual budget: \$0

**Action Items:** None.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Barbara J. Shaw, Chair  
([edmunds@pdx.edu](mailto:edmunds@pdx.edu))

## **Public Relations Committee**

**Committee Members:** M. J. Cramer, B. J. Danielson, B. S. K. Nilz, J. Pagels, B. D. Patterson, R. Powell, L. Robbins, S. M. Wisely, J. Yunger.

### **Mission:**

The Public Relations Committee was created in 2000 to call attention to the significant and timely accomplishments of the American Society of Mammalogists.

### **Information Items:**

(1) Former Chair John Yunger stepped down after the 2008 meetings. No new Chair has been identified.

(2) President McLaren fielded questions from a Regina, Saskatchewan newspaper regarding our 2008 Grinnell Award recipient Mark Brigham. McLaren also worked with members of the Resolutions Committee and the Committee on Legislation and Regulations on wording for press releases regarding our 2008 Resolution on the Effects of Wind Energy on Bats and Other Wildlife.

#### **Action Items:**

(1) Identify a new Committee Chair during the 2009 meetings.

## **Publications Committee**

**Committee Members:** H. Beck, B. H. Blake, R. M. Brigham, E. Dumont, W. L. Gannon, M. S. Hafner, F. Geiser, M. J. Hamilton, E. J. Heske, D. S. Jacobs, J. L. Koprowski, C. Krajewski, E. A. Lacey, D. M. Leslie, Jr. (Chair), B. K. Lim, M. B. Main, R. A. Medellín, J. F. Merritt, E. A. Mueller, P. R. Owen, W. F. Perrin, R. A. Powell, J. Rachlow, D. L. Reed, E. A. Rickart, P. T. Stapp, R. A. Sweitzer, C. C. Voigt, J. M. Waterman, J. A. Yunger, D. Zegers.

#### **Mission:**

The Publications Committee oversees the Society's publications, including the *Journal of Mammalogy*, *Mammalian Species*, and Special Publications. The Committee sets editorial policy for the Society and nominates editors for approval by the Board of Directors. The Committee is typically composed of current editors, who are involved in reviewing and accepting papers and the technical production of the publications.

#### **Information Items:**

(1) The *Journal of Mammalogy* was voted 1 of the 100 most influential journals in biology and medicine over the past century by the 686 international members of the BioMedical and Life Sciences Division of the Special Library Association. The top 100 included 33–34 journals in 3 major categories: natural history, clinical medicine and allied health sciences, and molecular and cellular biology. So, the *Journal* really can be considered among the most influential 33 natural-history journals of the past century! Many colleagues over many years have made such recognition possible. President McLaren is scheduled to attend the awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. on 16 June 2009.

(2) Highlights of activities of the Publication Committee included: (a) assisting President McLaren and other Officers with review of the publication and association-management contract proposals from Allen Press; (b) in support of 2009 budget constraints, foregoing \$21,350 in editorial honoraria payments in the spirit of ameliorating proposed cuts to Grants-in-Aid and the

ASM Fellowship; (c) developing a strategy with Allen Press, selected Board members, and the Committee to improve the impact of *Mammalian Species*, including adding an annual volume number and issuing each volume 6 times/year (in months alternating with publication of the *Journal of Mammalogy*) while maintaining individual numbering of each monograph (a name change to “*Mammalian Species Monographs*” or “*Mammalian Species Reviews*” generally was not favored by the Committee; pagination of individual papers is still under review); (d) arranging for printing and distribution of the 2008 *Mammalian Species* Archive book; and (e) continuing to work with the Informatics Committee to feature open-access articles from the *Journal of Mammalogy* and now *Mammalian Species* at ASM website (open-access articles have increased from 3 in 2005 to 10 in 2007 and 16 in 2008; numbers are down in 2009 to date, likely because of the global economic slump).

(3) Journal Editor Ed Heske will step down after 3 years of service. It goes without saying that his contribution to ASM has been stellar, and we are grateful for his dedication. The Publication Committee submitted its nomination of Ronald Barry (Bates College) to the Board in April 2009. Barry’s nomination was approved by the Board; he will assume the responsibilities of Journal Editor in July 2009 and be responsible for the 1st issue in 2010.

(4) The Publication Committee will lose 6 Associate Editors of the *Journal of Mammalogy* in June: Mark Hafner (3 years service), Marty Main (3 years), Rodrigo Medellín (4 years), Eileen Lacey (3 years), Rick Sweitzer (3 years), and John Yunker (4 years). We gratefully acknowledge the dedication and editorial contributions of these colleagues.

(5) Publication statistics for the *Journal of Mammalogy* between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009:

Volume 89 Nos. 1-6; 156 manuscripts published

Volume 90 Nos. 1-5; 125 manuscripts scheduled to be published as of 28 April 2009; 27 manuscripts published in No. 1; 98 manuscripts scheduled for publication in Nos. 2-5 as of 28 April 2009

Number of manuscripts submitted: 368 (compared to 394 last year)

Number of manuscripts accepted: 112 (compared to 97 last year)

Number of manuscripts rejected: 170 (compared to 199 last year)

Rejection rate: 60% (compared to 67% last year)

Handling times:

Volume 89, Nos. 1-6

Submission to acceptance: 179 days (5.8 months)

Acceptance to publication: 227 days (7.3 months)

Total time: 406 days (13.1 months)

Volume 90, Nos. 1-5

Submission to acceptance: 182 days (5.9 months)

Acceptance to publication: 231 days (7.4 months)

Total time: 413 days (13.3 months)

Geographic distribution of accepted manuscripts:

Vol. 88, Nos. 1–6: 51% U.S., 8% Canada, 17% Latin America, 24% other countries  
(*n* = 156)

Vol. 90, Nos. 1–5: 65% U.S., 9% Canada, 10% Latin America, 17% other countries  
(*n* = 125)

(6) Publication statistics for *Mammalian Species* between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009:

Total number of accounts published = 18

Accounts in proof, scheduled for release in May = 7

Accounts with Editor = 20

Total number of accounts with Associate Editors = 59

Number of new accounts submitted and assigned to an Associate Editors = 32

Number of new species accounts assigned to authors = 24

Total number of accounts in preparation = 297 (165 overdue)

(7) Publication statistics for Special Publications:

No formal proposals were received; no volumes published

### **Action Items:**

(1) New Editors: The Committee seeks Board approval of 6 new Associate Editors for the *Journal of Mammalogy*: Victor Sánchez-Cordero (UNAM–Mexico City), Jonathan A. Jenks (South Dakota State University), Madan K. Oli (University of Florida), Richard D. Stevens (Louisiana State University), Dirk H. Van Vuren (University of California–Davis), and Samantha M. Wisely (Kansas State University).

(2) Approve proposal to include Special Publications 1–11 in the open-access online Biodiversity Heritage Library ([www.biodiversitylibrary.org](http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org)), at no cost to ASM.

(3) Request that \$1000 be budgeted to cover the cost of printing and distributing archive copies of *Mammalian Species* to our library partners.

**Respectfully submitted,**

David M. Leslie, Jr., Chair

([cleslie@usgs.gov](mailto:cleslie@usgs.gov))

## **Resolutions Committee**

**Committee Membership:** R. E. Barry, V. C. Bleich, R. T. Bowyer, J. A. Cook, N. G. Dawson, R. W. DeYoung, L. J. Dizney, W. A. Estes-Zumpf, E. J. Heske, A. F. Janicki, J. A. Jenks, J. G. Kie, R. A. Long, T. J. McIntyre, S. G. Mech, S. D. Miller, O. Pergams, D. K. Person, S. J. Presley, A. J. Price, J. L. Rachlow (Chair), D. M. Reeder, M. S. Rentz, S. R. Sheffield, D. W.



Sparks, K. M. Stewart, V. J. Swier, R. W. Thorington, Jr., J. F. Whatton, J. C. Whiting, and H. A. York.

**Mission:**

The Resolutions Committee of the American Society of Mammalogists (ASM) was established in 1956 to provide a mechanism for the Society to share relevant science and express views on issues that involve mammals. The Resolutions Committee also writes the Host Resolution for the Annual Meeting of the ASM.

**Information Items:**

(1) At the 2008 Annual Meeting of the ASM, the Resolutions Committee brought one resolution to the Society for consideration, Effects of Wind-Energy Facilities on Bats and Other Wildlife. The Resolution was supported unanimously by the ASM membership and was published in the Journal of Mammalogy. President McLaren sent copies of the resolution and accompanying letters to >190 recipients that included Congressional committees, governors, NGOs, and many federal, state, and regional agencies. A copy is available on the ASM web-page at: <http://www.mammalogy.org/committees/commresolutions/WindEnergyResolution.pdf>.

(2) Two resolutions have been submitted to the Committee: 1) Conservation of Endemic Mammals of Cozumel (submitted by J. Kie) and 2) Support of Noncommercial Scientific Research in Developing Countries (submitted by B. Patterson). We are working with the International Relations Committee and the Conservation Committee to revise these resolutions.

(3) A list-serve facilitates communication among members of the Resolutions Committee. Any interested ASM members can join the list-serve. Information is available at: <https://www.lists.uidaho.edu/mailman/listinfo/asmresc>.

**Action Items:**

(1) Two resolutions will be brought to the Society for consideration at the 2009 annual meeting: Conservation of Endemic Mammals on Cozumel Island, Mexico; and Support of Noncommercial Scientific Research in Developing Countries.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Janet L. Rachlow, Chair  
([jrachlow@uidaho.edu](mailto:jrachlow@uidaho.edu))

## Systematics Collections Committee

**Committee Members:** S. T. Alvarez-Castaneda, G. Baumgardner, J. Bradley, R. D. Bradley, S. Burt, L. N. Carraway, J. R. Choate, C. Conroy, J. Cook, B. Coyner, J. Demboski, C. W. Dick, R. C. Dowler, K. Doyle, J. Esselstyn, W. L. Gannon, M. S. Hafner, J. Hanson, F. Hoffmann, P. Holahan, T. Holmes, S. R. Hooper, C. A. Iudica, D. A. Kelt, E. A. Lacey, B. K. Lim, S. B.

McLaren, N. D. Moncrief, L. Olson, E. A. Rickart, D. S. Rogers, W. T. Stanley (Chair), P. M. Velazco.

**Mission:**

The Systematic Collections Committee advises curators worldwide in matters relating to collection administration, curation, and accreditation, and maintains a directory of mammal collections. The Committee also surveys existing collections approximately once each decade and maintains a list of curatorial standards for managing a collection-accreditation program under the auspices of the Society.

**Information Items:**

(1) An inspection of the mammal collection of The Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History has been initiated. A follow-up visit is being organized.

(2) The mammal collection of the Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University is now accredited.

(3) The Chair of the Systematic Collections Committee participated in writing a potential ASM resolution to urge the Convention on Biological Diversity's *ad hoc* Open-Ended Working Group on Access and Benefit-Sharing to support scientific exemptions for biological samples extracted purely for noncommercial, academic research and to exempt scientists from commercial applications developed from their published research.

**Action Items:** None.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
William Stanley, Chair  
([bstanley@fieldmuseum.org](mailto:bstanley@fieldmuseum.org))

#### **IV. *ad hoc* Committees**

##### ***ad hoc* Committee for ASM-AIBS Graduate Student Public Policy Internship**

**Committee Members:** G. Barrett, R. Gropp (AIBS), W. Lidicker, and A. Linzey (Chair).

**Mission:**

The goal of the ASM-AIBS Public Policy Internship is to provide an opportunity for a student to gain hands-on experience in public policy at the national level that relates generally to biology and specifically to matters of interest to ASM. The purpose of the *ad hoc* committee is to

develop policies and procedures for this internship, to solicit applications, and to recommend a suitable candidate for approval by the ASM Board of Directors.

**Information Items:**

(1) The internship program began in 2005 and we have had four interns (Judsen Bruzgul, Natalie Dawson, Joshua Smith, and Sarah Smiley) who have spent a semester working in the Public Policy office of AIBS in Washington, D. C. Students are required to present a poster describing their experience at the ASM Annual Meeting (look for Sarah’s paper in the 2009 Meeting Program). Due to the revisions in the 2009 ASM budget, we will not have an intern for 2009.

**Action Items:**

(1) Budget request for \$6,500 for 2010 internship (\$6,000 for internship and \$500 to AIBS to defray costs of hosting student)

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Alicia V. Linzey, Chair  
[avlinzey@verizon.net](mailto:avlinzey@verizon.net)

## ***ad hoc* Committee for ASM Guidelines on Handling Rodents in the Field**

In July 2008 the *ad hoc* Committee provided President McLaren with a final document titled “Recommended Guidelines for Protection of Mammalogists and Wildlife Researchers from Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome While Studying Rodents in the Field” for submission to Dr. Julie Gerberding, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This document was approved by voice vote of the members in attendance at the second Members’ Meeting of the 2008 Annual Meeting of the ASM, and requested that CDC revise and update its document “Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome – United States: Updated Recommendations for Risk Reduction” (Mills et al. 2002). The vote stipulated that ASM give CDC approximately 6 months to make progress on this issue; if no progress was forthcoming, the consensus was that ASM should publish these guidelines in the hopes that CDC would incorporate them into their formal recommendations.

Dr. Gerberding responded to President McLaren in early September 2008. Her response was very supportive, noting that “CDC agrees with the American Society of Mammalogists’ (ASM) request to update recommendations that include varying levels of protection against HPS that are specifically tailored to the level of risk. Toward that end, CDC is currently engaged in researching and developing expanded safety recommendations for wildlife handling . . .” She went on to promise that “CDC staff members will communicate directly with representatives of the ASM – as well as other entities involved in wildlife research and education – to ensure that all appropriate input is fully considered, including the list of recommendations for HPS risk reduction you have provided.”

In February 2009, committee member Mark Hafner noted that our 6-month timeline was rapidly approaching with no further word from CDC. We learned that Dr. Gerberding had stepped down as Director of CDC, so Kelt contacted two CDC employees and ASM members, Jim Mills and Darin Carroll, to ask if they knew of any progress on revising HPS guidelines. Both Jim and Darin approached their respective supervisors in CDC, and were given approval to spearhead the development of updated guidelines. It was recommended that this be prepared and published as a Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), which has the ability to be completed and released more rapidly than a published journal article. Presumably this also would be reflected on the CDC web pages that present guidelines for HPS prevention. Jim Mills and Darin Carroll are working on updated guidelines and they anticipate the completion and publication of these by the end of the calendar year.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Douglas A Kelt, Chair  
([dakelt@ucdavis.edu](mailto:dakelt@ucdavis.edu))

### ***ad hoc* Committee to Evaluate Election Procedures**

As part of the updating of the ASM Bylaws that we undertook last year (2008), there was considerable discussion as to how we handle the election of our officers. The system we have in place, nominations from the floor at the Annual Meetings, served the Society well for a number of years, but now that we have grown considerably and only a small percentage of active members are able to attend the Annual Meetings each year, it was suggested that we reassess how our elections are held. Several societies use mail ballots effectively and in recent years, some groups have gone to e-mail ballots. With our current efforts to redesign the webpage, now is an appropriate time to re-evaluate how we should handle election of officers.

To study how other organizations handle elections, President McLaren appointed an *ad hoc* committee consisting of Guy Cameron, Matt Hopton, Michael Mares, Nancy Solomon, Bob Timm and Ron Van Den Bussche; Timm was appointed as the Chair.

The charge to the committee is to assemble various examples of how different organizations handle elections, discuss the pros and cons of the procedures, and come back to the Board with ideas that might evolve into a directed discussion on elections. To date we have assembled a number of examples on the mechanisms used by other organizations and publicly-owned businesses. At the upcoming meetings (Fairbanks) our *ad hoc* committee will meet, and we will be polling members there for ideas and suggestions.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Robert M. Timm, Chair  
([btimm@ku.edu](mailto:btimm@ku.edu))

## **V. Affiliates**

### **AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science) Affiliation**

**AAAS Liaison:** Oliver Pergams

**Information Items:** No report submitted.

**Action Items:** None.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Oliver Pergams  
(pergams@uic.edu)

### **AAZN (American Association for Zoological Nomenclature) Affiliation**

**AAZN Liaison:** A. L. Gardner

**Mission of the AAZN:**

AAZN establishes and maintains the relevancy for taxonomy and nomenclature serving as a foundation for systematics, ecology, and biology in resolving real world issues in organismal diversity and by promoting appreciation, knowledge and understanding of the biosphere.

**Information Items:**

No Report Submitted.

**Action Items:** None

### **AIBS (American Institute of Biological Sciences) Affiliation**

**AIBS Liaison:** Alicia V. Linzey

**Information Items:**

The organization activities are fully described on the AIBS website (aibs.org), but the following items may be of particular interest to ASM members:

(1) Since 2005, AIBS has hosted the ASM-AIBS Graduate Student Public Policy Internship. The most recent intern was Sarah Smiley from the University of South Florida, who will be

presenting a poster at these meetings. Due to cuts in the current budget, we will not be able to sponsor an intern in 2009.

(2) AIBS currently has 194 affiliated professional societies; the combined individual membership of these societies exceeds 260,946.

(3) The AIBS Public Policy Office continues to devote a significant portion of time to coordinating efforts to counteract anti-evolution legislation (most recently in Texas). They continue to sponsor the Evolution Listserv Network with list managers in nearly every state. Members can contact AIBS to be added to the list for their state.

(4) *2009 Council Meeting*. This year's AIBS Council meeting took place 20 May in Washington, D.C. The meeting was "attended" via a Webinar arrangement. Among items likely to be of interest to ASM members:

(a) Proposed 2010 NSF budget reflects an 11.8% increase. Recovery Act Funds should allow NSF to clear backlog of proposals ranked highly enough to be funded, but for which funding was not available. Funding priorities are in line with those of current administration, and include energy and climate change research, as well as "changing dynamics of the biosphere" (includes basic biodiversity research). Consult NSF website to keep up with latest information on budget, graduate fellowships, etc.

(5) BioOne now includes 154 journals, with 11 being open access. In January, they migrated to a new platform, which is being serviced by Allen Press.

(6) AIBS is partnering with the "Encyclopedia of Life" project, which has an ultimate goal of having a page for each species with links to the Biodiversity Heritage Library. There are many avenues for participation in this project. Exploring their website ([www.eol.org](http://www.eol.org)) is the best way to see if you would like to become involved.

(7) In 2007, AIBS established the "Coalition on the Public Understanding of Science." This is a grassroots initiative "to unite diverse scientific stakeholders in an effort to improve the general scientific literacy and engagement among the public." To spotlight the project, 2009 has been designated as the "Year of Science," with participating organizations sponsoring specific activities or simply signaling their support by joining the Coalition. ASM is a member of this coalition, with our capstone event commemorating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin being a Year of Science activity.

(9) For those venturing into the realm of communicating with the media, you might want to pick up a copy of "Communicating Science: A Primer for Working with the Media" (can be ordered online from the AIBS Bookstore).

(10) The Public Policy Office has a new feature on the AIBS website – the AIBS Legislative Action Center. This is a one-stop shop for legislative activity, including updates on legislation, links to your congressmen, a mechanism for sending email to your representatives, etc. See <http://capwiz.com/aibs/home>.

**Action Items:** None.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
Alicia V. Linzey  
([avlinzey@verizon.net](mailto:avlinzey@verizon.net))

## **IUCN (The World Conservation Union) Affiliation**

**IUCN Liaison:** J. G. Kie

### **Information Items:**

(1) The IUCN's Global Mammal Assessment was completed and published in 2008.

Jan Schipper et al. 2008. The Status of the World's Land and Marine Mammals: Diversity, Threat, and Knowledge. *Science* 322:225-230.

Abstract: Knowledge of mammalian diversity is still surprisingly disparate, both regionally and taxonomically. Here, we present a comprehensive assessment of the conservation status and distribution of the world's mammals. Data, compiled by 1700+ experts, cover all 5487 species, including marine mammals. Global macroecological patterns are very different for land and marine species but suggest common mechanisms driving diversity and endemism across systems. Compared with land species, threat levels are higher among marine mammals, driven by different processes (accidental mortality and pollution, rather than habitat loss), and are spatially distinct (peaking in northern oceans, rather than in Southeast Asia). Marine mammals are also disproportionately poorly known. These data are made freely available to support further scientific developments and conservation action.

(2) The IUCN World Conservation Congress was held in Barcelona, 5-14 October 2008. For more information, see: [http://www.iucn.org/congress\\_08](http://www.iucn.org/congress_08).

(3) For general information, see the following IUCN websites:  
<http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/news/species/species.htm>  
<http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/news/ebulletin/earchives.htm>

**Action Items:** None.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
John Kie  
([kiejohn@isu.edu](mailto:kiejohn@isu.edu))

## **NSCA (Natural Science Collections Alliance) Affiliation**

**ASM Representative:** Michael A. Mares, President, NSCA

### **Mission:**

The Natural Science Collections Alliance is a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit association that supports natural science collections, their human resources, the institutions that house them, and their research activities for the benefit of science and society.

Our members are part of an international community of museums, botanical gardens, herbariums, universities and other institutions that house natural science collections and utilize them in research, exhibitions, academic and informal science education, and outreach activities.

Membership in the NSC Alliance links you to a network of institutions, scientists and other professionals in North America through which you can share news, information and common concerns - and help shape the future of our community.

### **Information Items:**

(1) The NSCA was especially active this year in helping to develop a community of scientific collections. As co-sponsor of a National Science Foundation Research Coordination Network in Biological Sciences NSCA will be working to forge linkages among collections and museums and to gather the baseline data on the status, condition, extent, and operation of the nation's natural science collections. One workshop (Opportunities and Challenges of Small Collections) was held in Michigan in April 2008 and the second (Enhancing the Interface between Collections and Systematists) will be held in Fairbanks, AK immediately preceding the ASM meeting. A total of 5 workshops is planned. Visit: [http://www.collectionsweb.org/activities\\_schedules/workshops.html#workshopII](http://www.collectionsweb.org/activities_schedules/workshops.html#workshopII) for information.

(2) NSCA was active in lobbying for support for the National Science Foundation and other scientific programs at the national level.

(3) NSCA is working to develop a presidential Executive Order to assess the status of the nation's natural science collections.

(4) NSCA supported the recent Interagency Working Group on Scientific Collections by providing fundamental data on the nation's collections. The IWGSC report is available at: [http://www.ostp.gov/galleries/NSTC%20Reports/Revision\\_1-22\\_09\\_CL.pdf](http://www.ostp.gov/galleries/NSTC%20Reports/Revision_1-22_09_CL.pdf)

(5) Additionally, the following provides a brief update on the various NSC Alliance activities and accomplishments for 2009.

### ***Communications to NSC Alliance Members: Washington Report***

Since August 2005, the NSCA Public Policy Office (Robert Gropp) prepared and disseminated a public policy report (Washington Report) via e-mail to the NSC Alliance board and membership. The



Washington Report covers matters related to federal policy developments that impact or may be of interest to a cross-section of the NSC Alliance membership. Periodically, as policy developments dictate, “Action Alerts” are distributed. This past year was especially active with 17 Washington Reports updating science and collection-related information and 2 Action Alerts that dealt with legislation affecting museums and funding for the National Science Foundation.

### *NSC Alliance Website*

In late January 2007 the new NSC Alliance web site was launched. AIBS staff continue to update the policy and news section with new materials (e.g., NSC Alliance congressional testimony, official correspondence, funding opportunities, and other matters of interest to members). This website will be updated again this year to bring more of its capabilities online.

### *Policy Issues, Meetings and Activities Stimulus Funding*

NSCA along with AAM, AIBS, and other museum-based organizations successfully lobbied to have museums included in the federal stimulus package of funding. Although the original legislation included museums, an amendment by Senator Coburn (R-OK) to the Senate version of the legislation specifically excluded museums from being considered for these funds.

In the FY 09 budget request, NEON (National Ecological Observatory Network) and two GEO projects were removed from the current year’s budget line for the Major Research Equipment and Facilities Construction (MREFC) account. Despite significant funding for equipment and construction in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (i.e., stimulus package), NEON will not receive ARRA funds. NEON continues to move through the approval process and is not expected to be eligible for MREFC funds until at least FY 2011.

Gropp and policy colleagues in Washington, DC, continue to express concern about funding arbitrarily being directed to specific disciplines. The core message is that all of science is important to advancing knowledge and resolving our grand 21st century challenges (e.g., climate change). Last year, the NSC Alliance endorsed a letter to Representative Mollohan (D-WV), chairman of the House Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations, that encourages the House to once again include language in the FY 09 appropriations that recognizes the importance of funding all NSF programs. An effort to secure inclusion of this language in the FY 08 House Report on CJS Appropriations was successful. Due to shifting conditions, a similar letter has not been sent to the current Congress.

### *New Legislative Action Center*

In February, the AIBS Public Policy Office launched the AIBS Legislative Action Center. This new online advocacy system enables AIBS, and by extension NSC Alliance, to quickly communicate with Congress. AIBS posts template letters that scientists can send or modify and send to their congressional delegation. The system was not operational in time for the Coburn amendment, but it is up and running now. A “thank you” letter to President Obama for his efforts to include museums in the final stimulus package was on the system. AIBS is also able to target letters (e.g., thank you for supporting / sorry you didn’t support legislation x). This is an exciting tool that should help the collections community become

more engaged with science policy and increase our voice. It may be quite useful as we continue to raise awareness of our issues or to pursue things like the executive order. NSC Alliance members should become familiar with the AIBS Legislative Action Center and sign-up to receive the Action Alerts. There is a link to the Legislative Action Center on the AIBS homepage at [www.aibs.org](http://www.aibs.org).

## ***POTENTIAL ACTION***

### ***USGS Funding***

The NSC Alliance is a member of the USGS Coalition (Gropp is a co-chair). The Coalition actively lobbies for increased funding for the USGS. In September 2008, the Coalition held its fourth annual Congressional Reception during which Representatives Dicks (D-WA) and then Rep. Regula (R-OH) were honored for their long-standing support for the USGS. The event was quite successful and included participation from various congressional and executive branch officials as well as a wide cross-section of the Washington, DC, science policy community.

The USGS received a \$100 million infusion of funds via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and a small bump in the FY 09 omnibus appropriation. The FY 10 administration budget request for the USGS is for \$1.1 billion, up from the \$1.04 billion appropriated in FY 09. The President's budget would also zero out \$984,000 in funding for NatureServe. This funding is considered an earmark as Congress directed USGS to continue to provide this level of funding to NatureServe from existing FY 09 bioinformatics program funds.

Of note, the Biological Resources Discipline within USGS has commissioned an external review of its programs. The review is being conducted by RTI International in partnership with the Ecological Society of America. The BRD is also working with ESA and The Wildlife Society to develop an implementation plan for a new climate change and wildlife health center. At this time, NSC Alliance and the USGS Coalition have not been asked for any input regarding the new center, but we continue to monitor these developments.

### ***National Park Service – Specimen Ownership and NAGPRA***

In response to a proposed rule change concerning the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, in 2008 the NSC Alliance submitted comments to the National Park Service. Drafted by a special committee of the Board and approved by a majority of Board members, the comments read:

8 January 2008  
Sherry Hutt, Manager  
National NAGPRA Program  
National Park Service  
1849 C Street NW, 20006-2253  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Ref: NSC Alliance Comments on Docket No. 1024-AC84

The Natural Science Collections Alliance, the largest professional organization of natural history museums in North America, opposes the proposed changes to the regulations governing application of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA). The overarching reasons for our opposition to the proposed changes to rules governing the disposition of culturally unidentifiable human remains and associated funerary objects are three:

1) Proposed changes to NAGPRA regulations will have the effect of requiring repatriation of human remains to groups that do not meet NAGPRA requirements for demonstration of cultural affiliation. The proposal would substitute for the statutory requirements alternative criteria that the proposal itself recognizes do not constitute cultural affiliation under NAGPRA. The regulations also imply that funerary objects associated with culturally unaffiliated human remains also must be repatriated.

2) Museums have property rights and other legal bases for preserving these items in perpetuity. They also have important research and educational interests in their retention and study. The National Park Service (NPS) regulatory proposal to require museums to give up scientifically important human remains and, perhaps, associated funerary objects without a demonstration of cultural affiliation is not in accordance with NAGPRA—the statute upon which the proposal is based—and thus would be illegal if promulgated.

3) Requiring transfer of items to unaffiliated tribes or other native organizations would preclude the opportunity to transfer the items to affiliated tribes and native organizations in the future if affiliated entities are determined to exist. Such a requirement would not only cause injury to museums, but would also prejudice the rights under NAGPRA of those culturally affiliated tribes and entities whose interests the statute is intended to protect and advance.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns about the proposed changes to NAGPRA rules. I, or members of the NSC Alliance Board of Directors, would be happy to discuss NSC Alliance concerns with you in person. Please feel free to contact me or the NSC Alliance director of public policy, Robert Gropp, if we may provide additional information. Dr. Gropp may be reached at 202-628-1500.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Mares, Ph.D.  
President

There has been no subsequent action on this matter.

***Specimen “ownership” / control:***

In April, the National Park Service convened a special “discussion session” with representatives of natural science collections organizations and various taxonomic research communities. The purpose of the one-day discussion was for all parties to gain a better understanding of the needs and constraints faced by the National Park Service and the biological research community with respect to control of biological specimens collected on National Park Service land. NSC Alliance vice president Hans Sues represented NSC Alliance at the meeting. Gropp participated on behalf of AIBS.

Various other individuals representing a range of collections and research communities participated in

the meeting, which included the participation of the Deputy Secretary of Interior, NPS Director, and other senior NPS officials. The discussion was productive and creative pathways forward were identified for further discussion. The meeting was prompted by long-standing concerns and miscommunication from various communities about “ownership” of specimens collected on federal lands. In addition to the discussions, it was clear that NPS officials at the meeting have an interest in engaging the scientific community on various other aspects of research in National Parks.

Hans Sues continues to represent NSC Alliance on this matter.

### *Interagency Working Group on Scientific Collections*

The Interagency Working Group on Scientific Collections (IWGSC) has made available their report on the status of federally funded collections ([http://www.ostp.gov/galleries/NSTC%20Reports/Revision\\_1-22\\_09\\_CL.pdf](http://www.ostp.gov/galleries/NSTC%20Reports/Revision_1-22_09_CL.pdf)). NSCA assisted with the development of the list of collections by providing the NSCA database on scientific collections to NSF staff members.

### *NSF Survey (RCN grant)*

The NSC Alliance is attempting to build support for and participation in an NSF-sponsored survey of collections. Alan Prather and Hank Bart have been working with NSCA data on collections to begin forming a community of research collections and to assess the status and needs of the natural science collections of the U.S. The RCN team was provided hardcopies of prior surveys and reports conducted by NSC Alliance precursor, the Association of Systematics Collections and NSCA will be participating in and developing workshops to deal with the overall goals of the RCN to develop a strong collections community.

### *Coalitions*

The NSC Alliance has been active in the Coalition for National Science Funding (CNSF), Biological and Ecological Sciences Coalition (BESC), and the USGS Coalition. Gropp was a founding member and serves as a co-chair of the USGS Coalition for the past four years. Gropp also serves as a co-chair of BESC, along with Nadine Lynn, director of public affairs for the Ecological Society of America. Gropp had represented the NSC Alliance at meetings of the Museum Working Group, an informal alliance of Washington, DC-based organizations working on museum-related policy activities, particularly funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services. The Museum Working Group was organized by the American Association of Museums, but following staffing changes at AAM the group no longer exists.

### *USGS Coalition*

The NSC Alliance continues to be an active participant in the USGS Coalition. Gropp co-chairs the USGS Coalition with Craig Schiffries of the Geological Society of America. The USGS Coalition is an alliance of nearly 80 scientific, educational, and government organizations working to increase funding for the United States Geological Survey. The USGS Coalition members advocate for the USGS on Capitol Hill, the White House, and the Department of the Interior. The Coalition hosts a Capitol Hill reception each fall, and routinely provides congress with a ‘stakeholders’ perspective on funding and research trends at the USGS.

### ***CNSF Capitol Hill Reception***

The NSC Alliance remains an active participant in the Coalition for National Science Funding, a coalition that advocates for increased funding for the NSF. In 2008, NSC Alliance and AIBS cosponsored an exhibit at the Annual CNSF Congressional Reception. In 2009, the date of the event was moved from June to March. Unfortunately, the short turn around time prevented NSC Alliance and AIBS from exhibiting at the event. Gropp has spoken with Hank Bart and Alan Prather about possibly having representatives of the RCN grant come to Washington for a stand alone event. This will be explored further this summer.

**Action Items:** \$100 for NSCA dues.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Michael A. Mares, ASM Representative  
([mamares@ou.edu](mailto:mamares@ou.edu))

## **Report of the ASM delegation to the International Federation of Mammalogists**

**April 2009**

(1) It has now been almost two and a half years since the Federation has been operating in its new format. The new structure became official in the summer of 2006, and this was followed by a necessary transition period when officers were elected and other infrastructure established. We became fully operational on 30 December 2006. Much has been accomplished since that time, the most obvious manifestation of which is that we are looking forward to the International Mammalogical Congress no. 10 to be held in Mendoza, Argentina from 9 to 14 August 2009. This will be the first Congress in this series to be held in South America.

The IMC-10 Organizing Committee is chaired by Ricardo Ojeda, and all signs suggest that a very successful congress is in the works. At the Congress, we anticipate that there will be two or more invitations for hosting IMC-11 in 2013. Last February, we sent a message to the entire ASM Board asking everyone to consider hosting this event which has never been held in the USA. Not a single response has been received to date. The Federation Board has loaned the IMC-10 committee \$6,000 to help it get started with its organization. Later we made an unprecedented grant of \$12,000 to help support student attendance at the Congress, especially from Latin American countries.

(2) The Federation website ([www.mammalogyinternational.org](http://www.mammalogyinternational.org)) has been greatly improved since a year ago. In addition to a link to the IMC-10 website, we now have links to almost all of the 15 member organizations (including ASM). The host server has also been successfully moved from Belfast, N. Ireland to La Paz, Baja California, which has greatly improved the efficiency of site maintenance. The Board adopted a new logo, now proudly displayed on the website, which creatively expresses the international character of the IFM.

(3) Three other items of interest are: 1) With the recommendation of the Federation's Committee on Nomenclature (Judith Eger, Chair), the Federation has agreed to affiliate with the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN); 2) The Federation Board has had preliminary discussions with new mammal societies in Peru, Portugal, Taiwan, Korea, and a possible Baltic Mammal Society, but so far none of these has applied for membership; 3) For the second year now, IFM is described in the *Yearbook of International Organizations* ([www.ula.org](http://www.ula.org)).

(4) At the annual meeting in Fairbanks, the ASM Board will have to appoint or re-appoint its three delegates to IFM. These representatives serve on the IFM Board of Directors and in this capacity are eligible for election as Federation officers. The new delegates will take office at the close of the Congress.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
W. Z. Lidicker  
([wlidicker@berkeley.edu](mailto:wlidicker@berkeley.edu))

C. A. Iudica  
([casaiud@susqu.edu](mailto:casaiud@susqu.edu))

S. McLaren  
([mclarens@carnegiemnh.org](mailto:mclarens@carnegiemnh.org))

## **VI. Ombudspersons**

**Ombudspersons:** F. A. Smith, R. W. Thorington, Jr.

**Charge:** The members of the Office of Ombudsperson are appointed at the discretion of the President to hear and respond appropriately to complaints of unprofessional behavior by any member of the ASM at its annual meeting or in the governance of the ASM through its committee structure. All issues brought before either (or both) of the appointed individuals are resolved as discreetly as possible. The Ombudspersons are entrusted to deal with each situation as they best see fit.

### **Information Items:**

(1) In the past year, several members of the Society consulted the Ombudspersons for advice; no acts of unprofessional behavior were reported.

**Action Items:** None

**Respectfully submitted,**  
F. A. Smith  
([fasmith@unm.edu](mailto:fasmith@unm.edu))