

Publications Committee

Committee Members: B. H. Blake, R. D. Bradley, G. Ceballos, C. L. Frank, W. L. Gannon, R. D. Gettinger, V. Hayssen, E. C. Hellgren, E. J. Heske, D. A. Kelt, C. Krajewski, E. A. Kemmeter, S. Larivière, D. M. Leslie, Jr. (Chair), E. P. Lessa, B. McGuire, J. F. Merritt, P. R. Owen, E. A. Rickart, N. G. Solomon, F. W. Weckerly

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 Publication Committee had a busy and productive year. Highlights included: (a) a new comprehensive 5-yr contract developed and signed by ASM and Alliance Communications Group (Allen Press, Inc.) in December 2004, covering publications from 2005 through 2009; (b) creation of the ASMOnlineJournals "silo site" at ASM's homepage in association with the publication of the February 2005 issue of the *Journal of Mammalogy* (the site includes an OpenAccess feature); (c) publication of Special Publication No. 13, *Anatomy of the Woodchuck (Marmota monax)*, on 21 February 2005; (d) upon invitation and after Board approval, inclusion of *Mammalian Species* in JSTOR; (e) unveiling of the JSTOR archive for the *Journal* in May 2005; and (f) conducting a member survey through the ballot-survey feature of ASM's online business office, managed by Allen Marketing and Management (AM&M), with a focus on member benefits and delivery of publications.

(2) Editor Blake and her team of Associate Editors, assisted by AllenTrack, reduced the average time from submission to publication from **17.1** months last year to **13.1** months this year!

(3) Leslie and Timm (ASM President-Elect) met with Allen Press personnel (T. Pickel [ACG], C. Classi [new AM&M business manager], A. Fine [ACG], K. Fisher [ACG], A. Jester [AllenTrack], E. Kemmeter [Managing Editor], K. Ridgway [new Production coordinator], D. Stadler [former ASM Representative with AM&M]) in Lawrence, Kansas, on 26–27 October 2004. The meeting focused on the new 5-yr ASM-ACG publishing contract and included detailed discussions of financial projections, member benefits, and options for improving member satisfaction and increasing revenue. Options will be presented to the Board in Springfield, Missouri, in June 2005.

(4) Highlights from the member survey based on 569 respondents (complete results will be presented at the Annual Meeting in June 2005): (a) 34% of respondents members of ASM for 1–5 yrs; 34% members for 20+ yrs; (b) 58% responded that publications were the most important member benefit; (c) 31% responded that ASM was the most important society to them; (d) 71% attended ≤ 2 annual meetings in the past 10 yrs; 38% never attended; (e) 69% preferred a print + online option; only 12% preferred online only; (f) 64% favored a single package of all ASM benefits; and (g) 90% supported a low-cost online option for colleagues in developing countries.

(5) Robert Bradley, Associate Editor for the *Journal of Mammalogy*, stepped down in January 2005 after 3.5 years of service and was replaced midyear, after Board approval, by Carey Krajewski. Bill Gannon and Eric Hellgren ended their terms as Associate Editors for the *Journal of Mammalogy*. Enrique Lessa, Associate Editor, and Serge Larivière, Editor for Reviews, are stepping early due to other commitments. We gratefully acknowledge the dedication and editorial contributions of our outgoing editors.

(6) Publication statistics for the *Journal of Mammalogy* between 1 April 2004 and 31 March 2005:

Volume 85, Nos. 1–6: published
Volume 86, Nos. 1–4: published, or scheduled to be, with 1 Special Feature
Volume 86, No. 5: scheduled to be published; full
Volume 86, No. 6: 7 manuscripts scheduled to date

Volume 85, 146 manuscripts published
Volume 86, 125 manuscripts scheduled to date

Number of manuscripts submitted: 303 (compared to 310 last year)
Number of manuscripts accepted: 124 (compared to 146 last year)
Number of manuscripts rejected: 184 (compared to 196 last year)

Rejection rate: 61% (compared to 63% last year)

Handling times:	Volume 86, Nos. 1–6
Submissions to acceptance:	4.8 months (last year, 6.0 months)
Acceptance to publication:	8.3 months (last year, 11.8 months)
Total time:	13.1 months (last year, 17.8 months)

Geographic distribution of accepted manuscripts:
Vol. 85: 56% U.S., 8% Canada, 14% Latin America, 22% other Foreign ($n=145$)
Vol. 86: 57% U.S., 8% Canada, 10% Latin America, 25% other Foreign ($n=124$)

(7) Publication statistics for *Mammalian Species* between 1 April 2004 and 1 April 2005:

Total number of accounts published and to be published: 27
Autumn 2004: Nos. 750–761

Spring 2005: Nos. 762–776

Time from submission to publication: 2.3 years (range, 0.92–4.68 years)
Number of new accounts submitted and assigned to an Associate Editor: 9
Total number of accounts with Associate Editors: 40
Total number of accounts with Editor: 9
Number of new species accounts assigned to authors: 29
Total number of accounts in preparation: 295 (189 overdue)
Number of accounts available on line as PDF files: 631

(8) Publication statistics for Special Publications:

(A) *Anatomy of the Woodchuck*.—Three-hundred copies of this Special Publication, No. 13, were printed on 21 February 2005 at a total of cost of \$10,565.76. That minus the grant of \$10,000 from Marmotech, Inc. left the total cost to ASM at \$565.76. Copies were sent to all Patron members, and order forms were updated at the series' webpage. We are marketing the volume to all universities in the U.S., Canada, Europe, and the Caribbean that have veterinary programs; future marketing ideas are being developed.

(B) *Other proposals*.—We are considering a special publication by Charles Long, titled *Mammals of Wisconsin* (465 pages, set in double-column format; 209 figures and 49 tables; content: 74 species accounts, checklist, keys, introduction, scope, history, environment, prehistoric mammals, glossary, 3 appendices, and literature cited). Manuscript has undergone 4 positive reviews from 1996 to 2001; Hugh Genoways favorably reviewed the general concept in December 2004.

Action Items:

(1) New Editors: The Committee seeks Board approval of Mark Brigham as Associate Editor and William Gannon as Editor for Reviews for the *Journal of Mammalogy*. Two additional editors for the *Journal* have yet to be identified.

(2) Member Benefits: The Committee seeks Board consideration of new member-benefit cost structures, which will include proposals for changing delivery of *Mammalian Species*. Various options will be presented for consideration at the annual meeting of the ASM Board on 15 June 2005.

Respectfully submitted,
David M. Leslie, Jr., Chair
(cleslie@usgs.gov)