

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MAMMALOGISTS

83rd Annual Meeting
Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas
21-25 June 2003

Leopold Awards Annual Report 2003

Committee Members: B. Bergstrom, K. Foresman (Chair), K. LoGiudice, C. Long, J. Rachlow, S. Sheffield, A. T. Smith

Information Items: The Committee had extended discussions in the wake of the 2002 annual meeting on communicating information about these awards and developing a mechanism for screening applications. This led to the conclusion that the awards could not be conferred in 2003. Remaining activity focused on developing an announcement that could be used to solicit nominations for the awards in 2004. That announcement, intended for the committee's webpage, follows:

History and Mission

The American Society of Mammalogists is establishing two new awards, The Aldo Leopold Awards for Outstanding Achievements in Mammalian Conservation, to recognize outstanding contributions to the conservation of mammals and their habitats.

The Aldo Leopold Senior Mammalogist Conservation Award will be granted to a well-established individual, and the Aldo Leopold Student Conservation Award will be awarded to a current undergraduate or graduate student.

We are proud to honor the memory of former ASM member Aldo Leopold with this award, not only because he had a significant and lasting influence on the science and practice of wildlife conservation and management, but particularly because Aldo Leopold had a great interest in mammals. He was an active member of the ASM and a member of the Conservation of Land Mammals Committee (4 years) in the 1930s, and in this time worked to defend wolves in Wisconsin and the Great Lakes states and grizzlies in New Mexico. Leopold is well known for his famous Land Ethic philosophy and is considered to be the "father" of wildlife ecology and management. In addition, his son A. Starker Leopold served as Chair of the Conservation of Land Mammals Committee in the 1950s, and students of both generations of Leopolds have had a profound impact on the field of mammalogy.

For each award, the recipient will have contributed substantially to: (1) the conservation of one or more mammalian species, subspecies or populations; (2) the conservation of mammalian assemblages and communities; and/or (3) an advancement in the field of conservation biology through focal-animal research on mammals. Those contributing to the conservation of either terrestrial mammals or marine mammals are eligible for consideration. We interpret "contribution" broadly to include: (1) scientific research or political activism that has resulted in the preservation of an imperiled mammal; (2) development of protective management recommendations; (3) acquisition of new

knowledge regarding the conservation statuses or causes for declines of mammalian species or populations; (4) protection of significant mammalian habitat; and (5) promotion of the conservation of mammals through public education.

Responsibilities

The duty of this committee is to solicit nominations for and select a recipient of the Aldo Leopold Senior Mammalogist Conservation Award and the Aldo Leopold Student Conservation Award.

By 1 September, the Chair provides the journal editor with the notice soliciting nominations for these awards. This notice should be published in the November issue of the *Journal of Mammalogy*.

Society members in good standing are invited to submit nominations for the awards. Those wishing to submit a nomination should send the materials listed below to Kerry R. Foresman, Division of Biological Sciences, The University of Montana, Missoula, Montana 59812; foresman@mso.umt.edu; 406-243-4492. The deadline for submission is 15 March, 2003.

The application packet should include:

For the Aldo Leopold Senior Mammalogist Conservation Award:

1. A brief (1-2 page maximum) narrative that introduces and describes the conservation activities of the nominee;
2. A list of relevant journal articles, government and NGO reports, newspaper clippings, and other materials that chronicle and corroborate the conservation-related activities of the nominee;
3. The 3 pieces of corroborative literature that most succinctly and directly describe the nominee's contributions to mammalian conservation. Contact information for the nominator and the nominee.

The Aldo Leopold Student Conservation Award:

1. A brief (1-2 page maximum) narrative that introduces and describes the conservation activities of the nominee;
2. A list of relevant journal articles, government and NGO reports, newspaper clippings, and other materials that chronicle and corroborate the conservation-related activities of the nominee;
3. Letters of recommendation from 2 individuals familiar with the nominee's conservation activities. One of these letters must be written by the student's thesis advisor.
4. Contact information for the nominator and the nominee.

The Committee Chair receives nominations and supporting materials and forwards copies of the materials to committee members for their evaluation after 15 March. Following

committee review and discussion awardees will be chosen by consensus no later than 15 April. The names of recipients will be forwarded to the President with a supporting statement.

The President informs the Board of Directors of the recipients for final discussion and approval.

By 1 May, the President should contact the person responsible for producing the plaques to be presented to the recipients.

The Aldo Leopold Senior Mammalogist Conservation Award will consist of a plaque commending the recipient's conservation-related activities and a press release from the Society announcing the award. The Aldo Leopold Student Conservation Award will consist of a plaque commending the recipient's conservation-related activities and \$600. Both awards will be presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists.

The Chair presides over a committee meeting at the Annual Meeting, presents the report of the Committee to the Members Meeting, and announces the recipient of the award at the Annual Banquet.

Action Items: The committee seeks the Board's approval for the proposed announcement.