

**American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists**

**Board of Governors Meeting**



**Sheraton New Orleans Hotel**

**New Orleans, Louisiana**

**12 July 2006**



Maureen A. Donnelly  
Secretary  
Florida International University  
Biological Sciences  
11200 SW 8<sup>th</sup> St. - OE 167  
Miami, FL 33199  
asih@fiu.edu  
305.348.1235

30 May 2006

The ASIH Board of Governor's is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, 12 July 2006 from 1700-1900 h in Grand Ballroom E (fifth floor) in the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel.

President Frost plans to move blanket acceptance of all reports included in this book. Items that a governor wishes to discuss will be exempted from the motion for blanket acceptance and will be acted upon individually.

Please remember to bring this booklet with you to the meeting. I will bring a few extra copies to New Orleans.

Please contact me directly (email is best - asih@fiu.edu) with any questions you may have. Please notify me if you will not be able to attend the meeting so I can share your regrets with the Governors. I will leave for New Orleans on 10 July 2006 so try to contact me before that date if possible.

The Annual Business Meeting will be held on Sunday 16 July 2005 from 1800-2000 h in Grand Ballroom A (fifth floor). Please plan to attend the BOG meeting and Annual Business Meeting because consideration of constitutional changes requires a quorum.

I look forward to seeing you in New Orleans.

Sincerely,

Maureen A. Donnelly  
ASIH Secretary

## ASIH BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2006

<b>Past Presidents</b>		<b>Executive Committee</b>	<b>Elected Officers (not on EXEC)</b>
Atz, J.W.	Inger, R.F.	Donnelly, M.A.	Armbruster, J.W.
Bailey, R.M.	McDiarmid, R.W.	Frost, D.R.	Buth, D.G.
Burr, M.B.	Page, L.M.	Gregory, P.T.	Cashner, F.M.
Cannatella, D.C.	Parenti, L.R.	Mayden, R.L.	Douglas, M.R.
Cashner, R.C.	Pietsch, T.W.	Neighbors, M.A.	Fox, S.F.
Cohen, D.M.	Pough, F.H.	Parenti, L.R.	Lannoo, M.J.
Collette, B.B.	Rabb, G.G.	Schaefer, S.A.	Mason, R.T.
Dessauer, H.C.	Robins, C.R.	Warren, M.L.	Orr, J.W.
Gans, C.	Rosenblatt, R.H.		Quattro, J.M.
Gilbert, C.R.	Savage, J.M.		Reeder, T.W.
Greene, H.W.	Savitzky, A.H.		Schultz, E.T.
Greenfield, D.W.	Scott, W.B.		Taylor, C.M.
Gregory, P.T.	Smith, G.R.		Wells, K.D.
Grobman, A.B.	Stewart, M.M.		Wood, R.M.
Highton, R.	Trueb, L.		
Hubbs, C.	Wake, M.H.		
Hutchison, V.H.			

<b>Class of 2006</b>	<b>Class of 2007</b>	<b>Class of 2008</b>	<b>Class of 2009</b>	<b>Class of 2010</b>
Cole, K.S.	Burgess, G.H.	Allen, L.G.	Dorcas, M.E.	Bart, H.L.
Douglas, M.R.	Hollingsworth, B.	Buckup, P.A.	Green, D.M.	Douglas, M.E.
Fitzgerald, L.	Janzen, F.J.	Carpenter, K.E.	Johnson, G.D.	Glor, R.E.
Fox, S.F.	Jewett, S.	Espinoza, R.	Kley, N.J.	Guyer, C.
Kearney, M.M.	Pezold, F.	Helfman, G.	McEachran, J.D.	Kuhajda, B.R.
Matthews, W.	Phillips, C.A.	Mushinsky, H.R.	Peterson, C.R.	Nelson, J.S.
McCormick, F.H.	Rodríguez, J.A.	Pechmann, J.H.K.	Piller, K.R.	Nicholson, K.E.
McGuire, J.S.	Schultz, E.T.	Petry, P.	Sabaj, M.H.	Peterson, M.S.
Ross, S.T.	Turner, T.F.	Warkentin, K.	Wassersug, R.J.	Pilgrim, M.A.
Vitt, L.	Wild, E.R.	Wiens, J.J.	Winemiller, K.	Pramuk, J.B.

# Reports and Agenda for the 2006 Meeting of the Board of Governors of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists

## Organization and Announcements

1. Call to order
2. Governors Sign In
3. Distribution of late reports or additions to reports
4. Messages of regret from absentee governors
5. Call for motion to approve minutes of 2005 meeting of the Board of Governors as published in Copeia 2005 (4):945-955 (see Appendix N).
6. Announcement of appointment of Resolutions Committee
7. Announcement of Stoye and Storer Award Judges (names withheld until banquet)
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**Business Session**

53. Call for blanket approval of BOFG agenda items and reports of officers, representatives, and committees, exempting those removed by EXEC and BOFG members for discussion
54. Discussion of reports exempted from blanket approval
55. Discussion of Old Business
56. Discussion of New Business
57. Constitutional Changes (see Appendix A, Appendix L)
58. Call for nominations for election to NOMC and approval of Ballot: Nominating Committee (action item)
59. Election of HSFC member: Henry S. Fitch Award Committee (action item)
60. Election of RHGC member: Robert H. Gibbs, Jr. Memorial Award Committee (action Item)
61. Election of RKJC member: Robert K. Johnson Award Committee (action item)
62. Adjournment

## **10. PPRE: Past President - L.R. Parenti**

Extreme dedication to our Society was demonstrated during the past year by Hank Bart, Bob Cashner and Brian Crother, co-hosts of this year's meeting, their Gulf Coast colleagues, and other members of the Meetings Management and Planning committees. I am personally delighted that they worked together to ensure that the 2006 JMIH be held in New Orleans, as planned. I can think of no better way to show our support and love for our colleagues and for "America's Most Unusual City."

Last year, ASIH was just about to finalize plans to move our website to Tulane University when Hurricane Katrina struck. My sincere thanks to Hank (again) and Nelson Rios for staying dedicated to this project under extraordinary personal and professional hardship. We are committed to having the website updated and improved quickly and efficiently. I am optimistic that the website will flourish under their guidance.

This year, as for my immediate predecessors, a strong focus of the Society has been on its enduring public face, our journal *Copeia*. As President, Pat Gregory appointed a committee charged with making recommendations to enhance and improve the journal, including the experience of submitting or reviewing a manuscript. Following acceptance of the recommendations of that committee by the Board of Governors, my job was to appoint yet another committee to further consider implementation of the recommendations. Some of these appear this year as proposed changes to the ASIH constitution, others, such as modification of the format of the journal including its size and the layout of the cover, are yet to be debated. As do other societies, we wrestle with the correlated issue of electronic publishing and now provide *Copeia* in electronic format to all Society members.

Among my most enjoyable duties as President was interacting with committees, largely through frequent, sometimes lengthy, e-mail exchanges with their Chairs. Students especially contributed notable time and energy to Society affairs during the past year. As more and more of Society business is conducted electronically, I am concerned that we will lose critical details to history. To address issues such as archiving, overseeing the *Copeia* Historical Perspectives series, writing or assigning the writing of obituaries, collecting photographs, and in other ways maintaining records of the history of ASIH, I appointed Joe Mitchell, Historian for herpetology, to join Dave Smith, Historian for ichthyology, to lead an expanded recurring History of the Society Committee.

And, of course, we can all sleep well at night knowing that the day-to-day business of ASIH is in the capable hands of Secretary Mo Donnelly and Treasurer Margaret Neighbors.

Finally, I would like to thank the membership of ASIH for electing me as its first woman Ichthyological President, an honor for which I am immensely grateful. ASIH has

been my principal scientific society since I joined 30 years ago and I expect it to be so 30 years from now. 2036 JMIH—New Orleans?

## **11. SECR: Secretary - M.A. Donnelly**

### SECR - Secretary's Report 2005

Last year was busy; I handled over 4000 email messages during 2005. I also handled mail correspondence and other requests for information. The meeting is a focal point of ASIH activities and over 1000 emails were associated with meeting logistics in 2005. We get some "snail mail", typically from former secretaries during the year.

I received several requests for copyright release to use materials published in *Copeia* for book-length manuscripts. Most of the requests for copyright release are granted. I did receive an unusual request to post all articles on a website and I declined to release copyright for that purpose.

During 2005 and 2006, I learned that the internet allows me to serve as the ASIH Secretary regardless of physical location. I worked extensively on the 2006 meeting from internet cafes in Costa Rica and Panama during the spring of 2006.

My former student employees, Kimberlee Arce and Rudolf Eckard, left in July 2005 and I was able to hire a replacement in August 2005. Kallia's "main" job during the year is to archive the email correspondence. Ms. Kallia Cooper is an Environmental Studies major at FIU and she is a very capable assistant. She sent out committee letters, she worked on the abstract book, and prepared abstracts for the planning meeting, and she has checked all links on the website. She recently prepared letters to thank committee members for 2006 service. Because she has checked all the links on the website, we will be able to pass information on dead links to Allen Press. The website continues to be a challenge as Allen Press continues to change personnel associated with the electronic aspects of the business.

David Cundall informed me of an error in the 2005 published minutes. David Cundall was the chair of the Genetics, Development and Morphology Committee for the 2005 Stoye competition. I informed Dr. Cundall that we would correct the 2005 published minutes in the 2006 Summary of the Meetings.

I worked regularly with Jason Gilbert at Allen Press on normal business (claims, the business site, renewal of contract, rental of lists for mailings). I also worked with Susan Dunavan on issues related to the website. I worked with other Allen Press employees on the Buyer's Guide, on print orders, and on the silo site. Treasurer Neighbors did most of the work on the silo site and linking JSTOR access to the silo site via the business page.

I established the abstract submission site in late 2004 for the 2005 meeting. Allen Press updated the system and the changes were improvements for the 2004 price! For the

2005 meeting, we had 1160 abstract confirmations and 425 email messages regarding abstracts. Although there are detailed instructions on how to submit abstracts every year, we continue to experience a wide array of difficulties with the system, especially in regards to student competitors and their eligibility for Stoye/Storer competition. Allen Press decided to abandon support of the Meeting Planning and Abstract Submission system. Fortunately, Ted Freeman agreed to allow us to use the capacity at Allen Press for the 2006 meeting. We are currently planning to change vendors for the 2007 meeting. The members of the Meeting Planning Committee suggested a reduction in the number of abstract categories for the 2006 meeting and I followed their advice. Categories follow the same groupings. The site and the submission instructions were tested before going live. Problems with submission continue to crop up (93 emails concerning lack of eligibility because of co-authors were sent in 2006).

I asked the EXEC to donate copies of the ASIH Special Publications to the Graduate Student Participation Committee for use in their auction in 2005. The auction raises money to support student travel to the Joint Meetings.

I attended the Meetings Planning Meeting in New Orleans in March 2006. We visited sites associated with the meeting and we prepared the scientific schedule. Upon my return to Miami, I wrote a trip report and circulated it to the membership. After the Meeting Planning Committee finished its work in grouping abstracts into sessions, and once those data were entered into the master spreadsheet, I checked the spreadsheet against the database to ensure that all abstracts were accounted for. I generated files of student competitors for all participating societies and sent excel files to the appropriate persons. I worked closely with STAC co-chairs Michael Ghedotti, Darrel Frost and judges for the ASIH student competitions in 2005. I have worked with President-Elect Mayden and the 2006 Chair, Steve Beaupre for the New Orleans Meeting. There was no General Herpetology competition in 2005 (nor is there one in 2006). *Herpetologists should encourage their students to compete in the category in the future.* Once I turn the schedule into Kansas State University Conference Services, all changes to the schedule are made by KSU personnel. This allows me to focus my attention to preparation of the meeting materials. After the schedule is posted on the web, the abstracts are proofed and the abstract files are prepared for the summer meeting. One WORD file, without page breaks, goes to KSU, and we prepare four files that are posted as PDFs. Once the abstract book is sent to KSU, they take care of all cancellations. I sent out personalized letters of invitation to those meeting participants that requested them. These personalized invitation letters are PDF files that are sent directly to the requester; the letter can be downloaded and given to embassy officials. This instant letter allows foreign members an opportunity to begin the visa process months before the meeting. This year, the schedule and abstract book are posted on the KSU meeting website and the ASIH website links to KSU.

I polled the BOG on establishment of a silo site (that will hold the electronic versions of *Copeia* available through BioOne), and they voted overwhelmingly to open the silo and provide all ASIH members with electronic access to the journal. I worked with Editor Schaefer to provide him with the information he requires for *Copeia* (e.g.,

requests for nominations, descriptions of competitions). We voted to accept advertisements in *Copeia* and developed a fee schedule. We have not yet accept any advertisements, but envision accepting them in the near future. I worked extensively with Treasurer Neighbors on the silo site and trying to get members access to JSTOR. EXEC voted to pay for all members to have JSTOR access but providing that access has taken considerable effort on Neighbors' part. Treasurer Neighbors is to be commended for her due diligence in these matters.

Our current website no longer supports a Bulletin Board. I used the announcement list substantially during 2005. I sent a variety of messages out concerning job opportunities, course opportunities, books, and other matters. I also sent several messages out concerning the effects of Hurricane Katrina on the Gulf coast. This mode of communication is bothersome to some members and they have requested to be dropped from the list server. After a recent incident of cyber-mischief, Susan Dunavan instituted a protection for the list server. Any posting must have an embedded code that cues Allen Press to allow the message to be generated. Since this implementation, there has been no additional problem with the list server. We have determined that the best way to regularly communicate with the membership is to use the a "blog." Currently Allen Press does not offer blog services so I am going to meet with an internet technologist in Miami in early June to learn how to construct a blog site and use it to post information for our members. Our website will have a directly link to the blog site once the blog is developed.

Throughout the year, I worked with the chair of the Conservation Committee (Frank McCormick) and sent out letters and copies of resolutions adopted by the committee and the society. In some cases, we receive acknowledgement of receipt of the letters and in some cases, the resolutions actually seem to help conservation efforts.

I recently completed updates to the Policy and Procedures Manual and passed the new and old versions of the document to Pat Gregory (Prior Past President and current chair of the Long Range Planning and Policy Committee) because LRPP is going to work on revisions to the document.

I worked with former Editor Michael Douglas to determine the status of the Editor's collection of *Copeia*. According to the constitution, the Secretary and the Editor retain a complete set of *Copeia*. The Editor's collection is currently in Colorado. EXEC will discuss the status of this official set in July in New Orleans.

During the 2005 meeting in Tampa, I felt like I finally understood how to do my job as the Secretary for the ASIH. I did not experience the "panic" I felt in previous years and continue to enjoy my service to the society.

## 12. TREA: Treasurer - M.A. Neighbors

This report is based on the account statements and cash flow information given to Richard D. Garman and Associates, Certified Public Accountants, Fountain Valley, California, for the 2005 audit. At this time the audit has not been completed. The audited financial statements will be posted on the ASIH web site when available. The audit will list ASIH income and expenses on an accrual basis rather than the annual cash flow basis of this report.

Income and expenses are divided into those associated with programs of the society (awards, annual meeting, dues, subscriptions, and publications) and those related to management and general operation (Appendix B). Income received exceeded expenses paid in 2005 by \$171,010. After increases in the dues and subscription rates for 2005, revenue from annual memberships increased by \$33,537 in 2005 compared to 2004, and subscription income increased by \$52,649 in spite of decreases in the numbers of both groups (Appendix C). ASIH's annual revenue share from BioOne, an online source for *Copeia*, continued to increase; \$22,949 was received for 2004. Income from the 2004 Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists exceeded expectations and was used to start an Annual Meeting Fund at the request of the Meeting Management and Meeting Planning Committees. Payment in 2005 of the Editor's Office funding for the next year decreased because the *Copeia* Production Manager has become an independent contractor and will be paid \$25,000 in quarterly installments during 2006. Realized losses were greater than realized gains in the TRAK Account, largely due to the replacement of PBHG Large Cap Growth Fund in the portfolio.

On 31 December 2005, ASIH funds as Cash & Cash Equivalents and Investments were held in three accounts and totaled \$945,630 (Appendix D). Investments in both equity (78.4%) and fixed income (21.6%) mutual funds are held in the professionally managed Smith Barney Citigroup TRAK Account. The net cumulative performance of the TRAK Account portfolio between its inception on 5 January 2001 and 31 December 2005 was 7.11%, with an increase of 3.19% occurring in 2005. Since inception, the annualized performance of the account after fees was 1.39% (31 Dec. 2005 TRAK Quarterly Review). For comparison, the S & P 500 Index increased 4.89% in 2005 and had an annualized change of -0.16% since 31 January 2001. The TRAK Account portfolio was worth \$564,705 on 31 December 2005 (Appendix E).

ASIH is in excellent financial condition now that annual income exceeds expenses, and a higher stock market has resulted in increases in the mutual fund holdings.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margaret A. Neighbors, Treasurer  
12 May 2006

### **13. EDIT: Editor - S.A. Schaefer**

I assumed duties as Editor on 1 January 2005. Katie Smith was hired as Production Editor the preceding November and Leo Smith was hired as Figure Editor soon thereafter. For purposes of smoothing the transition between Editorial Offices, I chose to continue the policies and practices in effect at that time. During the first six months, numerous mistakes were made and most involved the intricacies of the Allentrack management system. I thank former Editor Douglas for his assistance during the transition and for seeing through to completion several of the manuscripts for which he served as SE.

My service as Chair of the *Copeia* Review Committee during late 2004 offered valuable insight into the challenges I would soon face as Editor and perspective on developing a management plan and agenda for improving the journal. Two areas of concern were identified for immediate action. First, the role of the Production Editor was limited to mechanical editing of accepted manuscripts, rather than substantive editing independent of the Editor and without author approval. The Production Editor also screens initial submissions and creates a detailed listing of format and style problems in need of correction. Most of her work involves preparing the quarterly issues for production, monitoring corrections to proofs, and working with staff at Allen Press to ensure production quality. Second, it was apparent that increased attention to illustration quality was of utmost importance. A Figure Editor (FE) was added to the Editorial Office to oversee the appropriateness for publication of final figures in manuscripts sent to production. The FE alerts the Editor to problems, suggests solutions and minimum requirements, and consults with authors on corrections. The FE has also devised a set of graphic standards and composed a set of instructions for preparing final figures for publication that is presented to authors at manuscript acceptance. This information is also available online under author instructions. Approval was garnered for reducing the cost of color reproduction to \$300 per plate for ASIH members; as a result, color illustrations are being submitted at approximately three times the previous rate.

The workload on the Section Editors (SE) remains uneven and excessive in the general and ecology sections. A second SE in Physiology and Physiological Ecology (R. Mason) was added in 2005. Jackie Webb was added as interim SE for Genetics, Development, and Morphology to replace out-going SE R. Wood. Finally, a special debt of gratitude is extended to Index co-editor Fran Cashner for service above and beyond the call in producing the 2005 subject and author indices, despite persevering through personal hardship in the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina.

During 2005, 989 pages of *Copeia* were published over four issues: 24 February (219 p.), 9 May (220 p.), 2 August (268 p.), 15 December (282 p.). These figures represent a reduction of 3% from the total number of pages published in 2004. The four issues included 61 major papers (669 p. or 68% of the volume) and 32 shorter contributions (209 p. or 21% of the volume). The remaining 111 pages (11%) was distributed as follows: eight book reviews (21 pages; six fishes, two herps), four pages books received, three historical perspectives (25 p.), one obituary (3 p.), editorial notes

and news (11 p.), one notice to authors (2 p.), summary of the 2004 annual meeting (11 p.), subject and taxonomic indices and table of contents (37 p.), and eight pages of back matter comprising societal advertisements not counted in the total pagination for the volume.

Of the major papers published, 42 (69%) were ichthyological and 19 (31%) were herpetological. Of the shorter contributions, 12 (38%) were ichthyological and 20 (62%) were herpetological. For all reviewed papers combined, 54 (58%) were ichthyological and 39 (42%) were herpetological. Compared to 2004 (58% ich; 41% herp), the proportion of published papers by discipline for 2005 was similar, although the total number of papers published in 2005 was down 8% from 2004.

There were 472 new or revised submissions in 2005. Of these, 302 were new manuscripts, representing a 7% decrease from 2004. A total of 169 submissions (60%) originated from the United States and 133 (40%) were of international origin. These values are the same as for 2004. International contributions were distributed as follows: Argentina 2 (0.7%), Australia 13 (4.6%), Belgium 6 (2.1%), Brazil 25 (8.9%), Canada 10 (3.6%), China 2 (0.7%), Colombia 1 (0.4%), Germany 8 (2.9%), Hungary 1 (0.4%), India 3 (1.1%), Italy 5 (1.8%), Japan 11 (3.9%), Jordan 1 (0.4%), Mexico 4 (1.4%), Netherlands 1 (0.4%), New Zealand 1 (0.4%), Pakistan 1 (0.4%), Portugal 2 (0.7%), Spain 3 (1.1%), Sweden 2 (0.7%), Switzerland 2 (0.7%), Taiwan 5 (1.8%), Turkey 1 (0.4%), Uruguay 1 (0.4%), Venezuela 1 (0.4%).

Of the 302 new submissions, 157 (52%) were major articles, 111 (35%) were shorter contributions, and 34 (11%) were “other” (i.e., book reviews, obituaries, historical perspectives, etc.). An average of 24 submissions was received per month. August and November were most active periods, with 33 and 35 submissions, respectively (representing 23% of the annual submissions). May (17 submissions) was the slowest month. A total of 32 submissions (11%) were rejected without review and typically reflected a joint decision by the Editor and SE. The remaining 270 submissions were processed; of these, 211 (78%) achieved a decision by the end of the year. Another 21 (8%) remained in review and 59 (22%) remained in revision at year’s end.

For comparative purposes, performance statistics for 2005 are followed by values for 2004 in brackets. The average time from submittal to SE assignment was 15.7 [7.4] days and reflects the time required for preparation of the *Copeia* checklist of format problems, initial screening and quality review, and selection of an appropriate SE. Average time from submittal to securing of first reviewer was 29 [15.3] days, with an additional 19 [23] days to secure all reviewers. Once the final review was received, the SEs required an average of 29.7 [12.8] days to submit their recommendation to the Editor. Editorial decisions required on average an additional 13.2 [10.9] days. In total, all submissions required an average of 106.6 [69.4] days to initial decision (i.e., accept, reject, or further revision) and 130.9 [131.7] days to final disposition (accept or reject only). Major papers averaged 125.9 [82.4] days for initial review plus another 44.9 [88.6] days in revision, whereas shorter papers averaged 103.8 [71.7] days for initial review plus another 17.8 [49] days in revision.

From examination of the summary statistics for publication and editorial review, the greatest challenge facing the journal is reducing the duration of the review process. The average duration from submission to initial decision in 2005 was over three months (106.5 days), compared to slightly more than two months (69.4 days) in 2004. Compared to 2004, the current Editor requires twice the time as his predecessor to screen submitted papers and make SE assignments. Papers reviewed in 2005 on average required about one additional month to reach initial decision, but reached final decision one day sooner than in 2004. Two principal factors determine the review duration: editorial workload and reviewer responsiveness. Descriptive statistics for both are presented below. In my view, *Copeia* editors are working at capacity. Although there remains room for improvement in due diligence and allowing sufficient working time and attentiveness to prevent minor problems from escalating into major problems, the only real solution is additional SEs to achieve a greater distribution of the workload. By far, the majority of the problem rests with the responsiveness (or lack thereof) of reviewers. Apart from increasing the frequency with which reviewers are reminded to meet their obligation, there is very little that editors can do to address this situation. Unlike in previous, pre-electronic years when reviews were solicited without prior agreement, editors now receive an indication from accepting reviewers that their reviews will be forthcoming. It is therefore incumbent on reviewers to comply in a timely fashion, or inform the SEs or Editor that their reviews will be delayed, so that SEs may make alternative arrangements. This is not generally being done. In managing the review process, SEs seek a delicate balance between an extended review duration and soliciting more reviewers than needed. The Editor will discuss with the 2006 Editorial Policy Committee ideas for improving communication between SEs and reviewers and strengthening that commitment. Given that one in three review requests is declined, authors are reminded that the privilege of publishing in *Copeia* also implies responsibility as reviewer.

Section editor workload and average review duration were as follows: J. Armbruster (30 new, 56 days), S. Beaupre (11 new, 73 days), D. Buth (27 new, 71 days), S. Fox (25 new, 97 days), M. Lannoo (34 new, 61 days), R. Mason (4 new, 55 days), J. Quattro (21 new, 114 days), T. Reeder (27 new, 149 days), E. Schultz (4 new, 49 days), C. Taylor (21 new, 75 days), J. Webb (2 new, 67 days), R. Wood (12 new, 136 days). A total of 80 papers (40%) were accepted, 120 were rejected (60%), and 11 papers (5%) were withdrawn by the author. The 170 revisions received in 2005 (36% of total) were distributed among SEs as follows: J. Armbruster (28 revisions, 22 days), S. Beaupre (15 revisions, 27 days), D. Buth (37 revisions, 21 days), M. Douglas (6 revisions, 21 days), S. Fox (5 revisions, 21 days), M. Lannoo (26 revisions, 5 days), J. Quattro (4 revisions, 90 days), T. Reeder (12 revisions, 35 days), S. Schaefer (4 revisions, 4 days), E. Schultz (1 revisions, 17 days), C. Taylor (18 revisions, 29 days), J. Webb (2 revisions, 67 days), R. Wood (5 revisions, 125 days). Because most revisions were not subjected to additional review, processing time is much reduced.

A total of 940 review requests were solicited from 708 persons in 2005. Of these, 193 (21%) were declined and 40 (4%) did not respond, for a total effective request rejection rate of 25%. Of those reviewers that did return a review (527 total), the average length of

time taken was 31.2 days (std dev=25.8), with the most rapid return of 1 day and the longest return of 145 days. The majority of reviews (358, 68%) were returned within one month, while nearly a third of all reviewers (169, 32%) required more than 30 days to submit the review. Of these, 118 (22%) were returned within 2 months, 38 (7%) were returned within 3 months, and 13 reviewers (2%) required more than 3 months.

Allocation of manuscripts (new submissions and revisions) by section was as follows: General Ichthyology 122 (J. Armbruster 58, D. Buth 64), General Herpetology 107 (M. Lannoo 62, T. Reeder 45), Ecology and Behavior 78 (M. Douglas 6, S. Fox 30, C. Taylor 42), Genetics, Development and Morphology 45 (J. Quattro 26, J. Webb 2, R. Wood 17), Physiology and Physiological Ecology 36 (S. Beupre 26, R. Mason 5, E. Schultz 5). Rejection rates by SE are as follows: J. Armbruster 44%, S. Beupre 37%, D. Buth 19%, M. Douglas 25%, S. Fox 89%, M. Lannoo 58%, J. Quattro 100%, T. Reeder 61%, E. Schultz 100%, C. Taylor 63%, R. Wood 100%.

Printing costs to publish *Copeia* in 2005 totaled \$92,165.62 (#1: \$19,839.46, #2: \$20,872.73, #3: \$26,554.64, #4: \$24,898.79). This amount is 12% less than the cost of publishing the 2004 volume, despite the fact that only 3% fewer pages were published in 2005. The breakdown of printing costs by category is as follows: composition, prepress text, revisions: \$30,773; prepress graphics \$4,215; press production \$20,083; binding \$3,664; mailing \$15,159; paper \$18,272. All expense categories except binding vary between issues as a direct function of the amount of content and extent of revisions. Revenue from authors for page changes and color reproduction are not reflected in these figures.

#### **14. EDPC: Editorial Policy Committee - S.A. Schaefer**

Editorial Policy Committee (EDPC) Meeting (6 July 2005: Tampa, FL)

Present: J. Armbruster (CI), S. Beupre (CP), D. Buth (CI), M.R. Douglas (Ichthyology Book Review), S. Fox (CE), M. Lannoo (CH), S. Schaefer (Editor), R. Wood (CG)

Excused: F. Cashner (Subject Index Editor), J. Orr (Taxonomic Index Editor), J. Quattro (CG), T. Reeder (CH), C. Taylor (CE), K. Wells (Herpetology Book Review)

Guests: D. Frost (President-Elect), Theresa Pickel, Karen Ridgway, Frank Cherry (Allen Press)

Editor Schaefer began the meeting by calling for introductions of attendees. The performance and efforts of the SEs were acknowledged as superb during the transition to new editorship. Because the 2005 EPC meeting was the first under new Editor Schaefer and follows the first six months in office, the format of the meeting departed from that of previous meetings in dispensing with old business. The following issues were summarized and discussed:

Presentation by Allen Press Representatives: Representatives of the Alliance Communications Groups within Allen Press (listed above) gave a brief presentation of their proposal to the Society to co-publish *Copeia*. The proposal was outlined in general, although most attendees were unaware of the particulars, since the issue falls under the purview of LRPC. The AP attendees thanked the EPC for their attention and emphasized their availability for further discussion during the course of the meeting.

Review of policies and procedures of Editorial Office: Editor Schaefer stated that most policies and procedures of the previous Editorial Office would remain in effect, with the exception of a new Production Editor and the addition of a Figure Editor. Initial review and QC of submitted manuscripts will be processed by the PE and Editor, who will determine whether the manuscript is appropriate for the journal and assign a section editor (SE) for initiation of the review process. The Editor will consult with SEs on manuscripts of dubious suitability.

Summary of Ad-hoc *Copeia* Review Committee Report: The major issues and recommendations offered by the review committee were summarized. Of greatest relevance to EPC, recommendations for the role of the PE and reorganization of *Copeia* sectional structure were discussed. SE Buth questioned the impact of reorganized sections on current SE assignments and emphasized the desirability that the SEs continue to be elected officers, rather than editorial or executive appointments. Use of the term “taxonomy” for one or more named sections might be viewed by prospective SEs as undesirable, given the negative connotation and esteem for this field held by certain university administrators. Editor Schaefer stressed that while section reorganization was designed to address several impediments, the review committee made no specific recommendation for implementation within the current editorial structure.

Review Process: Editor Schaefer emphasized the length of the review process as an on-going problem for the journal and offered several suggestions for dealing with late reviewers. Use of an expanded network of potential reviewers was discussed, including solicitation of reviews from graduate (Ph.D.) students.

SE recommendations and extended leave: Editor Schaefer reiterated his policy in dealing with SE recommendations with which he disagrees—namely, that editorial decisions would not countermand SE recommendations without prior discussion and consultation. The issue of SE workload and the Editor’s attempts to seek balance among sections, and among SEs within sections, was discussed. The committee acknowledged that workload is excessive at times, but opinion differs among SEs in terms of the number of manuscripts per year that is deemed excessive. Editor Schaefer stressed that certain changes outlined in the review committee report are designed to ameliorate some of the SE workload, but pending reduced numbers of manuscript submissions (not a desired target), prospects hinge on the addition of SEs to the sectional structure. The Editor acknowledged that, from time to time, SEs will require extended periods of leave of duties for personal and professional reasons. Such leave must be discussed in advance so that steps may be taken to seek interim assistance.

Figure quality: One of the major problems identified by the *Copeia* review committee concerns substandard quality of published figures. While past experience suggest that only a portion of this is due to printer error, much of the problem lies with the graphics capability of authors and the failure of the Editorial Office to implement graphics standards. In response, a part-time Figure Editor (Wm. Leo Smith) has been added to the Editorial Office. Duties of the FE will be to consult with the Editor on aspects of figure quality, including image size and resolution, graphics layout and design, standards for labeling, and column format in production. The FE will consult with authors regarding problems and solutions and will work with AP staff to ensure quality of printed illustrations. A detailed instructions to authors has been prepared, which outlines general and specific guidelines for preparing graphics, including file types appropriate for specific applications, file size and resolution, and graphics standards.

Editorial decisions: One item of old business pertaining to use of “soft rejects” (i.e., reject, with request to resubmit) versus “accept pending revision” was discussed, and Editor Schaefer stressed that his policy would follow previous policy in terms of the subtle distinction between these categories of decision—“accept pending” implies the manuscript is on track for eventual publication, whereas “revise and resubmit” indicates no such implication. Allentrack is designed to assign successive revision numbers to both decision categories, thus allowing editors access to their review histories, whereas rejected papers that are resubmitted are assigned new numbers and treated as new (independent) submissions.

Miscellaneous editorial issues: SEs were reminded about submitting their respective Editorial Board nominations, and of the importance of utilizing the EB during the review process. EB members are under-utilized at present, and Editor Schaefer recommended that past policy of soliciting reviews with exceptionally fast turn-around from EB members is appropriate in cases of late or inadequate reviews.

## **15. ENFC: Endowment and Finance Committee - M.L. Warren, Jr.**

Annual ENFC Meeting, 10 July 2005, Tampa, Florida.

Attendees: Aaron Bauer, Margaret Neighbors (Treasurer), Stephen Ross, Al Savitzky (Chair, Long Range Planning and Policy Committee), Barbara Savitzky, Eric Schultz, Mel Warren (Chair).

### Adjustments to mutual fund portfolio

ENFC Chair Warren, Treasurer Neighbors, and immediate past-ENFC Chair Schultz briefed the committee on changes to the ASIH mutual fund portfolio. Those changes were recommended after research on performance by Schultz and Neighbors and a teleconference by Schultz, Neighbors, and Warren with the Smith Barney fund manager. The changes were approved by the Committee, supported by the Smith Barney fund manager, and implemented in April 2005. The changes increased diversity of large-cap mutual fund holdings and divested a consistently under performing large-cap fund.

### Communications with Smith Barney Fund manager

The committee discussed the need and desirability of the ENFC Chair and Treasurer to teleconference and communicate with the Smith Barney fund manager on a regular basis. The paid role of Smith Barney in managing our funds was acknowledged and the desirability of not micro-managing, but exacting diligent oversight on their management, was also discussed.

### Financial state of the society

Treasurer Neighbors briefed the committee on the financial status of ASIH. As of 30 June 2005 total value in the Smith Barney portfolio regained most of the dramatic decreases incurred by the 2002-2003 market down turn. The use of CDs as a possible way to decrease amounts in checking/saving accounts and increase interest income was discussed. Treasurer Neighbors agreed to make strategic use of short-term CDs in managing cash accounts and cash flow with an eye toward retaining flexibility and not incurring undue burden.

### **Activities subsequent to the Annual Meeting**

In February 2006, the mutual fund portfolio was adjusted by Smith Barney in accordance with our management agreement. The adjustment involved changes in the mutual funds held within several investment asset categories and a re-balancing of the portfolio to so that it falls within the current asset allocation recommendations of the Smith Barney Consulting Group.

Immediate-past Chair Schultz assisted Treasurer Neighbors in supplying information and our Investment Policy Statement for ASIH to meet requests from the auditor in May 2006.

Treasurer Neighbors informed the committee of the purchase of a CD and the arrangement for paying awards this year. The committee approved the approach.

Respectfully submitted,

Mel Warren, ENFC Chair

### **16. EXEC: Executive Committee - M.A. Donnelly**

The Executive Committee was led by President Lynne Parenti during 2005. In January 2005, Al Savitzky informed EXEC that BioOne would not publish the Guidelines for Use of Amphibians and Reptiles in Research as we had hoped they would. Our document did not fit the BioOne guidelines. In early 2005, the EXEC voted to establish a silo site at Allen Press. The silo site will allow all ASIH members to have

access to current electronic versions of the journal. Members will also be able to link to JSTOR files once the website connection is finalized in June 2006.

In March 2005, EXEC voted to cover Al Savitzky's expenses associated with travel to the AIBS/BioOne meetings. The committee voted to refuse a request for funds to help support the Barcode of Life initiative in August of 2005. While EXEC members were sympathetic to the research project goals, ASIH does not fund research directly and we suggested that a funding agency like NSF would be more appropriate for the project. In August 2005, EXEC voted in favor of signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Tulane University to move the ASIH website from its current home at Allen Press to Tulane; these negotiations are still pending as the effects of Katrina ripple through institutions in New Orleans.

The committee voted to extend our current agreement with Allen Marketing and Management for three-years. While some academic societies have shifted to commercial presses, the ASIH has maintained an excellent relationship with Allen Press. The agreement was formally extended in November 2005.

In November, EXEC voted to take advertisements in *Copeia* to generate funds to support publication of the journal. In January of 2006, the EXEC voted to recycle old films at Allen Press. These films were generated several years ago and they cannot be used by modern pieces of publishing equipment. The EXEC also voted to obtain Enhanced Online Services from Allen Press which resulted in the launching of our new Business site:

**([http://timssnet.allenpress.com/ECOMASIH/timssnet/common/tnt\\_frontpage.cfm](http://timssnet.allenpress.com/ECOMASIH/timssnet/common/tnt_frontpage.cfm))**

In March, 2006, EXEC voted to move the proposed constitutional changes forward to the Board of Governors so they could determine if the proposed changes could go before the membership. EXEC decided against taking out a cancellation insurance policy for the 2006 meeting in March 2006 because the very events that would force us to cancel the meeting, are those events excluded by all policies.

We sadly report the passing of Raymond Laurent (1 February 2005), Michael Ewert (7 June 2005), Frances Dessauer (7 July 2005), A. Stanley Rand (14 November 2005), and John Behler (31 January 2006).

## **17. GFAC: Gaige Fund Award Committee - K.E. Nicholson**

The 2006 Gaige Award Committee has chosen 10 outstanding awardees from a pool of 40 very competitive applications. The members of the committee in 2006 were Adam Summers and Rita Mehta. The proposals were judged on scientific merit, need, and letters of recommendation. The 2006 recipients of Gaige Awards are:

**Philip Bergmann**, Ph.D. expected 2009, Tulane University. Locomotion and habitat selection in lizards with varying degrees on body elongation and limb reduction.

**Jennifer Curtis**, M.S. expected 2007, University of Central Oklahoma. Androgen responses to aggression in territorial male Collared lizards: A test of the challenge hypothesis.

**Matt Gifford**, Ph.D. expected 2008, Washington University. Population-level ecomorphology in *Leiocephalus personatus*: evolutionary relationships between morphology, performance, and habitat openness.

**Myra Hughey**, Ph.D. expected 2010, Boston University. Interacting effects of red-eyed treefrog egg consumers: flies, fungi, and wasps.

**Ali Rabatsky**, Ph.D. expected 2007, University of Louisiana Lafayette. Evolutionary vestigialization of complex features using an island rattlesnake model.

**Julie Ray**, Ph.D. expected 2008, Old Dominion University. Physiological and behavioral ecology of a predator feeding on a chemically defended invasive species in Central California.

**Gabriel Rivera**, Ph.D. expected 2008, Clemson University. Morphological variation between populations of the turtle *Pseudemys concinna* inhabiting different flow regimes: are differences in three-dimensional shell shape adaptive?

**Rebecca Symula**, Ph.D. expected 2008, University of Texas. A field test for mimicry in an Australian myhobatrachid frog, *Crinia signifera*.

**Maria Thaker**, Ph.D. expected 2009, Indiana State University. Maternal stress and dynamics of alternative reproductive tactics in male offspring.

**Nathan Turnbough**, Ph.D. expected 2008, University of Tennessee. Functional equivalence of native and invading *Anolis* lizards in a food web.

Each grant was for \$500. Although the winning applicants typically requested more than \$500 in their budgets, we decided to spread the available funds among more students rather than give more money to fewer awardees.

Copies of the acceptance and rejection letters have been sent to the applicants (samples attached). Two of the committee members (Nicholson and Mehta) provided the applicants with written feedback (sample evaluation sheet attached) and I have forwarded those to the applicants.

This was the first year for all-electronic submission of applications and letters of recommendation. The process went very smoothly and we allowed submission of either Word or PDF files as email attachments. I highly recommend continuing this procedure and perhaps further developing the application procedure in the future by making it possible to submit via the ASIH website.

Adam Summers will serve as Committee Chair next year. I will rotate off the committee and the President of ASIH will appoint my replacement. It is important that both the award announcement in *Copeia* and the ASIH web page be updated to reflect the change of committee chair because applicants must send their proposals to the chair. Adam's address and email follow:

Respectfully submitted,

Kirsten Nicholson, Chair  
ASIH Gaige Fund Award Committee, 2006

### **18. HSFC: Henry S. Fitch Award Committee - A.H. Savitzky**

The Henry S. Fitch Award for Excellence in Herpetology is given annually to recognize the outstanding contributions of an individual in any area of herpetological research and professional service. The award was established to honor the numerous contributions of our colleague Henry S. Fitch during his long, productive, and continuing career.

This year's committee consisted of Julian C. Lee, H. Bradley Shaffer, and Alan H. Savitzky (Chair). The committee received three new nominations and one renewed nomination. Three additional nominations remained active from the previous two years, providing the committee with a pool of seven nominees. The committee noted that the high quality of the nominees reflected positively upon the health of our discipline. Based upon the committee's discussions and subsequent ranking, a recipient of the award was selected and will be announced at the annual banquet in New Orleans. With the encouragement of the Treasurer, the committee has arranged for a plaque to be engraved for this year's recipient of the Henry S. Fitch Award.

### **19. LRPP: Long Range Planning and Policy Committee - A.H. Savitzky**

For the second year in succession, the Long Range Planning and Policy Committee held an expanded meeting at the annual JMIH in Tampa, FL in 2005. The primary item of business was the evaluation of a proposal from Alliance Communications Group (ACG), the publishing arm of Allen Press, to publish *Copeia* in exchange for assuming the financial risks of that venture; ASIH would retain ownership of the journal and a degree of control to be negotiated with ACG. In addition to the members of the LRPP, several other officers were present, as were some officers of SSAR and HL, who had been presented with similar proposals from ACG, and two representatives of ACG.

The primary focus of the ACG proposal was to provide an electronic presence for *Copeia*, independent of that already available through BioOne, which would then be marketed to libraries not subscribing to the BioOne package. In advance of the meeting the LRPP had obtained an independent evaluation of the ACG proposal by Raym Crow, a consultant for the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC), of which BioOne is a member. BioOne paid for the services of Mr. Crow. His analysis of the ACG proposal suggested that the projections for new subscriptions was overly optimistic, as were the projections for additional royalty income to ASIH. He advised that, although ASIH should diversify its various modes of electronic delivery, we would be ill-advised to enter into an agreement such as the one proposed by ACG without receiving additional competing proposals. Any such agreement should follow a detailed discussion of the objectives of ASIH (e.g., whether the Society wishes to maximize readership or income) and a detailed analysis of the Society's current and projected finances. (In addition to the ACG proposal, both BioOne and JSTOR had recently offered individual member access through their organizations. For a variety of reasons the LRPP did not find either of those alternatives as attractive as providing member access directly through Allen Press.)

Although the LRPP did not support acceptance of ACG's proposal to publish *Copeia*, the committee did strongly support the establishment of a silo site for the journal at Allen Press. Such a site would give ASIH the ability to sell electronic copies of the journal to libraries independent of BioOne, as well as offer individual member access to the electronic form of the journal. This alternative differed from the ACG proposal primarily in the fact that ASIH retains its role as publisher as well as owner of *Copeia*, assuming all the financial risks of publication and perhaps enjoying less aggressive marketing by ACG/Allen Press. However, the LRPP judged that ASIH is in sufficiently robust financial health at present that there was no strong incentive to relinquish any control of the journal to ACG. Furthermore, Allen Press is strongly interested in continuing as our publisher, and they were willing to assist us with marketing and related issues whether or not we accepted their proposal. Some of the other societies, in less robust financial condition, found the ACG proposal more attractive.

As a result of these deliberations, ASIH declined the ACG proposal at this time, but did agree to initiate a silo site for the benefit of individual members and libraries not subscribing to BioOne. The additional cost of generating the silo site was considered worthwhile given the additional service it would provide to members, and considering that a recent dues increase provided sufficient income to cover the cost at this time. One issue relates to the loss of electronic access by individual members who no longer remain active as members. That concern has no solution at this time, under any model of individual electronic access.

The other issue discussed at the LRPP meeting was continuing concern over the Open Access (OA) publishing movement. In the OA model, all journal content is free at any time to any user. There are various models for the support of OA publishing, but the most commonly proposed model is "author pays," in which authors pay the equivalent of

full page charges to support publication of their work. OA is an increasingly common mode of publication in biomedical fields, where NIH has strongly promoted that model and grant funds are expected to support publication of individual papers. Conversely, there seems to be little support for OA at NSF, and the BioOne journals generally are reluctant to adopt an OA model.

However, the increasing availability of electronic journals to students and professional academic biologists leads to legitimate concern over the health of professional societies. Many societies are reporting gradual declines in membership, and there is concern that students, in particular, may no longer view membership in societies as a necessary aspect of their professional life, with access to journals no longer always coupled to membership. Although ASIH offers many additional benefits to student members, we nonetheless compete with several other herpetological and ichthyological societies for the attention (and membership dues) of students. The LRPP discussed the potential for the various societies concerned with fishes, amphibians, and reptiles to form a closer confederation in the future, so as to maximize membership for all and reduce competition for members. That question remains open for future discussion.

A. Savitzky rotated off the LRPP at the end of 2005, and P. Gregory assumed the Chair in 2006. The major task of LRPP in the coming year will be to revise the ASIH Policy and Procedures Manual to bring it up-to-date with current practice; we welcome suggestions from past and current society officers and committee members.

## **20. MGMT: Meetings Management Committee - R.C. Cashner**

Members: Deanna Stouder (MMPC Chair), Brian Crother, Hank Bart, Douglas Martin, Maureen Donnelly (ASIH Secretary), Henry Mushinsky (HL and SSAR representative), George Burgess (AES Representative)

Kansas State Conference Organizers: Sharon Brookshire, Heide McBride, Victoria Banales

The duties of some of the members of MGMT, Bart, Crother and Cashner, included service on the Local Committee for the 2006 annual JMIH meeting in New Orleans July 12-17. With the assistance of the Meeting Planning Committee and the Kansas State Conference Organizers, the JMIH will hold its annual meeting in the Sheraton Hotel on Canal Street. The Sheraton was one of the very few hotels to remain open throughout Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The Sheraton sustained relatively little damage from the storms and none from the flood waters. Managers of the Sheraton Hotel have promised to provide excellent service and based on the reception received by members of the joint committees, we have every reason to believe them. The Sheraton Hotel appears to be an excellent venue for the 2006 JMIH Meeting.

All repairs will be finished well before mid-July. The Aquarium of the Americas will be the site of the Opening Reception and is located just 4 blocks from the hotel. Bus service will be provided for those who need transportation. The picnic/barbeque will be held at the Swamp Exhibit of the Audubon Zoological Garden, bus transportation is

included in the ticket price. Musical entertainment will be provided by Sunpie and the Louisiana Sunspots, the same group that made the House of Blues picnic such a memorable event in JMIH history in 1996. The Local Committee has arranged for an additional social on Friday night, July 14, at the Heiner Brau Brewery in Covington, LA. The \$25 ticket provides for a barbeque dinner on the brewery grounds, 2 pints of Heiner Brau, especially brewed for the occasion of the JMIH, and transportation by bus for the 80 mile round trip from New Orleans to Covington. Oh, you can purchase additional pints for a reasonable fee. The number of attendees will be limited to the first 150 people that sign up.

About 900 papers and posters were scheduled at the Sheraton Hotel in New Orleans from March 23-25 by members of both MPLC and MMGC. Rooms for presentations, posters, workshops, exhibitors and banquets were visited by members of the joint committee; all meet our needs very nicely. Committee members also visited the sites for the JMIH Opening Reception, Barbeque/Picnic and the special reception at the brewery and were greeted warmly by managers of each venue.

The MMGT has continued to receive and review invitations from convention centers throughout the U.S. and has matched those opportunities with the meeting site rotation proposed in 2005. Sharon Brookshire and others from the Kansas State University Group have visited these sites and helped Meeting Management and Meeting Planning Committees make recommendations to the JMIH participating societies. As you know, we will meet in Saint Louis, MO in 2007 and Montreal in 2008. For future JMIH venues, MMGC is recommending Portland, OR for 2009, Providence, RI for 2010, and Minneapolis MN for 2011 to the Board of Governors at the 2006 meeting of that group.

Respectfully,

Robert C. Cashner, Chair  
Meeting Management Committee

## **21. MPLN: Meetings Planning Committee - D.J. Stouder**

Members: Larry Allen, George Burgess (AES rep.), Robert Cashner (MMGC Chair), Brian Crother, Maureen Donnelly (ASIH Secretary), Henry Mushinsky (HL and SSAR rep.)

Kansas State Conference Organizers: Sharon Brookshire, Heide McBride, Victoria Bañales.

Scheduling Symposia:

Using a template distributed to all symposia chairs, schedules were provided to MPLN Chair. Prior to attending the planning meeting, Mo Donnelly distributed the names of presenters who had submitted symposia abstracts to the chairs. This enabled the chairs to verify attendance by participants and search for others who incorrectly

submitted their abstracts. Chairs adjusted schedules as needed. This process facilitated scheduling the overall meeting.

#### Printed Schedules:

In keeping with the spirit of “Greening the Meeting” and our desire to hold meeting costs down, we have decided to provide attendees with a Schedule-At-A-Glance and a CD of program abstracts. This will save the JMIH approximately \$6,000 and keep the schedule current.

#### Reminders:

Reading instructions and following the abstract submission rules will save the Secretary an inordinate amount of time in contacting members who fail to follow simple instructions. Unfortunately this is especially true for students, and their major professors, who submit co-authors for Stoye and Storer Award papers and posters. The Secretary had to follow up sending almost 60 (greater than 50% of the award submittals) e-mails to correct the problem.

In addition, each person can only submit ONE oral paper and ONE poster for presentation at the annual meeting. We continue to have people submitting multiple oral papers.

#### **New Orleans planning meeting for 2006 Joint Meetings of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists:**

During 23-25 March all MPLN members traveled to New Orleans to set up the schedule for the upcoming July meeting. We spent three full days during which we reviewed the conference facilities, developed the overall schedule including business meetings, workshops, social events, and poster and oral presentations. We scheduled approximately 900 total presentations (symposia and contributed papers; posters) and designated session chairs. Sharon Brookshire and Heide McBride agreed to be the contact person if session chairs have difficulty with their assignments. By the time we departed New Orleans on 26 March, Larry Allen had created an excel spreadsheet of the entire meeting. Mo Donnelly continued to correct and clarify information until they were able to put an accurate program on the ASIH website and provide Kansas State University with all of the needed information for the printed Schedule-at-a-Glance.

#### **22. NOMC: Nominating Committee - M.M. Kearney**

The Nominating Committee, composed of herpetologists Karen Lips and Maureen Kearney (chair), and ichthyologists Deanna Stouder and Larry Page began seeking nominations for open positions in January (Appendix XX). We had commitments for most positions by early February. The ballot was completed in late March. The chair is grateful to all committee members for their timely and effective efforts and especially to all nominees for their willingness to serve the ASIH.

### **23. RFAC: Raney Fund Award Committee - A.M. Simons**

The Raney committee received 42 applications for the Raney award by April 4th. One application remained incomplete and two applicants were not ASIH members and thus were not evaluated. Cheryl Wilga chaired the committee and worked with Andrew Simons and Kent Carpenter. Cheryl Wilga had conflicts of interest (COI) with four of the applicants and thus did not evaluate them. The scores are based on the average of three evaluations, two in the case of COI. Each winner received \$1000 to support his/her research. Name, Program, Institution, and Title of Project of the winners for 2005 in alphabetical order are:

**Benjamin Ciotti**, Ph.D. Student, University of Delaware: Spatial variability in growth and diet of juvenile plaice: Predator-prey linkages in dynamic nursery environments.

**Donovan German**, Ph.D. Student, University of Florida: What does it take to eat wood: Mechanisms of digestion in closely related armored catfishes (Loricariidae) representing algivory, herbivory, and xylophagy.

**Shannon Gerry**, Ph.D. Student, University of Rhode Island: A comparison of feeding morphologies and behaviors in a generalist and specialist shark species.

**Erin Reardon**, M.S. Student, McGill University: Effects of hypoxia on the life history and energetics of the African Cichlid *Pseudocrenilabrus multicolor*.

**Takashi Maie**, M.S. Student, Clemson University: Relationships of feeding morphology and performance to habitat distribution in Hawaiian stream gobies: *Awaous guamensis* and *Lentipes concolor*.

### **24. RHGC: Robert H. Gibbs, Jr. Memorial Award Committee - J.S. Nelson**

During March 2006, the Robert H. Gibbs, Jr. Memorial Award Committee, consisting of David W. Greenfield, Carter R. Gilbert, and Joseph S. Nelson (Chair), evaluated three outstanding nominees for the 2006 award for Excellence in Systematic Ichthyology. The recipient of the award this year, the eighteenth since the inception of the award, will be announced at the annual ASIH meeting in July at the Sheraton Hotel in New Orleans. This year the plaque was prepared by Scott's Trophy of Seattle.

The Committee will continue to announce and promote the award through publication of notices in scientific journals, including Copeia. Following the annual ASIH meeting, the Committee Chairman will forward the announcement of the winner for 2006 to these journals along with a request for future nominations. A full page in Copeia 2006(4) will be devoted to a plaque bearing the name of the 2006 awardee as well as a list of all former recipients of the award (page 945 of Copeia 2005(4) was devoted to the recipient for 2005, Theodore W. Pietsch). As with previous awardees, this year's recipient of the award will be encouraged to submit a paper in systematic ichthyology to

Copeia to appear (following the normal editorial review process) in the second year following the award as a leading ichthyological paper in the journal.

## **25. RKJC: Robert K. Johnson Award Committee - R.C. Cashner**

Members: Harvey Lillywhite and Frank McCormick

The Committee reviewed nominations for the 2006 Robert K. Johnson Award for service to the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. The award will be presented at the Joint Meeting Banquet on Monday, July 17, 2006.

Respectfully,

Bob Cashner

## **26. STAC: Student Awards Committee - S.J. Beaupre**

Prior to the 2006 meeting, President-Elect Richard Mayden and Steve Beaupre (chair for 2006) lined up the judges for the Stoye and Storer competitions. The judges and winners will be announced at the Annual Banquet.

## **27. AESR: Representative to the American Elasmobranch Society - G.H. Burgess**

The American Elasmobranch Society (AES) held its 21st Annual Meeting in Tampa on 7-11 July 2005 in conjunction with the 85th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. Hosted by ASIH local chairs Phil Motta and Henry Mushinsky with the tireless support of Sharon Brookshire and the able K-State staff, the meetings were a great success with more than 150 AES members and elasmobranch aficionados in attendance. The program consisted of 165 contributed oral presentations and posters, plus the traditional open slide/video finale. The contributed sessions addressed behavior, biochemistry, ecology, fishery biology, immunology, life history, movements, physiology, population dynamics, and systematics. In addition, many presentations were made at the open slide/video session. A highlight of the meeting was an Age and Growth Symposium chaired by John Carlson and Ken Goldman honoring the 80th birthday of Greg Cailliet. The Student Activity Committee workshop, "The Role of Shark Biologists Across Academia and State and Federal Agencies," hosted by Jason Blackburn, was a success. The AES sessions were well attended by AES and ASIH members, with more than 200 attending some sessions.

The society's Executive Board and Board of Directors met on 6 July, and the Business Meeting was convened on 9 July. Elections held at the Business Meeting produced the following results:

President: Jeff Carrier  
Treasurer: Julie Neer  
Board of Directors: Sonja Fordham and Ken Goldman  
Grant Fund Committee: Jim Gelsleichter  
Nominating Committee: Carl Luer, Jack Musick, Mike  
Heithaus, Wade Smith, and Eileen Grogan

More than 125 people were in attendance at the AES banquet on 10 July. At the banquet Kara Yopak (University of Auckland) was announced as the winner of the Gruber Award for best student oral paper; Laura Jordan (UCLA) as the Carrier Award winner for best poster presentation; and the Nelson Award for behavioral research was awarded to Laura Macesic (Florida Atlantic University). The AES Student Research Award was given to Wes Dowd (VIMS). Travel awards totaling \$6000 were given to 17 graduate students. The evening was highlighted by the annual ElasmAuction and raffle which generated \$4742 for student awards and travel.

Representative Burgess took part in a site visit to New Orleans in March 2006 with members of the Meeting Planning Committee, setting up the 2006 meeting program and arranging facilities.

AES is appreciative of ASIH for its continued support of joint meetings and will next meet in New Orleans in July 2006 in association with the 2006 ASIH annual meetings.

## **28. AFSR: Representative to the American Fisheries Society - M.L. Warren, Jr.**

Warren reports on several AFS activities and publications. The AFS InfoBase is continuing to expand coverage of web-based pdf full text articles back to the first Transactions issue in 1872. The 135th annual meeting of the American Fisheries Society in Anchorage, Alaska, the largest AFS meeting ever, hosted about 2,800 attendees, featured over 1,900 oral and poster presentations, and sponsored 50 symposia running in 16-18 concurrent sessions. The theme for the meeting was "Creating a Fisheries Mosaic: Connections Across Jurisdictions, Disciplines, and Cultures." The symposia topics included ecology and taxonomy of freshwater and diadromous sculpins, conservation and recovery of imperiled North American freshwater fishes, influence of dams on rivers, ecology of prairie streams, invasive species in large rivers, and a plethora of other focus topics of interest to many ASIH members.

The AFS participated in several major conservation activities this past year, all emphasizing the need for science in protecting aquatic resources. In November, AFS submitted testimony to the House Committee on Resources supporting listing of Asian carp as injurious species under the Lacey Act. Along with other sport fishing and conservation organizations, AFS filed an amicus brief with the Supreme Court to uphold the protections historically afforded in the Clean Water Act to tributaries and adjacent wetlands and entire aquatic systems. Protections to streams and adjacent wetlands are

threatened by cases before the Supreme Court (see March 2006 issue of Fisheries). In February, the American Fisheries Society joined with the Ecological Society of America, the Society of Conservation Biology, the Society for Range Management, and the Entomological Society of America in issuing a statement to Congress on science and the Endangered Species Act. The statement is intended to provide scientific guidance to Congress as they consider changes to the Act in how science, research, and scientists will be used to inform actions under the Act.

The journal *Fisheries* was also replete with important topics on conservation and other areas. The forum on economic growth in Fisheries is well worth reading, the articles continue to provide a stimulating debate on the conflict between economic growth, as now viewed and practiced by economists and our society, and sustainability of aquatic resources. For example, analysis of U.S. and Canadian endangered fishes (July and August 2005, Fisheries) show that most of the causes for endangerment are linked to economic factors. The September issue of Fisheries features two perspectives on the practice and perceived outcome of non-native fish removal in western United States streams. In the October Fisheries issue, several ASIH members lead a debate about the reality of the collapse of shark populations in the northwest Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico. Two articles in the September issue of Fisheries featured effects of non-native gamefish on native fishes, one explored non-native Lake Trout effects on native Cutthroat Trout in Yellowstone Lake and the other, non-native Smallmouth Bass effects on native fishes in Maine. On an issue facing ASIH and other publication oriented professional societies, AFS President Chris Kohler presents an informed overview of the open access publications movement on AFS (March Fisheries). He explores the potential impacts to income, funding, and society viability that may come with open access publication.

## **29. AIBS: Representative to the American Institute of Biological Sciences and BioOne - A. H. Savitzky**

The American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) and BioOne, the electronic publishing consortium, continue to maintain a close association with each other. AIBS was one of the founding partners of BioOne, and each organization is represented at the other's annual meeting. This year the two organizations met about a month apart, in Washington, DC; the ASIH representative attended both meetings.

### **I. American Institute of Biological Sciences ([www.aibs.org](http://www.aibs.org))**

AIBS is an umbrella organization for societies whose members generally include organismal biologists and ecologists. Presently AIBS represents about 200 member societies and organizations (MSOs), with a combined membership of about 250,000 biologists. AIBS also has about 5,000 individual members of its own. The annual meeting of the AIBS Council, comprised of representatives of the MSOs, was held 23-24 May 2006. The meeting provided an opportunity to offer feedback on various issues to AIBS officers and staff, and also to exchange information with members of many other

organismally-oriented societies, such as the American Fisheries Society and the American Society of Mammalogists. A copy of the briefing book for the 2006 Council meeting is available at:

[http://www.aibs.org/council-news/resources/06\\_complete\\_council\\_book.pdf](http://www.aibs.org/council-news/resources/06_complete_council_book.pdf)

AIBS has a diverse array of programs and services; those of greatest interest to our membership are education and public policy. In the area of education, AIBS is heavily involved in the defense of education concerning evolution in public schools. Toward that end, AIBS sponsors an annual workshop on evolutionary biology at the Professional Development Conference of the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT). The Fall 2006 workshop will cover the issue of macroevolution and has been organized by AIBS Past-President Marvalee Wake. The AIBS Office of Education distributes a bimonthly report to MSO representatives by e-mail and works with the Public Policy Office when rapid responses to issues are needed. The Office of Education administers ActionBioscience.org, a website that provides authoritative articles on subjects related to basic biological principles. About half of the articles are now available in Spanish as well as English. The Office of Education also is now encouraging the establishment of student chapters at educational institutions.

A major emphasis of the Office of Education relates to building diversity in the workforce of professional biologists. The Diversity Scholars Program offers competitive funding for students of under-represented groups to present their research results at the national meetings of member societies. Thus, qualified student members of ASIH are eligible to apply for funding to support travel to our own annual meetings. Presently the timing of the application process is not ideal for providing travel support to our meetings, but ways to improve that situation were discussed with a representative of the Diversity Scholars Program at the recent Council meeting. AIBS is interested in establishing closer ties with MSO committees or representatives who deal with issues of workforce diversity. AIBS conducted a survey of organizational programs designed to diversify participation and training, and the results are presented in the Council briefing book.

The Office of Education also is working closely with the National Evolutionary Synthesis Center (NESCent), an NSF-funded organization located in the Research Triangle of North Carolina. The Center's website ([www.nescent.org](http://www.nescent.org)) contains details concerning their various programs, including postdoctoral fellowships and sabbatical fellowships. In addition, NESCent supports meetings intended to generate synthesis on topics related to its broad mandate. Catalysis Meetings involve up to 40 people, who meet for two or three days of discussion. Smaller Working Groups (about 12-20 people) meet two or three times over a period of 18-24 months, and NESCent postdocs generally are associated with such working groups. One current working group involves members of the Zebrafish Information Network and the Cypriniform Tree of Life project. Details concerning applications for those programs are available at the NESCent website. Finally, NESCent offers both space and coordination services for groups of biologists wishing to hold a meeting in the Research Triangle area.

The Public Policy Office continues to provide advice to lawmakers regarding issues of interest to organismal biologists and ecologists. This year such issues included funding levels at the National Science Foundation, science education (including evolution), environmental legislation (including the Endangered Species Act), and support of museum collections. The Public Policy Office includes two staff members and an intern. The Director, Robert Gropp, is closely involved with a number of related organizations, including the Natural Science Collections Alliance, the USGS Coalition, and the Coalition for National Science Funding. MSOs are asked to designate a representative to the Public Policy Office (see separate report to the Board of Governors), and members of the office are available to assist societies in arranging meetings with lawmakers on specific issues. Note that ASIH continues to provide additional, voluntary financial support to the Public Policy Office, along with several other prominent biological societies. At the Council meeting the question was raised as to whether AIBS can assist member societies with the issuance of press releases, and that question received a positive response.

AIBS expects to hold its next Council meeting in conjunction with the International Union of Biological Sciences, which will meet in Washington in Spring 2007. It was suggested that AIBS might organize its 2009 meeting around the celebration of the bicentennial of Darwin's birth and the sesquicentennial of the publication of *On the Origin of Species*. Initial discussions centered around designating 2009 as a year for enhancing public understanding of evolutionary biology, but President-Elect Douglas Futuyma pointed out that a broader concern relates to public understanding of science in general. As a result, the Council voted to direct the board and staff of AIBS to work with other appropriate organizations (including the American Chemical Society, American Physical Society, National Research Council) to designate 2009 as the Year of Public Understanding of Science.

## **II. BioOne ([www.bioone.org](http://www.bioone.org))**

BioOne is a nonprofit electronic publishing consortium, largely serving society publishers whose journals emphasize organismal biology or ecology. BioOne held its annual Publishers' Meeting on 25 April 2006, and additional information was presented at the AIBS Council meeting in May. The current ASIH representative also sits on the Publishers' Advisory Committee of BioOne, which holds periodic teleconferences throughout the year.

BioOne now publishes about 82 titles, as compared to 38 titles when the collection launched in 2001, an increase of 116%. Consistent with the new business model of BioOne, which calls for providing replacement rather than supplemental income to society publishers, the price of the BioOne collection has increased by 43%. However, the cost *per title* has *decreased* by 34%. Cost increases have been implemented in consultation with the academic library community, which has been strongly supportive of BioOne as an alternative to commercial, for-profit journal publishers. Evidence of that support comes from the 99% renewal rate among academic library subscribers. As a result of the robust sales and renewals, an anticipated price increase of 12% for 2006 has been scaled back to 9%. BioOne presently has about 831 subscribers. Royalties have

increased 47% from 2001 to 2006; in 2005 royalties constituted 60.9% of total sales revenue. BioOne is on track with its long-term plan to triple royalty payments to publishers. One reason for the high return of sales income to publishers is that BioOne itself employs only three full-time staff members.

In 2005 BioOne's first President and Chief Operating Officer, Heather Joseph, left to become Executive Director of the Scholarly Publishing & Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC), one of the founding partners of BioOne. Susan Skomal was appointed as the new Executive Director and COO of BioOne. Dr. Skomal previously had been Director of Publications for the American Anthropological Association. A progress report for 2005 is available online (<http://www.bioone.org/pdf/BioOne05ProgressRpt.pdf>).

One concern of BioOne and its member publishers has been overseas distribution. BioOne has been actively soliciting subscriptions in Europe and Asia. Of special interest to our society was the recent news that the entire national academic library system of Brazil was added as a subscriber. The full BioOne collection also is available free of charge to approximately 80 developing countries, the identification of which is based upon criteria established by the United Nations.

BioOne announced that it is entering into a partnership with UniBio Press, a similar consortium in Japan that presently includes six English-language electronic journals emphasizing organismal biology. UniBio includes *Current Herpetology*, the journal of the Herpetological Society of Japan, as well as *Zoological Science*, the journal of the Zoological Society of Japan, as well as journals dealing with ornithology and mammalogy. BioOne and UniBio are presently negotiating the details regarding how the two collections will be integrated on screen, but the capacity will exist to search both BioOne and UniBio journals simultaneously. BioOne expects to provide access to UniBio in January 2007.

BioOne is now preparing a second collection of electronic journals. A separate subscription will be required for the second collection for two reasons. First, offering libraries two smaller collections will prevent BioOne from being viewed as forcing a mandatory "big deal" on libraries, in the manner demanded by several commercial publishers. Second, segregating new journals in a second collection will prevent excessive dilution of revenues among the publishers included in the first collection. BioOne shares the profits with its individual publishers (societies) in the form of royalties based on a formula that includes pages published and numbers of hits. Thus, adding new journals to a single collection without limit would eventually dilute the return to individual publishers.

Considerable attention was paid at this year's Publishers' Meeting to the issue of preservation and archiving of electronic files. BioOne has approached this issue by entering into agreements with several organizations and services, including LOCKSS (which captures web-distributed content in an "enduring cache"), JSTOR (which recently expanded to include so-called "born digital" content), and Portico (which works with

publishers to obtain digital source files). Of these Portico seems to be viewed as the organization that presently is most responsible for maintaining permanent archival copies. A representative of Portico that service as a "dark archive," which remains invisible as long as the original publisher (e.g., BioOne) continues to be active. In the event that BioOne no longer carries its content in the future, Portico is legally empowered to handle distribution of the content formerly provided by BioOne. Portico is supported jointly by libraries (the primarily sponsors), publishers, and hopefully in the future by grants. BioOne pays for membership in Portico on behalf of its society publishers. JSTOR recently invited 65 BioOne journals to join its Biology and Ecology Collection, and those that did will be fully archived through that organization by 2007. A prototype system for allowing simultaneous searching of a journal's content in both BioOne and JSTOR is being tested. BioOne has also converted from the SML to XML electronic file standard, bringing its content into conformity with the National Library of Medicine and thereby further ensuring that it will be permanently archived. Finally, BioOne has established an internal reserve fund to support future file migration.

During the discussion of journal archiving, Philippa Benson of The Wildlife Society noted that a consortium of biological organizations and other entities (including some major corporations) has been established for archiving biodiversity data. The Conservation Commons ([www.conservationcommons.org/](http://www.conservationcommons.org/)) is intended to provide broader access to, and sharing of, such data.

Among other developments, BioOne now has the capability of handling publications that are not standard issues of its journals. That is, publications can now be offered through BioOne that do not fall within the fixed volume and issue sequence of a society's primary journal. This is important to ASIH because the previous limitation prevented electronic publication of such items as our animal care and use guidelines, which are committee reports and not issues of our journal. BioOne also recently developed a "My Profile" system, through which users can request the tables of contents for selected journals as soon as they are electronically published. This service, available to anyone, is accessed on the BioOne home page by clicking on "Help," then "Features of BioOne," and then scrolling to "TOC Alert."

The issue of open access publishing (OA) again occupied considerable time at this year's BioOne Publishers' Meeting. A distinction was made between OA publishing and OA archiving, with the latter considered to be an especially important development. Regarding OA publishing, it is not yet clear that OA increases citation rates, although there is some evidence that it does. The American Museum of Natural History recently completed a major OA project, in which all of its publications, current and past, are now available as open access. The new policy has received strong support from the biological community.

Electronic-only publication (i.e., the cessation of print) also was discussed, although it is still not clear how quickly that trend is developing among scholarly publishers. Steve Hiller, Head of Science Libraries at the University of Washington, noted that the "physical library is [a] workplace for students [and the] last resort for

faculty." The UW libraries recorded an average of 100 downloads of electronic materials per person last year. A representative from one of the major ornithological societies noted, in a subsequent discussion, that those societies are now beginning to consider whether to convert to electronic-only publishing. The publishing community expects that the U.S. government will mandate further open access publishing of federally funded research, as has already been required by NIH.

Finally, a meeting participant noted that one of the three North American ornithological societies is completing a study of long-term membership trends. The analysis indicates that the society is failing to recruit student members at a rate that will replace loss of older members. Importantly, the trend toward aging of that society's membership began substantially before it began electronic publication of its journal, suggesting unexpectedly that the trend is not simply the result students having ready electronic access to the journal. Rather, the trend seems to reflect a changing attitude regarding the role of professional societies among younger biologists. This suggests that the fate of member-supported societies and their scholarly publications should be the subject of serious discussion and thoughtful planning.

### **30. AIBS-PPC: Representative to the American Institute of Biological Sciences Public Policy Committee - A. H. Savitzky**

Each member organization of the American Institute of Biological Sciences is asked to appoint a representative to the Public Policy Committee. Alan H. Savitzky was asked to served in this capacity for 2005-2006, pending selection of a regular representative from ASIH.

The Public Policy Committee advises AIBS on the reactions of its member societies to a variety of policy issues. Members of the committee receive biweekly reports from the Public Policy Office of AIBS, detailing important issues of relevance to organismal biologists, ecologists, and others in member organizations. In addition, the Public Policy Committee holds regular teleconferences, roughly on a quarterly basis. Occasionally members of the Committee are asked to contact their congressional representatives in regard to especially important issues. The Public Policy Office of AIBS organizes congressional visits once each year, and is available to assist at any time in facilitating contacts between societies and members of Congress.

Major issues confronting the AIBS and its members this year included the re-authorization of the Endangered Species Act, funding for the National Science Foundation, and the perennial legal challenges to the teaching of evolution in public schools. AIBS took an active role in all of these issues, among others.

### **31. EHHR: Representative to the Early Life History (ELH) Section of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) - M.P. Fahay**

The 2006 Larval Fish Conference was to be held in conjunction with ASIH in New Orleans, but those plans were curtailed by Katrina effects. This was a

disappointment to many members of both societies, because periodic joint meetings benefit members of both. The fall-back plan for the LFC is to hold the meeting with the National AFS in Lake Placid in September, 2006. Future plans for the LFC are tentatively set for the future eight years, some in European venues, but none in association with ASIH.

### **32. NSCAR: Representative to the Natural Science Collections Alliance - L.M. Page**

The 2006 annual meeting of the Natural Science Collections Alliance (NSCA) was held jointly with the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, 23-27 May. The theme of the meeting, "The Road to Productive Partnerships" emphasized the advantages of scientific societies and groups with an interest in natural history collections working together toward common goals. Several members of the Steering Committee of LINNE - an initiative to bring more funding to collections and modernize taxonomic research - were present at the meeting and obtained the endorsement of NSCA and SPNHC for a proposal to the National Science Foundation to fund a number of workshops to organize effective means for obtaining greater support for collections. NSCA and SPNHC plan to hold joint meetings every other year.

### **33. PNHC: Representative to the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections - J.E. Simmons**

The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting of SPNHC, "Realising Standards," was held at the Natural History Museum in London, England, from 12 to 18 June 2005. More than 200 people from 17 countries attended. Presentations of interest to ASIH members included "Investigating chemical changes in fluid preserved specimens using FTIR spectroscopy," "Re-curation of specimens preserved in degraded alcohol: testing alternative techniques," and "Analysis and conservation of fish taxidermy from the collection of the Zoological Museum of Athens University." Attendees received a copy of a new book by Nicola McGirr, *Nature's Connections—An Exploration of Natural History*, a richly illustrated history of natural history research, collecting, and museums. Two numbers of the *SPNHC Newsletter* were published in 2005, which included articles on DNA barcoding and bibliographies of current literature. One issue of *Collection Forum* was published, which included articles on "Multiple interactive factors affect pH in museum storage solutions," "Laser-printed labels in wet collections: will they hold up?" and "Collection ideas: earthquake strapping." Recent issues of both the newsletter and the journal are available in .pdf format on the SPNHC website ([www.spnhc.org](http://www.spnhc.org))

### **34. CONS: Conservation Committee - F.H. McCormick**

The Conservation Committee was active in the 2005 calendar year, responding to conservation issues for both fish and amphibians. We made direct contact with the

agencies, drafted a several letter for President Parenti's signature, and submitted five resolutions for consideration by the membership at the annual business meeting.

In 2005, the Committee sent comments or letters to the US Congress, the Department of the Interior, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA Fisheries, and the Jefferson County (AL) Zoning and Planning Commission.

**Actions taken (see appendices for full details)**

1. Endangered Species Act - Joint Societies Letter. In conjunction with the American Fisheries Society, the Ecological Society of America, the Entomological Society of America, the Society for Conservation Biology-North America, the Society for Range Management, and The Wildlife Society, the Desert Fishes Council, and the North American Benthological Society, the ASIH signed the joint societies letter regarding proposed changes to the Endangered Species Act. Several members of CONS provided considerable technical and editorial input to the final version.
2. Green Sturgeon. The committee drafted a response for the Society to endorse the decision by NOAA Fisheries to list the southern distinct population segment (DPS) of the Green Sturgeon, *Acipenser medirostris* as threatened under the Endangered Species Act
3. Asian Carp. The committee drafted a letter for President Parenti's signature endorsing S. 1402 and H.R. 3049 to designation Black Carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*) as "injurious wildlife" under the Lacey Act.
4. The Conservation Committee presented five resolutions at the 2005 Annual Business Meeting in Tampa, FL. For full text, refer to the minutes of the meeting, pp 950-952.  
Resolutions:
  - a. Urged the US Fish and Wildlife Service to discontinue hatchery stocking activities of Pallid Sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) and recommending that if captive rearing and stocking activities are to be continued, that the introduction of progeny into Recovery-Priority Management Areas with resident pallid sturgeon should be restricted to individuals with the same morphological and genetic characteristics as the broodstock from which they were produced.
  - b. Requested that the Jefferson County (AL) Planning and Zoning Commission to decline rezoning requests that threatened the habitat of the federally endangered Vermilion Darter (*Etheostoma chermocki*) and the imperiled Rush Darter (*E. phytophilum*), a candidate species for federal listing; and suspend any planned modifications to streams in the Turkey Creek watershed.
  - c. Urged the U.S. Congress to pass legislation reauthorizing the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act that serves to strengthen the role of science in fisheries management by requiring Councils to adhere to the advice of their scientific committees.

d. Urged the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Pacific Fishery Management Council to work cooperatively with Pacific states and Canada to impose precautionary limits on participation and catch in west coast spiny dogfish fisheries in order to conserve populations while comprehensive assessments and management programs are developed.

e. Urged the National Marine Fisheries Service to include options for stopping overfishing of large coastal sharks in Draft Amendment 2 to the Highly Mobile Species Fisheries Management Plan and prohibiting directed fishing for other vulnerable and/or depleted sharks species, particularly hammerheads, porbeagles and deepwater sharks.

5. 2007 Conservation Symposium. Committee members drafted a proposal for a symposium to be presented at the 2007 Annual Meeting in St. Louis. The symposium “Biodiversity and Agricultural Sustainability in the Breadbasket of North America, the Mississippi River basin” will highlight the fragility of freshwater ecosystems and their vulnerability to a variety of land-water interactions. The proposal was approved and planning for the symposium is under way.

#### **No action Items**

1. Proposal to list the American Eel, *Anguilla rostrata*, as threatened. CONS rejected the proposal, citing the abundance of American Eel in some rivers in the Mid-Atlantic region and the somewhat limited evidence for the decline of most populations (other than those in the Ohio River basin).

2. Request to sign a letter to the USFWS Southwest Region office protesting policy changes proposed in a memorandum from the regional director (now Director of USFWS). The policy changes, developed in response to litigation, declared that genetics differences could not be used as a basis for listing a species. It was felt that further clarification was necessary before a response was warranted.

#### **Proposal to Develop Scientific Position Papers on Behalf of the Society**

In 2006, the Conservation Committee proposes to begin the development and publication of position papers that represent the scientific judgment of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists on conservation-related subjects. Patterned after the position or policy statements of the American Fisheries Society, these papers would be developed under the umbrella of the Committee’s charge from the President of ASIH, but would not necessarily be accomplished exclusively or entirely by committee members. They would be subjected to an informal peer-review, circulated among scientists familiar with the subject matter. CONS would then bring the position paper forward for consideration. Pending the outcome of the processes we propose below, the position paper would be published in HTML and PDF format on the ASIH website. Given the cost of publication, we are not yet prepared to request, though ultimately would seek support for, publication in Copeia. The proposed format would include an executive

summary, the body of the position statement, and a summary form, suitable for informing the general, non-technical public and the media. Because this effort is entirely voluntary, it would not affect our tax-exempt status.

CONS operates under a formal procedure that was adopted at our 2003 Committee Meeting. When issues are posed for Committee consideration, a simple majority of the membership representing a quorum of 18 members shall decide the action (usually in the form of a letter to a government official or a comment posted on the public comment docket), recommend whether the action should be brought from the Committee or drafted for the signature of the President of ASIH, and solicit volunteers to draft the response. If no quorum is reached by the deadline, the issue is referred for individual action; the Committee takes no action.

We are presenting five options to EXEC and the BOG for discussion:

1. Under the process for the Committee referenced above, we would identify a topic or be approached with a request, draft a position, circulate it among the committee and select reviewers for comment, vote as a committee, and forward it to the President for action.
2. As in Option 1, we select a topic, draft the paper, circulate it for comment, vote it out of committee, and forward to the BOG (via the Secretary's EMAIL list) for comment and a vote. CONS has identified this as our preferred option because it represents the ideal combination of Society oversight and timely action.
3. As with Option 2, but the discussion and vote occurs at the BOG meeting. This option has the advantage of an open forum for discussion and voting, but action must await the Annual Meeting.
4. As with option 3, but the paper would be referred out of the BOG to the Business Meeting for comment and vote. This option has the same advantages and disadvantages as the previous option, but opens the debate to a larger audience.
5. As with option 3, but the paper is referred out of the BOG to the general membership for comment (via the ASIH Listserv) for vote at the NEXT annual business meeting. This option would significantly slow the process.

Al Savitzky and Henry Mushinsky worked with colleagues to draft a position paper on “rattlesnake roundups” (Appendix 6). It was subjected to the CONS review and approval process. Pending the outcome of our request, it would become the first position paper of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank H. McCormick, Chair  
15 May 2006

### **35. HSOC: Representative to the SSAR and the HL - A.H. Savitzky**

Over the past several years interactions between ASIH and the Herpetologists' League and the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles have occurred largely through the joint meeting committees and the societies' respective conservation committees. Regular meetings of the Liason Committee, which involved officers of the three societies, have not been held for several years, now that the relationship among the three societies has become predictably cooperative. Last year additional interaction occurred in response to proposals that each society received from Alliance Communications Group, which prompted ASIH to open the meeting of its Long Range Planning and Policy Committee to officers of the other two societies.

During the past year informal discussions have been conducted concerning the potential benefits of establishing a confederation among the various societies that meet for the Joint Annual Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. There is particular concern that the three herpetological societies inadvertently compete for the attention of new student members, especially in an age when journals are no longer perceived as the primary benefit of membership. (A pending report to one of the ornithological societies reportedly documents a steep decline in the recruitment of younger members.) Although each of the three societies provides important benefits for student members, the advantages of maintaining a membership in all three societies may elude some students. A structure that encourages membership by all students (and regular members) in all relevant societies might strengthen all of the organizations. Such a confederation would, of course, require lengthy discussion, but the idea is now receiving at least casual attention from officers of all three societies.

### **36. IHCC: Ichthyological and Herpetological Collections Committee - N. Rios**

Barbara Brown, Paulo Buckup, Dave Catania, Dean A. Hendrickson, Richard Pyle, Rob Robins, Mary Ann Rogers, Jessica Rosales, Mark Sabaj, John Simmons, Ken Thompson, Lou Van Guelpen, H. J. Walker, Jeff Williams, Christina A. Wolfe

**Newsletter Subcommittee: H. J. Walker (Chair), Rob Robins, Lou Van Guelpen**

**Supplies and Practices Subcommittee: Jessica Rosales (Chair), Barbara Brown, Mary Anne Rogers, Mark Sabaj, Ken Thompson, Lou Van Guelpen, Nelson Rios**

**Ichthyological Data Standards Subcommittee: Jeffrey T. Williams (Chair), Paulo Andreas Buckup, David Catania, Richard Pyle, Nelson Rios**

**Herpetological Data Standards Subcommittee: John E. Simmons (Chair)**

The Collections Committee was relatively inactive this past year. One activity that is currently a work in progress is the creation of an online collection survey to be hosted on

the ASIH website. The survey is being designed by Tom Giermakowski and Christina Wolf. The supplies and practices committee is working to ensure the availability of ethanol resistant inks for impact printing of collection labels. During the 2004 meeting we discussed recent changes in shipping procedures of scientific specimens due to 9/11 security concerns.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nelson Rios, Chair  
13 May 2005

### **37. NFJC: Joint ASIH -AFS Committee on Names of Fishes - J.S. Nelson**

The Joint ASIH/AFS Committee on Names of Fishes, Joseph S. Nelson, Chair, reported that the fish names committee and advisory subcommittee met 11 July, 1200-1330+ hrs at the 2005 ASIH conference in Tampa, Florida. The meeting was attended by all Committee members, Héctor Espinosa-Pérez, Lloyd T. Findley, Carter R. Gilbert, Bob N. Lea, Joe S. Nelson (chaired meeting), Nick E. Mandrak, and Jim D. Williams, and by most Advisory Committee members, George H. Burgess, Bruce B. Collette, William N. Eschmeyer, Richard L. Mayden, John F. Morrissey, Lawrence M. Page, Ramón Ruiz-Carus, Wayne C. Starnes, and H. J. Walker, Jr.

Nelson by invitation spoke to the AFS “Publications Overview Committee” on 14 September 2005 at the annual meeting in Anchorage on the decision of the “Committee on Names of Fishes” to submit the next list with common names in English capitalized. This was a contentious item. Nelson agreed to and will present written arguments to Dr Gary Grossman.

An errata for “Common and scientific names of fishes from the United States, Canada, and Mexico” 6th ed., has been published: Nelson, J.S., H. Espinosa-Pérez, L.T. Findley, C.R. Gilbert, R.N. Lea, N. E. Mandrak and J.D. Williams. 2006. Corrections to Common and Scientific Names of Fishes from the United States, Canada, and Mexico. *Fisheries* 31(3):138-140. The same article is scheduled for *Copeia* 2006(3). We plan to submit a list of new additions for publication in *Fisheries* and *Copeia*.

Planning has commenced for the 7th edition. We plan to not take on new areas, and the only modification other than changes to the list is the addition of common names in French for all species in Canada. We will work to submit the new ms in late 2009 for publication in 2010.

Members are actively preparing new additions and answering email questions from organizations, biologists, and the public.

We are planning to have a dedicated committee meeting in Fall/Winter 2006/07 and then in 2008.

The committee considered alternatives to our advisory committee structure, in response to a suggestion made at last year's meeting. It was felt that we can meet all our objectives most simply by keeping the committee structure as it is. We will be vigilant in seeking expert advice. We will give further consideration to having online posting of certain proposed changes for a review period and will plan to have experts review key sections of the book before publication.

The Committee extends its deepest thanks to the very supportive Advisory Committee and to all workers who aided us during the past year.

The committee will meet Monday 17 July, 1200-1330+ hrs at this year's ASIH conference in New Orleans.

### **38. RESC: Resolutions Committee - T. Grant**

Taran Grant will chair the 2006 Resolutions Committee. The committee membership will be announced at the meeting on 12 July 2006.

### **39. SPUC: Special Publications Committee - J.W. Armbruster**

The year 2005 saw the addition of a much better website for ordering books at ASIH and the development of sales at Amazon.com (see Appendix J). Through 2005, we have sold 2 copies of Special Pubs. #3 and 4 on Amazon.com and 11 copies of #5. The SPUC chair has been in contact with Lance Grande about publishing a book on the gars similar to his previous book on bowfin. Nearly all of the production cost would be paid for by Grande and ASIH would be free to buy additional books to sell. If we have a full proposal by the meetings, we will present the proposal to the board electronically and discuss it at the BOG meeting.

#### **Total Sales Figures**

Special Publication #3:	2004: 16 copies,	\$542.00
	2005: 14 copies	\$448.50
Special Publication #4:	2004: 16 copies,	\$601.50
	2005: 19 Copies,	\$811.00
Special Publication #5:	2004: 97 copies,	\$10,540.00
	2005: 49 copies	\$5,432.00

### **40. HIST: Society Historians - D.G. Smith & J.C. Mitchell**

Perhaps the most significant event this past year was the creation of a second Historian position. Joe Mitchell was appointed Society Historian for Herpetology, joining David Smith, Society Historian for Ichthyology.

The main activity continues to be the Historical Perspectives series. During the past year, articles appeared on Victor G. Springer, Daniel M. Cohen, and Margaret M. Stewart. Last August, Smith and Inci Bowman traveled to Kingston, Ontario to interview William Beverley Scott, one of the Society's oldest living ex-presidents. In addition, they conducted a preliminary interview with C. Richard Robins at the Tampa meeting. Articles are currently in press on Scott, Ernie Liner, and Robert Stebbins . Smith is currently writing an article on Honorary Foreign Member Jørgen Nielsen. Interviews have been completed with Stan and Marilyn Weitzman, Bruce Collette, Jim Tyler, Murray Littlejohn, George Rabb, Robert Storm, and Jose Cei. Additional articles are being planned or in progress on Royal Suttikus, Dick Rosenblatt, Jim Atz, C. L. Smith, Carl Gans, Ilya Darevsky, Herndon Dowling, James Organ, Bill Degenhardt, Jim Dixon, and Richard Zweifel.

We have begun the process of bringing the Society archives up to date. Inci Bowman collected papers from Bruce Collette and Victor Springer, organized and indexed them, and transferred them to the Smithsonian Institution Archives. Although the S.I. Archives maintains the records of ASIH and other professional societies, it does not have the personnel to organize the holdings in any systematic way. The ASIH holdings through about the mid 1980's are in fairly good shape, but the later acquisitions are largely unorganized. For the last 15 years or so, there have been few new additions. As we write this, the S. I. Archives is in the process of moving to new quarters. When the move is completed later this year, we will begin sorting and organizing the documents. After we have a good grasp on what is there, we can assess what is needed and begin contacting past officers to solicit documents relating to their tenures.

The status of the Historians within the Society has still not been firmly established. There was some discussion last year about creating a committee of some sort, but no decision was reached. Whatever the final decision, we have a number of Society members who are actively interested in -- and have published on -- ichthyological and herpetological history. We need to find a way to bring these people into the process and take advantage of their enthusiasm and expertise.

Respectfully submitted,

15 May 2006  
David G. Smith  
Joseph C. Mitchell

#### **41. IINC: Ichthyological Information Coordinator - M.F. Cashner**

No requests for information have been received this year.

#### **42. HINC: Herpetological Information Coordinator - E. Banach**

No requests for information have been received this year.

### **43. Ad Hoc Copeia Review Committee - M. Parris**

*Members:* Matthew Parris, University of Memphis (Chair); Scott Schaefer, American Museum of Natural History (Editor of *Copeia*); Robert Espinoza, California State University Northridge; Jacqueline Webb, Villanova University / University of Rhode Island; Andrew Simons, Bell Museum of Natural History

The committee was charged in October of 2005 by President Parenti with two tasks: (1) Reevaluate the comprehensive review of the Society's journal *Copeia* conducted by the ASIH ad hoc *Copeia* Review Committee in 2004-2005; and (2) Develop an implementation plan for editorial and publication changes both recommended by the aforementioned committee, and from the results of task (1) above. Most of the committee work completed to date, and thus contained in this report, address task (1).

The committee functioned via email and phone communication between October 2005 – May 2006. The Chair began the committee's work by emailing all members a copy of the 2005 Ad Hoc *Copeia* Review Committee report, and a summary of the current committee's primary tasks.

The committee began its work by focusing its reevaluation and implementation efforts on the formal recommendations made by the earlier *Copeia* Review Committee (pages 17 – 18 in report from committee). Most notably, our committee focused on those recommendations requiring formal changes to ASIH Constitution and By Law procedures. Duplicated from the *Copeia* Review Committee's report are the relevant recommendations for our committee's efforts:

3. Restructure and redefine the Editorial Board to facilitate a more direct role in shaping the content of the journal and advising on editorial policy and procedures.
4. Reorganize the current sectional structure by increasing the number of sections by one, shifting the general sections from their current alignment to a categorization based on subject, and increase the total number of SEs from 9 to 11.
9. Change the page size, page layout, outside front cover of the journal to facilitate modern mechanisms of document delivery and to stimulate increased interest in the journal.
10. Publish color illustrations at reduced cost, lowest price offered when all authors are ASIH members in good standing; evaluate the economics of color reproduction and determine fixed or sliding scale prices per plate for members and non-members.

11. Establish a two-tier system whereby authors may choose free color reproduction in the electronic version of *Copeia*, with the option of either black and white or reduced color reproduction in the print version.
12. Update the front cover design, incorporate color illustration(s) that serve to reflect the content of the issue and spark interest in the journal.
13. Remove arbitrary or cost-motivated restrictions on numbers of figures or tables that may appear in *Copeia* papers. Apply a flexible policy on restricting the length of manuscripts.
17. Publish paid advertisements among available pages of back matter each issue.

Recommendations #3 and 4 address editorial policy; the remainder changes in publication protocol. An initial proposal was submitted to change the ASIH Constitution and By-Laws that address recommendations #3 and 4.

Proposed changes to ASIH Constitution and By-Laws to Address Recommendations of  
the Ad Hoc *Copeia* Review Committee  
Submitted for consideration by Jacqueline F. Webb

**Recommendation #3: Restructuring and Redefinition of Editorial Board (requires change to Article VI of By-Laws)**

Change Article VI of By-Laws to read:

*“The editorial board (EB) representing the six divisional sections of COPEIA shall consist of no more than 10 members, each of whom will serve a two-year term. Members will be nominated annually by the Editorial Policy Committee (EPC) and appointed by the Editor, with approval from the President. The EB will serve a formal advisory role by assisting the Editor with matters concerning policy and procedure, and play a direct role in shaping the content of Copeia. As such, EB members will be invited to participate in the annual meeting of the EPC, and will be called upon (and will agree to responsibility for) limited editorial service, as needed.”*

**Recommendation #4 – Reorganize current sectional structure of *Copeia*.**

Change Constitution Article IV, Section 1. to read:

*“The officers of the Society shall be:.....An Editor, **eleven Section Editors (distributed among the six divisional sections)**, an Index Editor.....”*

Delete By-Laws Article V. Section 1.e and substitute the following:

*“Between annual meetings, the Editor may seek a temporary or interim Section Editors, from members of the Editorial Board or the membership at large in*

***consultation with and approval of the Executive Committee, in order to accommodate changes in workload, mid-term termination of service or request for extended leave.”***

Change By-Laws Article V, Section 2.a. to read:

***“The six divisional sections of COPEIA shall be **Phylogenetics, Taxonomy, Physiological Ecology, Morphology & Developmental Biology, Population & Conservation Biology and Ecology & Ethology**”***

After submitting these recommended changes, Editor Schaefer communicated with the rest of the committee members, and asked us to reconsider the proposed formal changes. Admittedly, the Chair of this committee initially was unclear how many / which of the earlier *Copeia* Review Committee recommendations needed reconsideration, and which could be implemented directly. After reconsideration, the committee achieved additional resolution on editorial changes as follows:

1. The earlier *Copeia* Review Committee proposed a more focused role for the Editorial Board, where members may be solicited for input as occasional Sectional Editors, rather than simply serve as short notice manuscript reviewers. Currently, the greatest need for EB members is in the review process when SEs have trouble with non-responsive reviewers. Under its current usage, SEs nominate EB members relevant for their specific division. Thus, EB members retain informal ties to sections, rather than serving as a general pool. We concur that a more focused role for EB members need be established, but their utility as flexible manuscript reviewers be retained. The exact number of EB members recommended depends on the future resolution of item 2 below.
2. Sectional editor structure should prioritize maximum editorial flexibility. As such, four of the five committee members recommend *removing formal divisional sections*. This organization, albeit dramatic, would allow the editor to adjust to changing demands on the review process. The current section structure, and the one proposed above envisioning six sections (see earlier *Copeia* Review Committee report for further discussion), may indeed recognize current and / or anticipatory topical trends for papers submitted to *Copeia*, but the inflexibility of rigid sectional organization may be an impediment to improving the journal, both in terms of accommodating current and future journal submissions and attracting / retaining high quality sectional editors. The exact number of Sectional Editors (or appropriately renamed title) required under this flexible scenario should be determined through consultation with the Editor, and based on accommodating equitable editorial work load demands.

The committee also recognizes the importance of retaining the election of the Sectional Editors (or renamed title). Finally, the committee is aware of the challenges

posed by elimination of sectional structure to other society business, and encourages additional consideration of the matter.

Changes to the ASIH Constitution must be proposed by the Executive Committee and circulated to all members at least three months in advance of the annual meeting. The current committee did not reach resolution on this editorial issue sufficiently early to meet this deadline, and encourages submission of a formal constitutional change prior to the 2007 annual meeting.

Publication change recommendations #9-13, 17 from the earlier Copeia Review Committee (see pages 1-2 above) currently are still being considered by this committee. Communications are in progress with Allen Press to examine the cost effectiveness of the recommended changes. Cost estimates for some aspects of the recommended changes were obtained external to this committee in late summer 2005; the current committee is working on obtaining updated costs.

The Chair of this committee recommends that a future ASIH committee be convened specifically to address publication change issues. Any information acquired by this committee would be supplied to future committee(s).

# APPENDICES

#### **44. Appendix A. Proposed Constitutional Changes - 2006**

There are several constitutional changes proposed for 2006. The current (2004) version is included as Appendix X. The changes are underlined in the Current and Proposed portions of each change. The EXEC will ask the BOG and the members attending the ABM to consider the changes by category as follows:

##### **I. Minor Changes (Constitution, Article V, Section 1, Constitution, Article VIII, Bylaws, Article II, Section 1, Bylaws, Article V, Section 2a):**

*Constitutional Change, Article V, Section 1.*

RATIONALE: Change will add the word 'fifty' to the sentence.

CURRENT: **Section 1.** The Board shall include not more than 50 elective members, each elected from among regular, associate, sustaining, and life members for a term of five years

PROPOSED: **Section 1.** The Board shall include not more than fifty (50) elective members, each elected from among regular, associate, sustaining, and life members for a term of five years

*Constitutional Change, Article VIII.*

RATIONALE: Add nouns & parentheses to the sentence.

CURRENT: At the Annual Meeting, one hundred members shall constitute a quorum of the Society and thirty a quorum of the Board of Governors.

If the Board of Governors votes electronically between annual meetings, 30 votes shall constitute a quorum of the Board.

PROPOSED: At the Annual Meeting, one hundred (100) members shall constitute a quorum of the Society and thirty (30) a quorum of the Board of Governors.

If the Board of Governors votes electronically between annual meetings, thirty (30) votes shall constitute a quorum of the Board.

*Bylaws Change, Article II, Section 1.*

RATIONALE: Clarify language regarding Annual Business Meeting.

CURRENT: Section 1. The President shall preside at sessions of the Board of Governors and at the general business meeting.

PROPOSED: Section 1. The President shall preside at sessions of the Board of Governors and at the Annual Business Meeting.

*Bylaws Change, Article V., Section 2a.*

RATIONALE: Delete a redundant number.

CURRENT: Section 2a. The five divisional sections of COPEIA shall be General Herpetology; General Ichthyology; Ecology and Ethology; Physiology and Physiological Ecology; and Genetics, Development, and Morphology. Sectional Editors shall serve as Chief Operating Officers for their respective sections, shall select reviewers and solicit manuscript reviews, and shall make recommendations regarding acceptability for publication in COPEIA to the Editor.

PROPOSED: Section 2a. The divisional sections of COPEIA shall be General Herpetology; General Ichthyology; Ecology and Ethology; Physiology and Physiological Ecology; and Genetics, Development, and Morphology. Sectional Editors shall serve as Chief Operating Officers for their respective sections, shall select reviewers and solicit manuscript reviews, and shall make recommendations regarding acceptability for publication in COPEIA to the Editor.

**II. Miscellaneous Changes (Constitution, Article III, Section 2a, Constitution, Article IV, Section 2, Constitution, Article VI, Section 1, Bylaws, Article I, Section 2):**

*Constitutional Change, Article III, Section 2a.*

RATIONALE: Change required to clarify how life members fit into the scheme of membership.

CURRENT: **Section 2.** The membership of the Society shall consist of the following classes:

**a.** Active members who pay annual dues in the following categories: Student, , Regular, Associate, and Sustaining.

PROPOSED: **Section 2.** The membership of the Society shall consist of the following classes:

**a.** Active members who pay annual dues in the following categories: Student, Regular, Associate, and Sustaining. Life members pay 25 times (25 x) annual dues in one lump sum or four equal payments.

*Constitutional Change, Article IV, Section 2.*

RATIONALE: Clarify language concerning elections of officers.

CURRENT: **Section 2.** The Officers shall be elected at the annual general meeting from among regular, associate, sustaining, and life members. The slate of nominees shall be furnished by the Nominating Committee at the Board of Governors meeting. Additional nominations may be presented from the floor at the annual business meeting.

PROPOSED: **Section 2.** The Officers shall be elected at the Annual Business Meeting by active members attending the meeting. The slate of nominees shall be furnished by the Nominating Committee at the Board of Governors meeting. Additional nominations may be presented from the floor at the Annual Business Meeting.

*Constitutional Change, Article VI, Section 1.*

RATIONALE: Correct language describing the Annual Business Meeting.

CURRENT: **Section 1.** This Society shall hold an annual meeting. A general business session open to all classes of members shall be held for the purposes of hearing a report on the transactions of the Board of Governors and of acting upon such business as may properly be considered by the membership at large.

PROPOSED: **Section 1.** This Society shall hold an annual meeting. The Annual Business Meeting shall be open to all classes of members for the purposes of hearing a report on the transactions of the Board of Governors and of acting upon such business as may properly be considered by the membership at large.

*Bylaws Change, Article I., Section 2*

RATIONALE: Clarify language according to practice, Allen Press does this for the ASIH.

CURRENT: **Section 2.** A service charge calculated by the Secretary to recover actual costs may be billed subscribers requiring special billing procedures.

PROPOSED: **Section 2.** A service charge to recover actual costs may be billed subscribers requiring special billing procedures.

**III. Changes Related to *Copeia* (Constitution, Article IV, Section 1, Bylaws, Article V, Section 1d, Bylaws, Article V, Section 1f, Bylaws, Article V, Section 2d, Bylaws, Article VI):**

*Constitutional Change, Article IV, Section 1*

RATIONALE: Provide the Editor of *Copeia* with flexibility to assign workload as required.

CURRENT: **Section 1.** ... An Editor, five Divisional Editors, an Index Editor, and two Book Review Editors (one in ichthyology and one in herpetology).

PROPOSED: **Section 1.** ... An Editor, Sectional Editors, an Index Editor, and two Book Review Editors (one in ichthyology and one in herpetology).

*Bylaws Change, Article V., Section 1d.*

RATIONALE: Change required to reflect practice; the Publications Policy Committee is defunct.

CURRENT: **Section 1d.** The Editor serves on the ASIH Executive Committee, and the Publications Policy Committee and serves as Chair, Editorial Policy Committee.

PROPOSED: **Section 1d.** The Editor serves on the ASIH Executive Committee and serves as Chair of the Editorial Policy Committee.

*Bylaws Change, Article V., Section 1f.*

RATIONALE: Addition of Section 1f to codify practice.

PROPOSED: **Section 1f.** The Editor may employ such assistance as is necessary for the production of COPEIA.

*Bylaws Change, Article V., Section 2a.*

RATIONALE: Change required to provide Editor with flexibility to meet demands of workload.

CURRENT: **Section 2. Sectional, Book Review, and Index Editors**

**a.** The five divisional sections of COPEIA shall be General Herpetology; General Ichthyology; Ecology and Ethology; Physiology and Physiological Ecology; and Genetics, Development, and Morphology. Sectional Editors shall serve as Chief Operating Officers for their respective sections, shall select reviewers and solicit manuscript reviews, and shall make recommendations regarding acceptability for publication in COPEIA to the Editor.

PROPOSED: **Section 2. Sectional, Book Review, and Index Editors**

**a.** The divisional sections of COPEIA shall be General Herpetology; General Ichthyology; Ecology and Ethology; Physiology and Physiological Ecology; and Genetics, Development, and Morphology. Sectional Editors shall serve as Chief Operating Officers for their respective sections, shall select reviewers and solicit manuscript reviews, and shall make recommendations regarding acceptability for publication in COPEIA to the Editor.

*Bylaws Change, Article V., Section 2d.*

RATIONALE: Change required to provide Editor with flexibility to meet demands of workload.

CURRENT: **Section 2d.** Any editorial office, except that of Editor, may be held by two

persons if approved by election to office by members of the Society.

PROPOSED: **Section 2d.** Any editorial office, except that of Editor, may be held by multiple persons if approved by election to office by members of the Society.

*Bylaws Change, Article VI.*

RATIONALE: Clarify language concerning membership on the Editorial Board.

CURRENT: An Editorial Board representing the five divisional disciplines of COPEIA, shall be nominated annually by the Divisional Editors, up to six board members each, for service in that disciplinary area, and appointed by the President in consultation with the Editor.

PROPOSED: An Editorial Board representing the five divisional disciplines of COPEIA, shall be nominated annually by the Sectional Editors, for service in that disciplinary area, and appointed by the President in consultation with the Editor.

**IV. Changes associated with Endowment and Finance (Bylaws, Article XI, Section 2, Bylaws, Article XI, Section 3, Bylaws, Article XI, Section 7, Bylaws, Article XII, Section 2g):**

*Bylaws Change, Article XI, Section 2.*

RATIONALE: Change required to reflect practice.

CURRENT: **Section 2.** The Chair-Elect of the Endowment Committee shall be appointed by the President. The Chair-Elect shall succeed the Chair, each of whom will serve one year in their respective positions. The Chair may be reappointed as Chair-Elect. The Chair and the Chair-Elect will work closely together in planning and organizing the activities of the Endowment Committee.

PROPOSED: **Section 2.** The Chair-Elect of the Endowment Committee shall be appointed by the President. The Chair-Elect shall succeed the Chair, each of whom will serve two years in their respective positions. The Chair may be reappointed as Chair-Elect. The Chair and the Chair-Elect will work closely together in planning and organizing the activities of the Endowment and Finance Committee.

*Bylaws Change, Article XI, Section 3.*

RATIONALE: Change required to reflect practice.

CURRENT: **Section 3.** The Committee shall be in charge of fund-raising and investment of the endowment.

PROPOSED: **Section 3.** The Committee shall be in charge of fund-raising for the endowment.

*Bylaws Change, Article XI, Section 7.*

RATIONALE: Addition of Section 7 to codify practice.

PROPOSED: **Section 7.** The Committee shall be responsible for investment of the endowment and other Society funds. A recommendation for placement of funds with a professional money manager must be approved by the Board of Governors. The Committee shall advise the Board of Governors on managed funds and will monitor the activities of outside professional money managers.

*Bylaws Change, Article XII, Section 2g.*

RATIONALE: Deletion required to reflect practice.

CURRENT: **g.** The General Endowment Fund shall be an unrestricted fund to receive money from a variety of sources. Major and minor donations to the Society without any restrictions will be placed in the principal of this Fund.  
After the Fund grows large enough to be handled by a professional money manager, the Board of Governors will appoint an Investing Trustee(s) to handle the investments. The number of trustees will be determined by the Board of Governors, as well as their qualifications and responsibilities to the Society. The Endowment Committee will advise the Board of Governors on these matters and monitor the activities of the trustee(s). The General Endowment Fund initially will be invested in a cash or income instrument fund to be approved by a majority of the Executive Committee. After the Fund is invested in a broad range of securities, a percentage of the net asset value will be dispersed annually by the Board of Governors for specified activities of the Society based on recommendations of the Executive Committee.

PROPOSED: **g.** The General Endowment Fund shall be an unrestricted fund to receive money from a variety of sources. Major and minor donations to the Society without any restrictions will be placed in the principal of this Fund.

**V. Changes required to reflect current practice (Bylaws, Article IV, Section 3, Bylaws, Article VII, Section 2, Bylaws, Article XII, Section 2a, Bylaws, Article XII, Section 2b, Bylaws, Article XII, Section 2c, Bylaws, Article XII, Section 2d, Bylaws, Article XII, Section 2e):**

*Bylaws Change, Article IV, Section 3.*

RATIONALE: Add Section 3 to codify actual practice.

PROPOSED: **Section 3.** The Treasurer shall file form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, with the Internal Revenue Service annually.

*Bylaws Change, Article VII, Section 2.*

RATIONALE: Change required to reflect practice.

CURRENT: The Chair of the Local Committee will work with the chairs of the Meetings Management Committee and Meetings Planning Committee to make all local arrangements including the arrangements for printing the program.

PROPOSED: The Chair of the Local Committee will work with the chairs of the Meetings Management Committee and Meetings Planning Committee, as well as hired conference planners, to make all local arrangements including the arrangements for printing the program if necessary.

*Bylaws Change, Article XII, Section 2a.*

RATIONALE: Change required to reflect practice.

CURRENT: **a.** The Frederick H. Stoye Fund shall be invested and used to offer awards for meritorious papers presented by student members at the annual National Meeting. The awards will be known as the Frederick H. Stoye Awards. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Student Awards Committee. The Student Awards Committee shall be appointed by the President-elect for service prior to and in the subsequent Annual Meeting.

PROPOSED: **a.** The Frederick H. Stoye Fund shall be invested and used to offer awards for meritorious papers presented by student members at the Annual Meeting. The awards will be known as the Frederick H. Stoye Awards. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Student Awards Committee. The Student Awards Committee shall be appointed by the President-elect for service prior to the Annual Meeting.

*Bylaws Change, Article XII, Section 2b.*

RATIONALE: Change required to reflect practice.

CURRENT: **b.** The Tracy Storer Fund shall be invested and used to offer awards to students judged to have prepared the best posters in ichthyology and herpetology at the National Meeting. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Student Awards Committee. The Student Awards Committee shall be appointed by the President-elect for service prior to and in the subsequent Annual Meeting.

PROPOSED: **b.** The Tracy Storer Fund shall be invested and used to offer awards to students judged to have prepared the best posters in ichthyology and herpetology at the Annual Meeting. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Student Awards Committee. The Student Awards Committee shall be appointed by the President-elect for service prior to the Annual Meeting.

*Bylaws Change, Article XII, Section 2c.*

RATIONALE: Change required to reflect practice.

CURRENT: **c.** The Robert H. Gibbs, Jr. Memorial Fund shall be invested and used to award a yearly prize, as determined by a selected panel of judges, based on an outstanding published body of work in systematic ichthyology by a citizen of a Western Hemisphere nation who has not been a previous recipient of the award. . .

PROPOSED: **c.** The Robert H. Gibbs, Jr. Memorial Fund shall be invested and used to award a yearly prize based on an outstanding published body of work in systematic ichthyology by a citizen of a Western Hemisphere nation who has not been a previous recipient of the award. . .

*Bylaws Change, Article XII, Section 2d.*

RATIONALE: Change required to reflect practice.

CURRENT: **d.** The Edward C. and Charlotte E. Raney Fund shall be invested and used to provide support for young ichthyologists in such a way as to enhance their professional careers and their contributions to the science of ichthyology. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Edward C. and Charlotte E. Raney Fund Committee. The Edward C. and Charlotte E. Raney Fund Committee shall be appointed by the President for service prior to the subsequent Annual Meeting.

PROPOSED: **d.** The Edward C. and Charlotte E. Raney Fund shall be invested and used to provide support for young ichthyologists in such a way as to enhance their professional careers and their contributions to the science of ichthyology. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Edward C. and Charlotte E. Raney Fund Committee. A member of the Edward C. and Charlotte E. Raney Fund Committee shall be appointed by the President for a three-year term of service. The senior member of the Committee serves as its Chair.

*Bylaws Change, Article XII, Section 2e.*

RATIONALE: Change required to reflect practice.

CURRENT: **e.** The Helen T. and Frederick M. Gaige Fund shall be invested and used to provide support for young herpetologists in such a way as to enhance their professional careers and their contributions to the science of herpetology. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Helen T. and Frederick M. Gaige Fund Committee. The Helen T. and Frederick M. Gaige Fund Committee shall be appointed by the President for service prior to the subsequent Annual Meeting.

PROPOSED: e. The Helen T. and Frederick M. Gaige Fund shall be invested and used to provide support for young herpetologists in such a way as to enhance their professional careers and their contributions to the science of herpetology. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Helen T. and Frederick M. Gaige Fund Committee. A member of the Helen T. and Frederick M. Gaige Fund Committee shall be appointed by the President for President for a three year term of service. The senior member of the Committee serves as its Chair.

# Appendix B. Treasurer's Table 1.

Appendix B. Treasurer's Table 1. ASIH cash flow from 1 January to 31 December 2005, with a comparison to income and expenses in 2004.

	2005	2004
<b>Inflows</b>		
Donations		
General Endowment Fund	3,041	3,233
Student Travel Fund	4,534	4,969
Total: Donations	7,575	8,202
Royalties and other	1,112	1,802
Program Services		
Joint annual meeting income		
2004	37,507	
Memberships and subscriptions		
Life memberships	11,125	8,969
Annual memberships	167,665	134,028
Subscriptions	157,489	104,820
Late fees	721	579
Rental of mailing list	500	1,430
Total: Memberships and subscriptions	337,507	249,826
Publications		
Author billing, page charges	1,900	2,195
Back issues of Copeia	974	1,496
Postage	530	1,420
Special publication # 3	449	542
Special publication # 4	811	602
Special publication # 5	5,432	10,540
Total: Publications	10,095	16,794
BioOne revenue share for previous year	22,949	14,894
Refunds		
Joint meeting advances and costs	11,000	11,493
Interest	1,370	616
Dividends	13,497	9,765
Long term capital gain distributions	7,391	1,860
Short term capital gain distributions	1,379	288
Realized gains/losses	-31,257	6,596
<b>Total Inflows</b>	<b>\$418,996</b>	<b>\$322,236</b>
<b>Outflows</b>		
Program services		
Awards	-25,116	-22,244
Annual meeting		
Local, planning or management committee	-730	
Abstract submission via Allen Press	-5,900	-6,218
ASIH President reimbursement	-1,693	-1,959
Total: Annual meeting	-8,223	-8,127
Donations	0	-2,000
Publications		
AllenTrack	-7,775	-6,475
Editorial offices	-7,000	-64,000
Copeia printing, etc.	-98,332	-105,206
Special publications	0	-29
Total: Publications	-113,107	-175,710
Supporting services—management and general operation		
Allen Press business office	-44,242	-47,329
Annual meeting	0	-1,763
Secretary's office	-33,370	-33,370
Treasurer's office	-85	-96
Committee expenses/EXEC projects	-1,259	-969
Web page	-3,255	
Dues and subscriptions	-3,125	-5,418
Annual audit and IRS Form 990 preparation	-6,450	-6,126
Investment fees	-7,056	-7,606
Misc., including bank charges	-2,817	-2,347
Total: Supporting services	-102,539	-105,023
<b>Total Outflows</b>	<b>-\$248,986</b>	<b>-\$313,105</b>
<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>\$171,010</b>	<b>\$9,131</b>

## Appendix C. Treasurer's Table 2.

Appendix C. Treasurer's Table 2: ASIH membership and subscription numbers by category as of 1 May 2006.

Type	Description	2001	2002	2003	2004*	2005	2006
<b>Memberships</b>							
ASCFAM	Second Member in Family	69	70	69	64	64	38
FHM	Foreign Honorary Member	26	27	27	26	26	26
LIF	Life Member Old Program	175	180	182	136	135	135
LIFN*	Life Member New Program				45	54	57
LIF1	Life Member First Payment	4	4	1	3	4	1
LIF2	Life Member Second Payment	2	3	5	1	3	4
LIF3	Life Member Third Payment	3	2	2	5	1	3
LIF4	Life Member Fourth Payment	1	1	2	2	3	2
LIFX	Life member (old program) Copeia donated				1	1	1
MEM	Individual Member	1792	1832	1757	1674	1537	1264
MEM0	Regular member, no journal					89	93
STU	Student Member	654	678	685	595	610	532
SUSW	Sustaining Member	39	26	28	38	28	27
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2765</b>	<b>2823</b>	<b>2758</b>	<b>2590</b>	<b>2555</b>	<b>2183</b>
<b>Subscriptions</b>							
COM	Complimentary Subscription	5	6	8	9	9	9
FINST	Institutional Subscription Non-North Am	190	186	163	161	159	113
INST	Institutional Subscription US/CAN/MEX	825	823	786	716	667	609
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1020</b>	<b>1015</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>835</b>	<b>731</b>
	<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>3785</b>	<b>3838</b>	<b>3715</b>	<b>3476</b>	<b>3390</b>	<b>2914</b>
	BioOne revenue share (check received in following year)	\$3,850	\$10,753	\$14,994	\$22,949	\$20,941	
	JSTOR revenue share (check received in following year)					\$3,688	

\*LIFN includes all fully paid new program life memberships since 1993, which previously were included in LIF category.

## Appendix D. Treasurer's Table 3.

Appendix C. ASIH cash, cash equivalents, and investments on 31 December 2005. Includes outstanding checks. Does not include 2005 dividends credited in 2006. (From 31 Dec. 2005 Smith Barney Citicorp and Douglas Co. Bank statements.)

Fund	Cash & Cash Equivalents		Investments	Total
	Douglas Co. Bank	Smith Barney Citicorp	Smith Barney Citicorp	
General Operating	\$183,295	\$19,209	\$150,400	\$352,904
Annual Meeting	0	42,793	0	42,793
Student Travel	497	10,469	0	10,966
Gibbs	0	6,387	110,631	117,018
General Endowment	984	33,782	82,754	117,520
Stoye	0	13,768	53,648	67,416
Life Membership	13,822	20,408	48,590	82,820
Raney	0	2,587	58,722	61,309
Gaige	0	313	47,910	48,223
Storer	0	5,039	18,111	23,150
Fitch	0	5,854	15,657	21,511
	<u>\$198,597</u>	<u>\$160,609</u>	<u>\$586,424</u>	<u>\$945,630</u>

## Appendix E. Treasurers Table 4.

Appendix D. Portfolio detail of the ASIH Smith Barney TRAK Account on 31 December 2005. Includes 2005 income reinvested in 2006.  
(From TRAK Quarterly Review for the period ending 31 Dec. 2005.)

	Initial Purchase Date	Shares	Cost	Unrealized gain/(loss)	Value 31-Dec-05	% of Total
<i>Equity Investments</i>						
American Funds: Inv. Co. of America	20-Apr-2005	2013.335	\$59,209	\$3,849	\$63,058	11.2%
Hotchkiss & Wiley Lg. Cap. Value Fund A	20-Apr-2005	2701.565	\$58,516	\$4,538	\$63,055	11.2%
American Funds: Growth Fund of America	20-Apr-2005	2218.425	\$57,513	\$10,593	\$68,106	12.1%
The Jensen Portfolio	20-Apr-2005	2420.631	\$56,840	\$819	\$57,659	10.1%
Royce Premier Fund	4-Jan-2001	759.222	\$7,903	\$4,898	\$12,800	2.3%
RS Smaller Co. Growth Fund	7-Dec-2004	426.095	\$9,528	(\$533)	\$8,995	1.6%
Salomon Bros. Small Cap. Growth Fund	7-Dec-2004	591.139	\$8,888	(\$3)	\$8,885	1.6%
Scudder International Fund	4-Jan-2001	2502.296	\$105,402	\$20,738	\$126,141	22.3%
Dreyfus Premier Emerging Markets	4-Jan-2001	1574.569	\$20,478	\$13,564	\$34,042	6.0%
<i>Fixed Income Investments</i>						
Columbia Intermediate Bond Fund	4-Jan-2001	4815.277	\$43,327	(\$520)	\$42,808	7.6%
Janus High Yield Fund	4-Jan-2001	2863.071	\$27,507	(\$222)	\$27,285	4.8%
American Century Int'l Bond Fund	20-Oct-2003	3775.147	\$52,624	(\$3,434)	\$49,190	8.7%
SB Money Funds-- Cash	20-Feb-2004	2681.550	\$2,682	\$0	\$2,682	0.5%
			\$510,416	\$54,289	\$564,705	100%

## Appendix F. Conservation Report Addendum #1

### Joint Scientific Societies' Statement on the Endangered Species Act

American Fisheries Society \_ Ecological Society of America \_ Entomological Society of America \_  
Society for Conservation Biology-North America \_ Society for Range Management \_ The Wildlife  
Society

### Scientific Societies' Statement on the Endangered Species Act

February 1, 2006

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 is the subject of ongoing Congressional scrutiny that may result in the amendment of the law. Many of the proposed changes involve scientific issues and how science, research, and scientists advance the conservation of endangered plants and animals. Our societies are committed to the goals of the ESA and assert that the best available science must be used in its implementation. The ESA is a vital and fundamentally sound tool in this Nation's effort to maintain biological diversity. The law's effectiveness in protecting and recovering species has been hamstrung by insufficient funding, little of which has been used to implement on-the-ground recovery actions. Many of our societies have issued position statements or reports on the ESA in the past, most recently, "*Practical solutions to improve the effectiveness of the Endangered Species Act for wildlife conservation*" by The Wildlife Society.

We provide the following comments on the Endangered Species Act, focusing on those areas where we believe our expertise as scientists and experience in helping implement the ESA is most relevant. Our professional scientific societies represent thousands of scientists and natural resource managers in the United States. These recommendations were developed by scientists representing each of our societies and have been approved by the governing board of each society. We believe that the recommendations contained herein, if adopted, would improve the protection and recovery of endangered wildlife in the U.S. while reducing conflict over the law.

Sincerely, Stephen Trombulak, President North American Section Society for Conservation Biology	Katherine McCarter, Executive Director Ecological Society of America
Michael Hutchins, Executive Director The Wildlife Society	Angela S. Williams, President Society for Range Management
Gus Rassam, Executive Director American Fisheries Society	Frank E. Gilstrap, President Entomological Society of America

Consistent with Congress' determinations on passing the ESA in 1973, we agree that decisions made under the ESA must be made on the basis of the best scientific data available. This standard sometimes requires actions to be taken to address the threat of animal and plant extinctions even if it is not possible to precisely demonstrate either the magnitude of those threats or cause-effect relationships. Constant vigilance is required to ensure that decisions under the law are based on sound scientific analysis.

Proposed amendments by the House of Representatives would 1) create a process for defining "best available scientific data," and limit data to those that are empirical, have been peer-reviewed by reviewers recommended by the National Academy of Sciences, or are consistent with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance under the Data Quality Act; and 2) require analysis of economic and national security impacts to be conducted for every listing decision. We do not believe that using a regulatory process to prescribe what and how science should be used will improve the speed, success, or cost-effectiveness of conservation and recovery efforts for wildlife, nor is it appropriate to codify OMB guidelines in the way proposed. These guidelines have attracted widespread criticism from other scientific societies.<sup>1</sup> While guidelines can help to ensure that certain standards are met and maintained, an overly rigid process will result in inefficient use of time and resources. We believe the proposed amendments approved by the House would mandate such an overly rigid process.

**Modeling Studies:** The House amendments draw a distinction between "empirical" data and other types of information, such as that derived from modeling. There is no scientific justification for giving greater weight to empirical data over modeling results. The emphasis on empirical data runs counter to recommendations of the National Research Council report, *Science and the Endangered Species Act*, which calls for greater use of modeling analyses. It also runs counter to the Ecological Society of America's paper<sup>2</sup> that recommended increased use of models because of the wealth of information that only they can provide. For managing endangered species, predicting the future behavior of a population or system under different management programs is of paramount interest, and no credible prediction is possible without a formal or informal model.

Population viability analysis is a key modeling approach used to identify important population parameters, such as minimum effective population size, extinction risk, and how species' survival can be maximized under different conditions. Risk assessment is at the core of the ESA. The Environmental Protection Agency must use models to assess the risk of air pollution to human health. The Federal Reserve requires models to predict the response of the economy to monetary policy. Likewise, ecological scientists need models to predict the risk of extinction or the likelihood of recovery.

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<sup>1</sup> American Association of Medical Colleges comments on "Proposed Guidelines for Ensuring and Maximizing the Quality, Objectivity, Utility, and Integrity of Information Disseminated by Federal Agencies."

<http://www.aamc.org/advocacy/library/research/corres/2001/081301.htm>

<sup>2</sup> Carroll, R., et al. 1996. Strengthening the Use of Science in Achieving the Goals of the Endangered Species Act: An Assessment by the Ecological Society of America. *Ecological Applications* 6: 1-11.

<http://www.esa.org/pao/esaPositions/Papers/StrentheningUSAGESA.php>

Models have played important roles in restoring endangered species. For example, the proposed decision to de-list the Yellowstone grizzly bear is based in part upon population viability models. Models have played key roles in managing sea turtles and in developing restoration plans for the Everglades ecosystem that maximize benefits to endangered and non-endangered species. Denying agency scientists the ability to use one of science's most effective tools will weaken, not strengthen, the use of science in the ESA.

**Peer Review:** Peer review is an integral component of science, scientific research, and publishing. We strongly support the process of scientific peer review. As scientists, however, we also use information in unpublished graduate theses, reports of state and federal agencies, and documents prepared by consultants. Many such documents provide important scientific information and data, some of which is unavailable from other sources. Much of this information will be published in peer-reviewed literature, but that process can take years, which would unnecessarily delay recovery planning. Scientists exercise diligence in weeding out inaccurate statements and conclusions from such documents and apply similar diligence to peer-reviewed publications. Agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have procedures in place to undertake peer review of studies that have not previously been peer-reviewed. We believe that proposed limitations on the use of non-peer-reviewed technical reports and other studies will weaken, not strengthen, the science employed in endangered species decisions by limiting the data available to scientists and decision-makers.

**Recommendations:** We do not recommend that Congress mandate any sweeping new prescriptions on the use of scientific data under the ESA such as those contained in recent legislative proposals. However, establishing additional procedures for particularly important or controversial decisions may provide benefits for listed species and reduce impacts on affected parties. Specifically, Congress should consider establishing an independent standing "science advisory committee," that would provide an additional level of review of certain decisions and advice to the Secretaries of Interior and Commerce in circumstances where significant scientific uncertainty impedes decision-making. Such a committee would also provide an outlet for additional peer review, but should only be used in instances where new methodologies are being implemented or where the science is particularly complex or controversial.

Uncertainty and conflict over ESA decisions are rarely caused by knowledge being applied incorrectly. Rather, they are driven by the simple fact that little is known about many rare plants and animals (beyond the fact that they are rare). Congress could dramatically reduce these problems simply by creating dedicated funding for population surveys, genetic analyses, population viability analyses, and research on rare or declining plants and animals. Allocation of any such funding should be prioritized to species for which the least information is available and for which conflicts are most likely.

## *More Prompt Protection for Rare and Declining Species*

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A 1993 study found that by the time most plants and animals are listed, their population sizes and number of populations have reached critically low levels.<sup>3</sup> For example, fewer than about 1,000 individuals were known to be alive for half of vertebrate species when they were first protected, and for plants, half of species had fewer than 120 individuals remaining. The rarer a species is allowed to become before it is protected, the longer, more difficult, and more expensive the road to recovery is likely to be. This fact alone may account for much of the slowness in recovering species. More prompt listing of rare and declining species would provide regulators with more options as they develop conservation and recovery plans, and it would increase the likelihood and speed of recovery. There is no valid reason why individual listing decisions should consume the current level of time or agency resources.

Studies have also shown that hundreds of very rare and localized species have not been listed under the Endangered Species Act.<sup>4</sup> This strikes us as a far more serious problem in terms of U.S. environmental policy than the handful of species that may have been listed in error over the 32-year life of the ESA. The longer the delay in protecting species, the longer it is likely to take to recover them and the more those recovery efforts are likely to cost.

**Recommendations:** Recognizing Congress' intent to ensure that plants and animals not disappear from America and that listing occurs in time to speed subsequent recovery, we believe that the following changes would improve the Endangered Species Act:

1. Scientists have developed robust criteria to identify when wildlife is critically imperiled, imperiled, or vulnerable, and these criteria are used by wildlife agencies throughout the United States and the world. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service should be required to produce regulations that define how they will use these or similar criteria to prioritize and trigger status reviews, particularly those for any species that are identified as “critically imperiled” or “imperiled” under such criteria.
2. On an annual basis, require federal agencies to solicit from Governors and state wildlife agencies, lists of species for which states believe status reviews should be conducted.

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<sup>3</sup> Wilcove, D.S., M. McMillan, and K.C. Winston. 1993. What exactly is an endangered species? An analysis of the U.S. endangered species list: 1985-1991. *Conservation Biology* 7: 87-93.

<sup>4</sup> Master, L.L., B.A. Stein, L.S. Kutner, and G.A. Hammerson. 2000. Vanishing assets: conservation status of U.S. species. In Stein, B.A., L.S. Kutner, and J.S. Adams, eds. *Precious Heritage: The Status of Biodiversity in the United States*. Oxford University Press, NY.

## *Eliminating Rare Mistakes in Listing Non-endangered Plants and Animals*

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We agree with the conclusions of the Government Accountability Office<sup>5</sup> that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service uses sound science in listing decisions. While listing decisions are based on the best available information, the information on the status of species is sometimes limited, and in a very small number of cases, this has resulted in listing decisions that later prove to be unwarranted. For example, the GAO noted that 10 of the more than 1,300 U.S. listed species have been de-listed after new information indicated the original listing was not warranted. In analyzing delisting notices we conclude that these listings were in error because subsequent surveys discovered more individuals, or modern genetic methods resulted in reinterpretation of taxonomy and the taxonomic basis for listing. We agree that mistakes in the use or interpretation of limited scientific data, although extremely infrequent, can cause losses to landowners and waste resources.<sup>6</sup>

The proposed House changes to the Endangered Species Act create new steps in regulatory processes and data requirements that would affect the listing process. Changes to the ESA intended to reduce the already low rate of mistaken listings may be warranted so long as they do not also significantly slow the speed with which species deserving protection are listed, or eliminate from consideration species that deserve protection. However, we find no evidence to suggest that amendments proposed by the House will eliminate listing errors. Further, such amendments will slow or prevent the listing of species that legitimately deserve protection because information on their status comes from scientific studies that could not be used by the Services under proposed new requirements.

**Recommendation:** Congress could further reduce the few errors made in listing decisions by creating dedicated funding for population surveys, population viability analyses, and genetic and other research on rare or declining plants and animals. Allocation of any such funding should be prioritized to species for which the least information is available, for which conflicts are most likely, and that are under consideration for protection. Such a program would likely eliminate unwarranted listings without impeding the listing of species for which sufficient information is available.

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<sup>5</sup> For a summary and link to the full GAO report <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d03803high.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> A far more frequent occurrence is the discovery of additional populations of a rare species after listing, as a result of the attention listing brings to that species. However, the number of new populations is almost always too few to warrant a reversal of the listing decision. We view these sorts of discoveries as a strength of the ESA, not evidence of any problem.

A.

*B. Improve the Quality and Implementation of Recovery Plans*

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C.

**D. Recovery efforts and funding are inadequate for nearly all listed animals and plants. For example, the median expenditure for a listed species in 2002 by all federal and state agencies was only \$14,100. If recovery actions are not funded or carried out, it is no surprise that recovery is occurring more slowly than anticipated. Nevertheless, many species have made significant progress, and protection under the ESA has prevented many from going extinct. We focus our recommendations on two areas where the ESA establishes the most tangible connection between science and recovery: development of recovery plans and operation of the recovery team.**

The ESA requires the Services to develop recovery plans. These plans are meant to guide subsequent conservation and restoration efforts. Scientists, including hundreds who are members of our societies, have volunteered their time to help develop the recovery plans that now exist for more than 80 percent of listed species. These recovery plans summarize the relevant species ecology, describe population status, and set quantitative goals that if achieved, indicate the risk of extinction is low enough to allow the species to be down-listed to threatened status or to be declared ‘recovered.’ Decisions regarding habitat protection and other specific management activities are best made during or after development of a science-based recovery plan rather than as separate activities.

Our societies agree that the goals that define the unique meaning of ‘recovery’ for each species are the most important part of recovery plans. Recovery plans also should include an implementation strategy that specifies actions that, if taken, will lead to recovery. These actions provide sufficient guidance over short time periods; yet, over longer time periods, success depends on unpredictable opportunities and continually changing information and conditions that affect the species. As such, few written recovery strategies will ever be able to provide a detailed and accurate site-specific blueprint for how long-term recovery can be achieved. The ESA should make it easier to adapt recovery plans to new knowledge about endangered species and their conservation needs.

Proposed House amendments create a new requirement for recovery plans to be published within two years of species being listed. We support this requirement because substantial scientific information is available for many species by the time they are listed. However, such deadlines cannot be met if funding is inadequate. We also support requirements for recovery plans to include “intermediate measures” because shorter-term goals offer a realistic, quantitative way to evaluate recovery progress and to identify whether recovery strategies need to be modified based on new information. We conclude that other amendments proposed by the House will produce no significant improvement in the implementation of recovery efforts, because the amendments largely create more time-consuming “process” requirements without improving the scientific quality of recovery plans, the likelihood they will be funded adequately, or the speed with which they are implemented. We do not support the proposed requirement for other federal agencies to make formal plans that prescribe their involvement in recovery efforts. Agencies currently undertake recovery actions on an informal basis with less delay and bureaucracy than is likely to occur if such changes are made.

**Recommendations:** We support the following changes to make recovery plans easier to develop and revise and more likely to be implemented and to improve the function of recovery teams.

- 1) Recovery plans should be ‘living’ documents, not static tomes that are out of date by the time they are finalized. Congress should consider amendments that would make it easier for the Services to amend the implementation strategy for recovery, while maintaining overall recovery goals.
- 2) Recovery plan objectives and interim and final targets should be updated every five years. As part of this process, the Services should also be required to include reports on how much progress has been made in the preceding years in achieving past objectives and targets. Scientists and the public alike lack a clear picture of how much progress has been made in recovering listed species in part because the Services report on status trends every two years and because in those biennial status reports, the Services use a poorly articulated, qualitative approach that describes species as improving, declining, stable, or unknown. We recommend that the Services be required to work with the scientific community to identify whether there are more objective, measurable ways to categorize species that provide a clearer picture of short and long-term recovery progress.
- 3) We agree that parties experiencing economic and social impacts from recovery activities should be included in parts of recovery plan development because their participation will often be essential to recovery. However, we do not support Senate proposed changes that would create a two-tiered recovery team structure with the work of scientists separate from and subsidiary to the decision-making of an “executive committee” composed of agencies and affected parties. Rather, technical efforts to define the biological objectives of the recovery plan for the species, to define quantitative interim and final recovery targets, and to assess whether an implementation strategy is likely to achieve biological goals should be developed solely by scientists and agency experts with a broader set of participants contributing the development of an implementation strategy to achieve those goals.

## *Species Conservation and Recovery Depends on Protection of Habitat*

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Habitat loss is the primary threat to species, contributing to the decline of 80 percent of rare and endangered species worldwide. Habitat conservation on both public and private lands is essential for recovery of many listed species, and for preventing endangerment of other species. Any protection afforded a threatened or endangered species must reflect first the successful identification by biologists of essential habitats that provide the requirements a species needs to survive and recover. Such essential habitats will generally include those areas that are currently capable of supporting stable or growing populations of the species in question or that could be made capable of doing so with proper management.

Proposed House amendments would eliminate ‘critical habitat’ and related regulatory protection of habitat, replacing it with ‘recovery areas’ that are identified in recovery plans and have no regulatory status. Recovery of most listed species depends on both occupied habitat and suitable unoccupied habitat that species can expand into as populations recover, because species are usually listed when their population sizes are very small. If destruction or significant modification of unoccupied habitat is allowed, there is little hope that recovery can be achieved. Proposed House amendments would eliminate all ESA protections for such unoccupied habitat.

**Recommendation:** In considering changes to the critical habitat sections of the ESA, we urge Congress to think most carefully about how to protect unoccupied habitat or to restore habitat that is essential for recovery of many endangered plants and animals and for which Section 9 ‘take’ prohibitions provide no protection. Congress could improve the recovery prospects for many species if there was a mechanism for the protection of such unoccupied habitat and reestablishment of endangered species within unoccupied habitat.

## **Appendix G. Conservation Committee Letters**

### **Green Sturgeon letter**

To whom it may concern: [comment to eRegulations website for NOAA Fisheries, 5 July, 2005.]

The American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH) is the oldest professional society in the United States concerned with the biology and conservation of fishes, amphibians, and reptiles. We speak for a membership of about 3,000 practicing scientists and academic professionals. The Society is greatly concerned about the increasing phenomenon of accelerated decline and extirpation of populations of endemic and narrowly distributed species. Such species are highly vulnerable to extinction through small scale habitat loss, and are disproportionately jeopardized by biological perturbations. As such, I am writing to express our support for the April 4, 2005 proposal to list the southern Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of the Green Sturgeon, *Acipenser medirostris*, as Threatened and to offer the expertise of our membership for subsequent consultations on the status of the northern DPS of this fish.

Green sturgeon are a long-lived species that achieves reproductive maturity after approximately 17 years and engages in intermittent spawning. Juveniles rear in natal streams and estuaries for a period of 1-2 years. This life history makes green sturgeon particularly vulnerable to overharvest, adverse effects of human activity on water quality, particularly elevated water temperatures, point source pollution from municipal and industrial discharges, and non-point source pollution from agriculture (chemicals and sediment) and timber harvest (sediment). These impacts can directly affect survival of eggs, larvae, and juveniles and indirectly contribute to reproductive failures by habitat losses. Additionally, barriers to fish passage, particularly at hydropower projects with inadequate bypass structures and poorly designed road crossings adversely affect green sturgeon migration to suitable spawning habitats.

We acknowledge that there may not be sufficient data to support a designation of the conservation status of the northern DPS of *A. medirostris*. As such, we urge NOAA Fisheries to use any available emergency or carry-over funds to initiate a study to determine the population status and habitat requirements of the northern populations. Our concern for the urgency of this need stems from the uncertainties about its status, habitat needs, and use of riverine habitats cited in the report from NOAA's biological review team. The report states that the northern DPS uses river habitat in the Klamath-Trinity River basin quite extensively. Given the continuing controversies over water use and water allocations in the Klamath-Trinity basin and the vulnerability of those populations to the drought occurring in the Pacific Northwest, the status of that particular population must be a priority.

Furthermore, the vulnerability of that and other populations in Southern Oregon and Northern California to catastrophic events such as the railroad derailment and subsequent fish kill in the Shasta/Sacramento River that led to the listing of the southern DPS, and to hydrologic modifications of other rivers in the region raise concerns about the future stability of the northern DPS.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns. If the Society can be of any assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Lynne Parenti, Ph.D.  
President, American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists

## **Asian Carp Letter.**

13 December 2005

Congressman Mark Green  
1314 Longworth Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Michael DeWine (OH)  
140 Russell Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senators Evan Bayh (IN), Mark Dayton (MN), Richard Durbin (IL), Russell Feingold (WI), Carl Levin (MI), Barack Obama (IL), Debbie Ann Stabenow (MI), and George Voinovich (OH); Representatives Judy Biggert (IL), and Bart Stupak (MI).

I am writing on behalf of the members of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, a professional society of 3000 scientists concerned with the study and conservation of fishes, amphibians and reptiles, to join the American Fisheries Society (AFS) and the American Malacological Society to support the designation of Black Carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*) as “injurious wildlife” under the Lacey Act and enthusiastically endorse S. 1402 and H.R. 3049, the ‘Asian Carp Prevention and Control Act’.

The Laurentian Great Lakes and its tributaries are a global treasure, containing one-fifth of the world’s fresh waters and natural populations of more than 150 species of fish. These fish populations, including commercially and recreationally important species, have been severely impacted by alien species such as common carp, sea lamprey, alewife, and round goby over the past 125 years. Because a healthy Great Lakes ecosystem requires protection from further disruption by introduced species, we support legislation banning the importation and shipment of the following species of Asian carp: Grass Carp, *Ctenopharyngodon idella*; Black Carp, *Mylopharyngodon piceus*; Silver Carp, *Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*; and Big-head Carp *Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*. Populations of these carp have escaped fish farms and made their way north along the Mississippi River and its tributaries.

We concur with the assessment of the AFS that the Black Carp is injurious to aquatic biota for the following reasons:

- 1) There is a high risk of Black Carp becoming established in waters of the United States. Adult black carp have been captured in the wild a number of times since 2003. Thus, there is increasing evidence that the species may already be established in Louisiana's waters and the Mississippi River Basin. No controls are known to be effective and feasible, so prevention is essential.
- 2) Viable alternatives to Black Carp, including native species such as Redear Sunfish (*Lepomis microlophus*) and chemicals, have been approved for snail control in aquaculture ponds.
- 3) Escape of Black Carp presents a significant risk to protected wildlife, especially mollusk taxa, 91 of which are listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The United States is home to about 15% of North American snail species and 30% of the world's freshwater mussel diversity - groups that are among the most imperiled of the country's native species. The special adaptations of black carp for molluscivory (powerful pharyngeal jaws and teeth modified for crushing) and great size (1 meter in length), make these fish far more dangerous to our native freshwater mollusk fauna than any predator heretofore introduced.
- 4) Black Carp distribution cannot be controlled based on geopolitical boundaries and threatens the resources of states currently prohibiting this fish. In addition, following establishment of non-indigenous species, their dispersal in the United States quickly represents a threat to neighboring waters in Canada and Mexico.
- 5) The ASIH has previously adopted a resolution supporting the AFS Introduced Fish Section calling for the elimination of all existing aquaculture populations of Black Carp in North America. The Society reaffirmed its support for this action in 2002. Our previous comment on this subject is a matter of record.
- 6) Triploid (sterile) Black Carp do not represent a viable alternative because methods of inducing and detecting triploidy are not now 100% effective. Also, some triploid Black Carp may be able to reproduce and hybridize with other carp. Even sterile Black Carp pose a risk to rare native species because they are large, long-lived predators which consume large amounts of a highly specialized diet. The potential for escape of diploid broodstock or triploid Black Carp would negatively impact endangered mollusk populations and other biota whether they can reproduce or not.
- 7) All Asian carp species that have been in widespread use in North American fish ponds have escaped, became established in natural waters and have increased in abundance over a large geographic area.

Because of the clear danger posed by Black Carp to the biological integrity of our native waters, the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists strongly supports the proposed rule to list Black Carp as "injurious" under the Lacey Act and opposes any further importation of this fish to the waters of the United States.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lynne R. Parenti, President  
American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists

## **Appendix H.. Conservation Symposium abstract.**

### **Conservation Symposium - 2007. Biodiversity and Agricultural Sustainability in the Breadbasket of North America, the Mississippi River basin**

Theme: Freshwater ecosystems are fragile environments rich in biodiversity. Aquatic systems are threatened by impacts related to a variety of land-water interactions. Degradation of lands adjacent to freshwater ecosystems can adversely impact aquatic habitats and associated biological communities through many mechanisms. For example, land use activities that eliminate vegetative cover, decrease infiltration rates or reduce the moisture holding capacity of soil can adversely impact surface water quality. Habitat destruction and degradation in rivers and streams also occurs when poorly managed agricultural lands result in increased sediment and contaminant transport. Understanding the mechanisms driving losses in aquatic biodiversity is important to the conservation and restoration of freshwater environments worldwide. We will convene a symposium that addresses the effects of agricultural production on freshwater ecosystems and their resident biodiversity, and management practices and alternatives that preserve it. We take the opportunity of the 2007 JMIH in St. Louis to present this symposium in the heartland of North American agriculture, where it may attract the attention not only of society members but also of public and private officials with a stake in the issues discussed.

## **Appendix I. Conservation Report Addendum - Position Paper Proposal.**

Proposed position paper for the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. Prepared by Henry R. Mushinsky and Alan H. Savitzky with contributions from Edmund Brodie, Jr., William Brown, Jonathan Campbell, Kevin Enge, Lee Fitzgerald, Harry Greene, Patrick Gregory, John Jensen, Paul Moler, Charlie Painter, Andy Price, and Walter Timmerman.

### **Position of The American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists Concerning Rattlesnake Conservation and Roundups**

The American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, an international society of 3000 professional scientists who specialize in the biology and conservation of fishes, amphibians, and reptiles, strongly opposes traditional rattlesnake roundups. Such roundups promote over-exploitation of natural populations of wildlife, unnecessary killing and inhumane treatment of individual animals, degradation of habitat, and promotion of outdated attitudes toward important elements of America's natural heritage. Found nowhere but in the Americas, and especially diverse in the United States, the more than thirty species of rattlesnakes comprise a distinctive component of North America's biodiversity, and one that is increasingly imperiled.

#### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.** Rattlesnakes are highly specialized predators that use venom to immobilize and speed digestion of their prey. As top carnivores, they help control rodent populations. Although feared by humans, they are responsible for very few deaths in the United States compared with other accidental sources of mortality. For rattlesnakes to persist, each species must overcome unregulated hunting, harvesting for roundups, and significant loss of habitat to agriculture and urbanization. Roundups began around 1940 and today attract thousands of spectators who observe rattlesnakes being treated inhumanely, in a manner unlike any other vertebrate animal. About 15% of the 125,000 rattlesnakes harvested yearly are intentionally killed at roundups. Many other species ecologically associated with rattlesnakes are harmed because gasoline is used often to force snakes from dens. Enlightened communities have opted to preserve the revenue generated from roundups by successfully transforming roundups into alternative festivals. Our forefathers viewed the rattlesnake as a symbol of strength and independence, a perception that deserves to be encouraged once again. The American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists supports an end to traditional rattlesnake roundups.

**BIOLOGICAL ATTRIBUTES OF RATTLESNAKES.** Herpetologists consider rattlesnakes to be among the most highly specialized snakes. Members of a lineage known as pitvipers, rattlesnakes possess the group's characteristic pair of pit organs on

either side of the face, between the eyes and nostrils. These remarkable structures are highly sensitive infrared detectors, which enable rattlesnakes to sense their warm-bodied prey, even at night. Rattlesnakes have a pair of hollow fangs in the upper jaw that are folded back when not in use, but rotate into an erect position to deliver venom during a strike. Although used occasionally in defense, the primary biological role of the venom is to immobilize prey and facilitate digestion. Most rattlesnakes prey on rodents and occasionally other small mammals such as rabbits and ground squirrels; some smaller species feed primarily on lizards or frogs. Ecologically, adult rattlesnakes are top carnivores.

Although the threat of snakebite continues to elicit fear in humans, bites by venomous snakes today represent a minimal hazard to human health. According to the Centers for Disease Control, about 15 persons die from the bite of a venomous snake each year in the United States, while, on average, 12 die from dog bites and 82 die from lightning strike.

All living rattlesnakes belong to the genera *Crotalus* and *Sistrurus*, fossils of which date back about five million years. The greatest diversity of living species occurs in the southwestern United States and northern Mexico, but four species range as far north as New England and Canada. Although traditionally viewed as behaviorally simple animals, recent research has disclosed that rattlesnakes have a sense of self-identity, exhibit parental care of their young, recognize spatial arrangement of objects in the environment, and at times live in social groups.

**THREATS TO RATTLESNAKES.** To persist, each species of rattlesnake must overcome unregulated hunting, harvesting for roundups, and significant loss of habitat in response to agriculture and urbanization. Their life history traits are shaped by evolutionary history and current conditions, and each species responds differently to the destructive pressures exerted by human activities. Geographic location and body size are two factors that can influence how rattlesnakes are affected by human activities. Relatively small species that live in mountainous regions of the southwestern United States and Mexico have limited distributions, and narrow habitat requirements, making them particularly vulnerable to habitat alteration and human disturbances. Relatively large species, especially those in the northern states, may take as long as ten years to become sexually mature and then reproduce only once every third year. Furthermore, many rattlesnakes require large expanses of habitat to complete their annual movements, sometimes traveling many kilometers in a year. With increasing urbanization and habitat fragmentation, humans are reducing the habitat available for rattlesnakes and increasing the likelihood of encounters with them. The pattern of creating small, isolated populations of rattlesnakes that are in close contact with people may be tipping the balance against the long-term persistence of some species. As long ago as 1992, biologists concluded that 50% of all pitvipers might be threatened with extinction. Nonetheless, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lists only three species of rattlesnakes as federally threatened or endangered. Several states have regulations to protect particular species or isolated populations of rattlesnakes. As agencies develop plans for the conservation of rattlesnakes, they will need to tailor them to the specific challenges confronting each species.

Five rattlesnake species are hunted in eight states. The Western Diamondback Rattlesnake (*Crotalus atrox*) is hunted in Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico; Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake (*C. adamanteus*) in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia; Prairie Rattlesnake (*C. viridis*) in Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico; Timber Rattlesnake, (*C. horridus*) in Pennsylvania, Georgia, Alabama, West Virginia, and Florida; and occasionally the Black-tailed Rattlesnake (*C. molossus*) in New Mexico and Texas.

In earlier times the perceived hazard of snakebite inspired organized efforts to control rattlesnake populations and government bounties for killing rattlesnakes date back to 1719. In the northeastern states, hunters gathered at large, communal dens to kill snakes as they congregated for hibernation. Similar hunts, both in spring and fall, occurred in other regions of the United States. Records from a single county in central Florida indicate that between 1935 and 1938 about 7500 rattlesnakes and 2000 coral snakes (an unrelated venomous snake) were collected for bounty. Bounties also were placed on rattlesnakes in Iowa, New York, Minnesota, and Wisconsin during the mid-1900s. Some states, such as South Dakota, hired professional hunters to destroy rattlesnakes. Over time this practice of killing rattlesnakes spread to southwestern states.

RATTLESNAKE ROUNDUPS. Organized “rattlesnake catching drives,” the precursors of modern roundups, date to 1939 and 1949 in two communities in Oklahoma, where they evolved into publicity events for local chambers of commerce. These drives were conducted in the spring of the year, to coincide with the emergence of rattlesnakes from their dens. Early events involved several thousand spectators, who watched as the hunters sold their catches by the pound to the organizing groups. The funds were provided by local ranch owners, who contributed a few cents per acre as a reward for clearing their land of rattlesnakes, which they considered to be dangerous to cattle. An estimated 1500-3000 snakes per year were captured and destroyed in each drive, despite evidence from a 1950’s statewide survey of Texas veterinarians, indicating that loss of cattle to snakebite was negligible. Special awards were given to individuals who captured the largest snake or were bitten during the drive.

In 1958, an Oklahoma event billed as the “world’s largest” was promoted by the local Board of Development; it was later turned over to the Jaycees. After the first hunt, uncounted thousands of captured rattlesnakes were decapitated and deposited in the city dump. The event has since become a focal point for the community, involving presentation of trophies and monetary prizes to the rattlesnake hunters and attracting tens of thousands of spectators who attend rattlesnake dances, craft shows, and cooking contests. By the late 1980s roundups were producing profits used to fund charitable projects, suggesting that roundup organizers had good intentions for their efforts. Today, some roundups are organized by private individuals for profit.

The biological ramifications of decades of rattlesnake roundups are difficult to assess, but they have great potential to affect snake populations negatively, and it is difficult to predict when rattlesnake harvests will push local populations beyond the point of recovery. Analysis has proven challenging because of inconsistencies and variation in recording the numbers of hunters, area hunted, and numbers of species included in the

total catch. For example, hunters may broaden the areas in which they hunt and bring rattlesnakes captured at considerable distances from the location of the roundup. Collecting rattlesnakes at communal dens during the spring or autumn months can quickly deplete a local population. All rattlesnakes give birth to live young, and pregnant females often are especially conspicuous and therefore vulnerable to collection. Such females must bask in exposed locations to raise the temperature of their developing embryos, and in some species pregnant females aggregate at special sites, increasing the likelihood that these especially critical members of the population will be subject to capture.

Although subject to error, the information collected during rattlesnake roundups provides a reasonable index of the annual hunting pressure on rattlesnakes as a result of organized events across the country. Information from five roundups in Oklahoma suggests that the take of Western Diamondback Rattlesnakes ranges from 6,000 to 10,000 individuals each year. At one large roundup alone, the average number of rattlesnakes captured annually between 1959 and 1991 was 5,469, with a mean total mass of 2855 kg (more than three tons). Over that period 91,365 kg (more than 100 tons) of rattlesnakes, or 174,996 individuals, were captured. Interestingly, peak years occurred about once per decade and were followed by a year in which relatively few individuals were captured. Based on 16 roundups in Texas, estimates range from 70,500 to 112,600 per year. Three roundups in Georgia and one in Alabama accounted for an estimated 1,000 -1,600 snakes per year. Analysis of harvest data from four roundups, collected between 1985 and 1993, indicated a non-significant but consistent decline in purchases of rattlesnakes at all four locations.

Clearly, roundups cause significant mortality in rattlesnakes, but they represent only part of the total human-caused mortality in these species. Researchers have estimated that, for both Western Diamondback and Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnakes, only about 15% of the total annual harvest originates from roundups. During the two-year period 1990-92, Florida snake-skin dealers reported purchasing 3,647 Eastern Diamondback and 366 Timber Rattlesnakes from Florida and 18,289 and 4,346, respectively, from outside the state. Florida snake-skin dealers purchased 40,056 Eastern Diamondbacks and 7,659 Timber Rattlesnakes from 1990-94, collected in Florida and five nearby southeastern states. Currently, the annual harvest of all rattlesnakes in the United States exceeds 125,000 per year.

In addition to the effects of roundups on snake populations, some of the methods used to collect snakes are detrimental to the environment and to non-target species. In Florida, hunters have ignited isolated patches of saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), collecting rattlesnakes as they moved to escape the fire. In southeastern states, Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnakes and many other species of wildlife seek shelter in the deep burrows of Gopher Tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*). Hunters introduce gasoline into tortoise burrows, collecting rattlesnakes as they are driven out. No doubt many non-target species of wildlife are killed by this unethical hunting practice. Research has demonstrated that gassing is harmful to rattlesnakes, tortoises, and other species that co-occur in dens or burrows. Gassing burrows is prohibited within the range of the Gopher Tortoise, which is now protected in every state in which it resides. However, in

southwestern states, beyond the range of the Gopher Tortoise, gasoline is sprayed into the deep recesses of rattlesnake dens, and snakes are collected as they attempt to escape.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS. Apart from the negative aspects of rattlesnake roundups on the populations of both snakes and non-target species and their habitats, strong ethical reasons exist to oppose the practice of rattlesnake roundups. Traditional roundups often include large enclosures or pits in which snakes are maintained at high densities for extended periods and are subjected to continual provocation, encouraging them to rattle and strike. Inflated balloons are displayed before captive rattlesnakes to provoke a strike to burst the balloon for the entertainment of onlookers. Individuals are kicked, burned with cigarettes, have their rattles removed while still alive and funneled full of liquor. Rattlesnakes may be shipped from roundup to roundup in wooden crates without food or water, and some individuals are crushed to death or die of over-heating and dehydration during transport. Snakes are handled roughly and are decapitated and butchered in large numbers in front of an audience, including small children, as entertainment. It is hard to imagine subjecting any other vertebrate animal to such thoughtless and inhumane treatment. Indeed, as scientists we are subject to requirements that our study animals be treated humanely, and it is reasonable to expect similar treatment by others.

COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVES TO ROUNDUPS. Former rattlesnake roundups have been transformed successfully into other types of community festivals designed to raise funds for charitable organizations. An enlightened community in Florida, responding in part to efforts by the Gopher Tortoise Council, changed its rattlesnake roundup to a rattlesnake festival. In San Antonio, Florida, organizers use well-maintained rattlesnakes and nonvenomous species for an environmental education program. The organization called RAGE, Rattlesnake And Gopher Enthusiasts, sponsors the festival, which features “turtle” races (using mechanical Gopher Tortoises), arts and crafts, music, and a petting farm featuring common livestock. Funds raised by the festival are used to support local nonprofit organizations. In response to declining populations of Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnakes and the harmful collecting technique of gassing Gopher Tortoise burrows, organizers of the Fitzgerald Georgia Rattlesnake Roundup changed the focus of the festival and now celebrate The Wild Chicken Festival. At these festivals in Georgia and Florida, participants learn factual information about rattlesnakes and other wildlife and most leave with an understanding that snakes are beneficial for rodent control.

BENEFITS OF RATTLESNAKES TO HUMANS. In addition to the ethical issues, practical reasons exist to value and conserve rattlesnakes. Researchers are beginning to unlock the secrets of snake venoms. Substances derived from venoms are ingredients in numerous medications, such as those used to treat stroke victims and to prevent the growth of cancerous tumors. More than a dozen diagnostic tests and drugs are derived from snake venoms. Because the muscles that power the noise-making rattle are so highly resistant to fatigue and resemble human heart muscle, they have proven to be a valuable model system in biomedical research. Ecologically, rattlesnakes excel at pest control and are especially proficient at hunting rodents. Because of the large number of rattlesnakes harvested for roundups each year, hundreds of thousands of rodents that would have been consumed by them remained free to wreak havoc on the human

enterprise. In recent years, increases in rodent populations have led to the spread of dangerous diseases, such as Hantavirus, and one can only speculate whether efforts to control rattlesnake populations have exacerbated this problem.

CONCLUSIONS. Rattlesnakes are treated differently than most other commercially harvested vertebrate species. For example, the harvesting of sharks, animals that also elicit fear by humans, is highly regulated to promote their conservation. Unfortunately, the cornerstones of wildlife conservation -- controlling commercial use and regulating the take of wildlife -- have not been applied broadly to rattlesnakes. Thus, rattlesnakes are widely hunted and sold for profit, both dead and alive, without adequate regulation or monitoring by wildlife agencies.

The more than thirty species of rattlesnake comprise a unique component of North America's biodiversity, and one that is increasingly imperiled. By virtue of their novelty to European colonists and their perceived nobility, rattlesnakes hold an honored place in the early history of the United States. They appeared on numerous battle flags during the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, including the first Union Jack, which was raised over a Revolutionary warship by the young Lt. John Paul Jones. Our forefathers viewed the rattlesnake as a symbol of strength and independence, a perception that deserves to be encouraged once more.

Just a few decades ago top predators such as hawks and wolves were regarded as "vermin" and were subjected to bounty hunts and wanton killing. Today, however, these magnificent species are valued elements of our natural heritage, the intriguing subjects of documentary films and ecotourism. The American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists supports an end to traditional rattlesnake roundups and encourages local communities to replace such anachronistic events with festivals that celebrate the role of rattlesnakes in nature and recognizes their significance as an historic symbol of our nation's strength and independence.

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# Appendix J. Special Publication Sales.

## Special Publication Sales 2005 1/1/2005 Through 12/31/2005

5/9/2006 Page 1

Date	Account	Num	Description	Memo	Clr	Amount
<b>INCOME</b>						
<b>Program Services</b>						
<b>Publications</b>						
<b>Sales</b>						
<b>Special Pubs.</b>						
<b>Sp. Pub. #3</b>						
2/11/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	30.00
2/15/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	36.00
4/11/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	30.00
4/20/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	36.00
4/25/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	36.00
4/26/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	30.00
5/26/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	30.00
6/30/2005	Douglas ...	S	Amazon.com 2 copies		R	58.50
7/7/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	36.00
7/26/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	30.00
10/28/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	30.00
11/2/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	36.00
11/25/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	30.00
<b>TOTAL Sp. Pub. #3</b>						<b>448.50</b>
<b>Sp. Pub. #4</b>						
2/11/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	32.00
2/15/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	42.50
2/28/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	96.00
3/11/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	32.00
3/15/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	32.00
3/17/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	32.00
3/22/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	32.00
4/11/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	120.00
4/12/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	32.00
4/25/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	42.50
4/26/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	32.00
6/1/2005	Douglas ...	S	Amazon.com		R	31.50
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6/30/2005	Douglas ...	S	Amazon.com 1 copy		R	31.50
8/1/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	42.50
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9/19/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	32.00
9/27/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	42.50
11/2/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	42.50
<b>TOTAL Sp. Pub. #4</b>						<b>811.00</b>
<b>Sp. Pub. #5</b>						
1/3/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
1/31/2005	Douglas ...		Amazon.com credit 1/31		R	81.00
2/11/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
2/15/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	120.00
2/28/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	120.00
3/4/2005	Douglas ... DEP	S	Allen Press...		R	120.00
3/7/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	120.00

Special Publication Sales 2005

1/1/2005 Through 12/31/2005

5/9/2006

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Date	Account	Num	Description	Memo	Clr	Amount
3/17/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
3/22/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
3/28/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	120.00
3/29/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	120.00
3/30/2005	Douglas ...		Amazon.com vol. 1, credit 3/30		R	27.00
4/21/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	120.00
4/25/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	120.00
4/26/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	120.00
4/28/2005	Douglas ...		Amazon.com credit 4/2		R	162.00
4/28/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press... 2 copies		R	240.00
4/29/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
5/3/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
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5/9/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	200.00
5/24/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
5/31/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	120.00
6/1/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	120.00
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6/3/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
6/7/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
6/14/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
7/22/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
7/26/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press... 2 copies		R	240.00
7/29/2005	Douglas ...	S	Amazon.com vol 1-3		R	81.00
8/29/2005	Douglas ...	S	Amazon.com vol 1, 2 copies		R	54.00
			vol 2, 3 copies		R	81.00
			vol. 3, 3 copies		R	81.00
9/7/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
9/19/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
9/27/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press... 2 copies		R	200.00
10/19/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
10/27/2005	Douglas ...	S	Amazon.com vol 1, 2 copies		R	54.00
			vol 2, 2 copies		R	54.00
			vol. 3, 2 copies		R	54.00
10/28/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	200.00
11/1/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
11/29/2005	Douglas ...	S	Amazon.com vol 1, 2 copies		R	54.00
			vol 2, 2 copies		R	54.00
			vol. 3, 2 copies		R	54.00
12/21/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press... 3 copies		R	360.00
12/23/2005	Douglas ...	S	Allen Press...		R	100.00
<b>TOTAL Sp. Pub. #5</b>						<b>5,432.00</b>
<b>TOTAL Special Pubs.</b>						<b>6,691.50</b>
<b>TOTAL Sales</b>						<b>6,691.50</b>
<b>TOTAL Publications</b>						<b>6,691.50</b>
<b>TOTAL Program Services</b>						<b>6,691.50</b>

**TOTAL INCOME** 6,691.50

**OVERALL TOTAL** 6,691.50

## Appendix K. Officers, *Copeia* Staff, Committees 2006

### Officers - 2006

**PRESIDENT** - Darrel R. Frost - frost@amnh.org  
**PRESIDENT-ELECT** - Richard L. Mayden - cypriniformes@gmail.com  
**PAST-PRESIDENT** - Lynne R. Parenti - parenti.lynne@nmnh.si.edu  
**PRIOR PAST-PRESIDENT** - Patrick T. Gregory - viper@uvic.ca  
**TREASURER** - Margaret A. Neighbors - mneighbors@prodigy.net  
**SECRETARY** - Maureen A. Donnelly - asih@fiu.edu  
**EDITOR** - Scott A. Schaefer - schaefer@amnh.org

### Copeia Editorial Staff - 2006

**EDITOR** - Scott A. Schaefer - schaefer@amnh.org  
**PRODUCTION EDITOR** - Katie Smith - ktsmith@amnh.org  
**GENERAL ICHTHYOLOGY** - Donald G. Buth - dbuth@ucla.edu  
**GENERAL ICHTHYOLOGY** - Jonathan W. Armbruster - armbrjw@auburn.edu  
**GENERAL HERPETOLOGY** - Tod W. Reeder - treeder@sunstroke.sdsu.edu  
**GENERAL HERPETOLOGY** - Michael J. Lannoo - mlannoo@bsu.edu  
**ECOLOGY AND ETHOLOGY** - Stanley F. Fox - foxstan@okstate.edu  
**ECOLOGY AND ETHOLOGY** - Christopher M. Taylor - ctaylor@ra.msstate.edu  
**GENETICS, DEVELOPMENT & MORPHOLOGY** - Robert M. Wood - wood2@sluvca.slu.edu  
**GENETICS, DEVELOPMENT & MORPHOLOGY** - Joseph M. Quattro - quattro@mail.biol.sc.edu  
**PHYSIOLOGY & PHYSIOLOGICAL ECOLOGY** - Robert T. Mason - masonr@science.oregonstate.edu  
**PHYSIOLOGY & PHYSIOLOGICAL ECOLOGY** - Eric T. Schultz - eric.schultz@uconn.edu  
**INDEX EDITOR (SUBJECT)** - Frances Cashner (Subject) - fcashner@uno.edu  
**INDEX EDITOR (TAXONOMIC)** - Jay W. Orr (Taxonomic) - james.orr@noaa.gov  
**BOOK REVIEW - ICHTHYOLOGY** - Marlis R. Douglas - Marlis.Douglas@colostate.edu  
**BOOK REVIEW - HERPETOLOGY** - Kentwood D. Wells - kentus@uconnvm.uconn.edu

**EDITORIAL BOARD** - Brooks M. Burr, George Cline, Miles Coburn, Martha Crump, C. Kenneth Dodd, Jr., Maureen A. Donnelly, David H. Evans, Carl J. Ferraris, Jr., Mike Ghedotti, Megan E. Gibbons, Eric Hilton, Michael H. Horn, W. Linn Montgomery, Randy Mooi, Charles Peterson, Ed Pfeiler, Howard K. Reinert, Larry Renfro, Andrew Simons, Joel W. Snodgrass, Anthony Steyermark, Brian Sullivan, Richard Vari, John J. Wiens, Jeff Williams, Sharon Wise

## **Society Historians**

**SOCIETY HISTORIAN ICHTHYOLOGY** - David G. Smith -  
smith.davidg@nsmnh.si.edu

**SOCIETY HISTORIAN HERPETOLOGY** - Joseph C. Mitchell -  
jmitchel@richmond.edu

## **Committees - 2006**

### **COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS**

Jon Armbruster - armbrjw@auburn.edu (Chair)

*Members:* Hank Bart, Jacqueline Litzgus

### **COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE STUDENT PARTICIPATION**

Rocky Parker - mrparke007@hotmail.com (Chair)

*Members:* Rebecca Blanton (rblanton@tulane.edu), Alessandro Catenazzi (acaten01@fiu.edu); Jena Chojnowski (jena@zoo.ufl.edu), Kelsey Holzman (Holzman05@sbc.edu), Debbie Hutchinson (dhutchiin@odu.edu), Jeanette McGuire (mcguir35@msu.edu), Matt Neilson (matthew.neilson@utoledo.edu), Jason Ortega (jortegazy@utpa.edu), Anne Readel (readel@uiuc.edu), Angie Rivera (arivera@clemsun.edu), Gabe Rivera (grivera@clemsun.edu), Ralph Saporito (saporito@fiu.edu), Rachel Schoen (schoenrj@u.washington.edu), Amy Schneider (amy.schneider@colorado.edu)

### **CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

Frank McCormick - FMcCormick@fs.fed.us (Chair)

*Members:* Jonathan Baskin, Noel Burkhead, Jacque Carter, Barry Chernoff, Salvador Contreras-Balderas, Walter Courtenay, Anna George (Graduate Student Representative), David Green, Pat Gregory, Karsten Hartel, Gene Helfman, Selena Heppell, Bill Loftus, Joseph Mitchell, Henry Mushinsky, Jack Musick, Jos Nelson, Tom Orrell, Edward Pister, Julie Ray (Graduate Student Representative), Alan Savitzky, H. Bradley Shaffer, Gerald Smith, Peter Unmack, Steve Walsh, Melvin Warren, Jr., James Williams

### **EDITORIAL POLICY COMMITTEE**

Scott Schaefer - schaefer@amnh.org (Chair)

*Members:* all Sectional Editors and Book Review Editors

### **ENDOWMENT and FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Melvin Warren Jr. - fswarren@olemiss.edu (Chair; 2005-2007),

*Members:* Eric Schultz (2002-2006), Barbara Savitzky (2003-2007), Aaron Bauer (2004-2008), Steve Ross (2005-2009), Margaret Neighbors (Ex Officio)

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Darrel Frost - frost@amnh.org (Chair & President)

*Members:* Richard Mayden (President-Elect), Lynne Parenti (Past President), Patrick Gregory (Prior Past President and Chair of LRPP), Scott Schaefer (Editor), Mel Warren (Chair of ENFC), Maureen Donnelly (Secretary), Margaret Neighbors (Treasurer)

### **HENRY S. FITCH AWARD COMMITTEE**

Alan Savitzky - asavitzk@odu.edu (Chair)

*Members:* Julian Lee (2005-2007), H. Bradley Shaffer (2006-2008)

### **GAIGE FUND AWARD COMMITTEE**

Kirsten Nicholson - knicholson@biology2.wustl.edu (Chair)

*Members:* Adam Summers (2005-2007), Rita Mehta (2006-2008)

### **ICHTHYOLOGICAL AND HERPETOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE**

Jose Rosado - jrosado@oeb.harvard.edu (Chair)

*Members:* Barbara Brown, Paulo Buckup, Dave Catania, Dean Hendrickson, Richard Pyle, Nelson Rios, Rob Robins, Mary Ann Rogers, Jessica Rosales, Mark Sabaj, John Simmons, Ken Thompson, Lou Van Guelpen, H. J. Walker, Jeff Williams, Christina A. Wolfe

**Newsletter Subcommittee:** H. J. Walker (Chair), Rob Robins, Lou Van Guelpen, Laurie Vitt

**Supplies and Practices Subcommittee:** Jessica Rosales (Chair), Nelson Rios, Mary Anne Rogers, Mark Sabaj, Ken Thompson, Lou Van Guelpen

**Ichthyological Data Standards Subcommittee:** Jeffrey Williams (Chair), Paulo Buckup, David Catania, Richard Pyle, Nelson Rios

**Herpetological Data Standards Subcommittee:** John Simmons (Chair), Laurie Vitt

### **JOINT ASIH-AFS COMMITTEE ON NAMES OF FISHES**

Joseph S. Nelson - joe.nelson@ualberta.ca (Chair)

*Members:* Hector Espinoza-Perez, Lloyd Findley, Carter Gilbert, Robert Lea, Nicholas Mandrk, James Williams,

### **ROBERT K. JOHNSON AWARD COMMITTEE**

Robert Cashner - bobcashner@gmail.com (Chair)

*Members:* Harvey Lillywhite (2005-2007), Frank McCormick (2006-2008)

### **LONG RANGE PLANNING AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

Pat Gregory - viper@uvic.edu (Chair)

*Members:* Donald Buth, Robert Cashner, Craig Guyer, Carol Johnston, Karen Warkentin

### **MEETING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Bob Cashner - rcashner@uno.edu (chair)

*Members:* Hank Bart, Brian Crother, F. Douglas Martin, Henry Mushinsky

### **MEETING PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Deanna Stouder - dstouder@fs.fed.us (Chair)

*Members:* Larry Allen, George Burgess, Brian Crother, Maureen Donnelly.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Maureen Kearney - mkearney@fieldmuseum.org (Chair)

*Members:* Karen R. Lips (herpetology) , Larry M. Page (ichthyology). Deanna J. Stouder (ichthyology)

### **RANEY FUND AWARD COMMITTEE**

Andrew Simons - asimons@umn.edu (Chair)

*Members:* Kent Carpenter (2005-2007), Tim Targett (2006-2008)

### **RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**

TO BE NAMED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING IN NEW ORLEANS, LA.

### **ROBERT H. GIBBS, JR. MEMORIAL AWARD COMMITTEE**

Joseph S. Nelson - joe.nelson@ualberta.ca (Chair)

*Members:* David Greenfield (2005-2007), Carter Gilbert (2006-2008)

### **STUDENT AWARDS COMMITTEE**

Steve J. Beaupre - sbeaupre@uark.edu (Co-chair)

Richard Mayden - cypriniformes@gmail.com (Co-chair)

*Members:* Stoye & Storer Judges: To Be Announced at Annual Banquet

### **WEB CONTENT AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - RECURRING COMMITTEE**

Hank Bart - hank@museum.tulane.edu (Chair)

*Member:* Margaret Neighbors, Jeannine Cody, Nelson Rios

### **HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY COMMITTEE - RECURRING COMMITTEE**

David G. Smith - smith.davidg@nmnh.si.edu (Co-Chair)

Joseph C. Mitchell - jmitchel@richmond.edu (Co-Chair)

*Members:* Inci Bowman, Vic Hutchison, Leo Smith, Susan Walls

### **COPEIA REVIEW COMMITTEE - Ad Hoc**

Matt Parris - mparris@memphis.edu (Chair)

*Members:* Robert Espinoza, Andrew Simons, Jacqueline Webb

### **DECLINING MEMBERSHIP - Ad Hoc**

Dawn Wilson - dwilson@amnh.org (Co-Chair)

Larry Page - lpage@ufl.edu (Co-Chair)

### **HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY COMMITTEE - Ad Hoc**

David G. Smith - smith.davidg@nmnh.si.edu (Co-Chair)

Joseph C. Mitchell - jmitchel@richmond.edu (Co-Chair)  
*Members:* Inci Bowman, Vic Hutchison, Leo Smith, Susan Walls

#### Representatives to Other Societies

**AMERICAN ELASMOBRANCH SOCIETY** - George Burgess -  
gburgess@flmnh.ufl.edu

**AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY** - Mel Warren, Jr. -  
fswarren@sunset.backbone.olemiss.edu

**AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES** - Alan Savitzky -  
asavitzk@odu.edu

**AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES: Public Policy  
Committee** - Alan Savitzky - asavitzk@odu.edu

**EARLY LIFE HISTORY SECTION OF AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY** -  
Jacqueline Webb - jacqueline.webb@villanova.edu

**NATURAL SCIENCE COLLECTIONS ALLIANCE** - Larry M. Page -  
lpage1@ufl.edu

**SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NATURAL HISTORY  
COLLECTIONS** - John Simmons - jsimmons@ku.edu

**SOCIETY FOR STUDY OF AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES AND  
HERPETOLOGISTS' LEAGUE** - Alan Savitzky - asavitzk@odu.edu

#### Information Coordinators

**HERPETOLOGY** - Eileen Banach - eileenbanach@hotmail.com

**ICHTHYOLOGY** - Mollie Cashner - mcashner@tulane.edu

## **Appendix L. Constitution (Revised 2004)**

### **ASIH CONSTITUTION**

**as revised at the 2004 meeting**

#### **Article I: Name**

The name of this Society shall be "THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ICHTHYOLOGISTS AND HERPETOLOGISTS." The Society is incorporated in the District of Columbia (22 November 1949).

#### **Article II: Object**

**Section 1.** The object of this Society shall be to advance the science of the study of fishes, amphibians, and reptiles.

**Section 2.** The Society shall be operated as a nonprofit corporation.

#### **Article III: Membership**

**Section 1.** Membership shall be open to persons interested in the object of the Society.

**Section 2.** The membership of the Society shall consist of the following classes:

**a.** Active members who pay annual dues in the following categories: Student, , Regular, Associate, and Sustaining.

**b.** Honorary Foreign Members shall be elected by the Board of Governors from among the ichthyologists and herpetologists, located outside of Canada, Mexico, and the United States, who have attained distinction as investigators. The Honorary Foreign Members shall be equally divided between ichthyologists and herpetologists.

**Section 3.** Nomination to membership shall be upon recommendation of one member.

#### **Article IV: Officers**

**Section 1.** The officers of the Society shall be: A President, who shall assume the duties of this office for a one-year term immediately following a term as President-Elect. A President-Elect, who shall serve a one-year term; the office shall alternate annually between an ichthyologist and herpetologist; the President-Elect shall be ineligible for another term until two years shall have elapsed from the end of a term as President. A Treasurer, and a Secretary, who shall be elected annually but who may serve unlimited consecutive terms. An Editor, five Divisional Editors, an Index Editor, and two Book Review Editors (one in ichthyology and one in herpetology).

**Section 2.** The Officers shall be elected at the annual general meeting from among regular, associate, sustaining, and life members. The slate of nominees shall be furnished by the Nominating Committee at the Board of Governors meeting. Additional nominations may be presented from the floor at the annual business meeting. All nominations shall be accompanied by a brief statement of qualifications and a written statement of willingness to serve from the nominee. The term of office shall commence on 1 January following the annual meeting at which the officers were elected. In the

event of a tie in election for any office, the Executive Committee shall determine the winner.

**Section 3.** The officers named in Section 1 shall discharge the duties usually assigned to their respective offices (see Bylaws).

**Section 4.** In the event of death or incapacitation of the President during the term of office, the President-Elect will become President. If the position of President-Elect becomes vacant, the person who received the second highest number of votes in the election will become President-Elect. If necessary, the Executive Committee shall make the determination that a President or President-Elect is incapacitated to the extent that required duties of the office are not likely to be performed.

**Section 5.** A vacancy in either the Secretaryship or Treasurership occurring in the interval of the meetings of the Society may be filled, until the next annual meeting, by appointment by the President.

**Section 6. Executive Committee.**

**a.** The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, President-Elect, immediate Past-President, prior Past-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Chair of the Long Range Planning and Policy Committee, and Chair of the Endowment and Finance Committee.

**b.** Each ASIH President will serve a total of four years on the Executive Committee, as President-Elect, President, immediate Past-President, and prior Past-President, in that sequence.

**Section 7.** Between the annual meetings the business of the Society shall be conducted by the officers, acting within their individual responsibilities, and the Executive Committee.

**Article V: Board of Governors**

**Section 1.** At the time of the annual meeting the business of the Society shall be conducted by the Board of Governors. The Board shall include not more than 50 elective members, each elected from among regular, associate, sustaining, and life members for a term of five years. Elective members of the Board shall not be eligible for reelection until the annual meeting following the expiration of their terms. The incumbent officers of the Society shall be members of the Board. Former Presidents of the Society shall be members of the Board for life. All meetings of the Board of Governors shall be open to all members of the Society.

**Section 2.** Ten vacancies in the elective membership of the Board of Governors shall be filled through election at the business meeting from nominations provided by the Nominating Committee and/or from the floor. All nominations shall be accompanied by a brief statement of qualifications and a written statement of willingness to serve from the nominee. Five of the elected Governors shall be herpetologists and five shall be ichthyologists. Each member shall vote for a maximum of five candidates. It is recommended that members vote for candidates in their own discipline only, but a member whose activities spread across the two disciplines may vote across the two disciplines. The term of office shall commence on 1 January following the annual meeting at which the Governor was elected. An additional vacancy shall occur if the President-Elect is a member of a class. No other officer shall be replaced if a member of a class at the time of election as an officer.

**Section 3.** The Board shall conduct business during the period between annual meetings only upon call by the Executive Committee.

#### **Article VI: Meeting of the Society**

**Section 1.** This Society shall hold an annual meeting. A general business session open to all classes of members shall be held for the purposes of hearing a report on the transactions of the Board of Governors and of acting upon such business as may properly be considered by the membership at large.

**Section 2.** The Meetings Management Committee shall solicit and receive invitations from prospective home institutions for the Annual Meetings, shall evaluate such invitations, and shall report its recommendation(s) to the Board of Governors.

**Section 3.** The place of the annual meeting of the Society shall be determined by the Board of Governors. Notice of the meeting shall be mailed to all members of the Society at least three months before the date set for the meeting.

#### **Article VII: Southeastern Division**

**Section 1.** Membership in the Southeastern Division is open to ASIH members in good standing residing in the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Active membership status within the Southeastern Division shall be determined by the Bylaws of the Division currently in force.

**Section 2.** The Southeastern Division shall elect a President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer.

**Section 3.** Annual meetings of the Southeastern Division shall be held concurrently with the ASIH Annual Meetings when the latter occur in one of the states identified as within the Southeastern Division in Section 1 of this Article.

#### **Article VIII: Quorum**

At the Annual Meeting, one hundred members shall constitute a quorum of the Society and thirty a quorum of the Board of Governors.

If the Board of Governors votes electronically between annual meetings, 30 votes shall constitute a quorum of the Board.

#### **Article IX: Changes in the Constitution and Bylaws**

**Section 1.** Amendments to this Constitution and Bylaws may be proposed: (a) by majority vote of the Executive Committee, or (b) by written and signed petition from at least twenty-five (25) members in good standing of ASIH.

**Section 2.** Proposed amendments must be circulated to all members at least three (3) months prior to the scheduled Annual Meeting of the Society.

**Section 3.** Proposed amendments of this Constitution and Bylaws may be adopted at any meeting of the Society if approved by two-thirds of the members of the Board of Governors voting and two-thirds of the members voting at the annual general meeting.

**Section 4.** Dissolution of the society shall require two-thirds assent from members of the Board of Governors voting and ratification by mail ballot of two-thirds of the membership voting in response.

**Section 5.** In case of the dissolution of the Society, its assets shall be transferred to a successor non-profit society organized for educational, professional, or scientific

purposes, or if no successor society is designated by the members of this Society, then the assets shall be transferred to some other non-profit organization of like character as determined by the members of this Society by response in mail ballot.

## **BYLAWS**

### **Article I: Dues**

**Section 1.** Annual dues shall be payable 1 January, in advance. COPEIA shall not be sent to those in arrears for dues. Upon payment of arrearage, plus a late fee calculated as 10% of the annual dues, the former member shall be reinstated.

**Section 2.** A service charge calculated by the Secretary to recover actual costs may be billed subscribers requiring special billing procedures.

**Section 3.** The schedule of dues will be estimated by the Treasurer, proposed by the Executive Committee, and approved by the Board of Governors to meet the financial needs of the society.

### **Article II: President**

**Section 1.** The President shall preside at sessions of the Board of Governors and at the general business meeting.

**Section 2.** The President shall also appoint the committees prescribed by the Constitution and Bylaws, and such other representatives or committees as may prove necessary. The President and President-Elect shall be members of all committees.

### **Article III: Secretary**

**Section 1.** The Secretary shall keep the records of the Society and report at the annual meeting.

**Section 2.** The Secretary shall be responsible for sending out notices announcing the annual meeting and for arranging the agenda for the Board of Governors and general business meetings at the annual meeting.

**Section 3.** The Secretary shall be reimbursed out of the monies of the Society for expenses incurred in attending meetings of the Society.

**Section 4.** The Secretary shall make such purchases and employ such assistance as is necessary to conduct the business of the Society. The Secretary shall be responsible for authorizing disbursement of funds for the expenses of society offices within limits to be set annually by the Executive Committee. All such expenditures will be reported to and are subject to review and ratification by the Board of Governors.

**Section 5.** Unless other appointments are made by the President, the Secretary shall act as delegate or representative of this Society at meetings of related societies covering matters of mutual interest.

**Section 6.** The Secretary shall arrange for an annual professional audit of the financial record and statement of the Treasurer and shall transmit the auditor's report to the annual meeting of the Board of Governors.

**Section 7.** Any copyright requests or copyright-related issues and the associated records-keeping shall be handled by the Secretary in consultation with the Editor.

**Section 8. Publications storage.**

a. The Secretary shall be charged with the responsibility of ensuring safe storage, sale, and other disposal of back numbers of COPEIA and other Society publications.

b. The Secretary may employ such assistance including outside contractual assistance as may be necessary to discharge these functions.

c. The Secretary will report annually to the Board of Governors on the status and disposal of backlogged items.

#### **Article IV: Treasurer**

**Section 1.** The Treasurer shall be in charge of the funds and securities of the Society.

**Section 2.** At the annual meetings of the Society, the Treasurer shall present a statement of the funds and monies of the Society, the statement to cover the calendar year.

#### **Article V. Editorial Offices**

##### **Section 1. Editor**

a. The Editor shall serve as the Chief Executive Officer for the journal COPEIA. The Editor shall bear the final responsibility and authority for all materials published in COPEIA.

b. In the processing of manuscripts submitted for publication in COPEIA, the Editor shall allocate manuscript workload among the Sectional Editors, and shall receive their recommendations on manuscripts that have cleared the review process.

c. The Editor shall report through the ASIH Executive Committee to the Board of Governors, and shall seek Executive Committee and Board of Governor approval for any substantive change in ASIH publishing product or practice, especially where new or unanticipated expenditures of ASIH funds are involved.

d. The Editor serves on the ASIH Executive Committee, and the Publications Policy Committee and serves as Chair, Editorial Policy Committee.

e. In situations that may arise between annual meetings, the Editor (upon consultation with and approval by the Executive Committee) may appoint a substitute (or co-participant) for a given editorial office.

##### **Section 2. Sectional, Book Review, and Index Editors**

a. The five divisional sections of COPEIA shall be General Herpetology; General Ichthyology; Ecology and Ethology; Physiology and Physiological Ecology; and Genetics, Development, and Morphology. Sectional Editors shall serve as Chief Operating Officers for their respective sections, shall select reviewers and solicit manuscript reviews, and shall make recommendations regarding acceptability for publication in COPEIA to the Editor.

b. Two Book Review Editors shall promote the announcement and critical review of important new works in Herpetology and Ichthyology, respectively.

c. An Index Editor shall be responsible for production of the annual index to COPEIA. The Index Editor shall archive materials for periodic multi-year indices to be prepared as deemed necessary.

d. Any editorial office, except that of Editor, may be held by two persons if approved by election to office by members of the Society.

## **Article VI: Editorial Board**

An Editorial Board representing the five divisional disciplines of COPEIA, shall be nominated annually by the Divisional Editors, up to six board members each, for service in that disciplinary area, and appointed by the President in consultation with the Editor.

## **Article VII: Meetings**

**Section 1.** The Chair of the Local Committee shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the chairs of the Meetings Management Committee and Meetings Planning Committee if possible, at least six months before the time of the meeting.

**Section 2.** The Chair of the Local Committee will work with the chairs of the Meetings Management Committee and Meetings Planning Committee to make all local arrangements including the arrangements for printing the program.

## **Article VIII. Committees**

**Section 1.** Committees of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists are categorized as Standing Committees, Continuing Committees, Recurring Committees and Special Purpose Committees.

**Section 2.** Except as provided for separately in the CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS all committee appointments are made by the President and carry a tenure of appointment of one year. By arrangement between the President and the incoming Committee Chair, Subcommittees may be appointed and delegated to specific functions. Subcommittees are not listed separately and exist at the discretion of the President and the full Committee.

**Section 3.** Committee service, including that of Committee Chairs, is upon a calendar year basis, commencing January 1 and ending December 31, except for the Nominating Committee and Chair, which serve from meeting to meeting. Committees are appointed by the President at or soon after the annual meeting of the year preceding service. The report of a Committee Chair is submitted through the Secretary for presentation at the annual meeting immediately after the termination of the calendar year of service. Except where provided for separately, continuation of appointment of a Committee Chair or Committee member is at the discretion of the cognizant President and the member in service.

**Section 4.** The charge to and purview of the Committee shall normally follow that listed in the ASIH Procedures Manual, subject to modification, individually or separately, by the President, Executive Committee and/or Board of Governors, except as provided for separately in the CONSTITUTION or BYLAWS.

**Section 5.** Standing Committees are provided for separately in the CONSTITUTION and/or BYLAWS, and/or are those which must be renewed yearly to conduct society business. Standing Committees are as follows:

ANBM	Annual Business Meeting
BOFG	Board of Governors
EDBD	Editorial Board
EDPC	Editorial Policy Committee
ENFC	Endowment and Finance Committee

EXEC	Executive Committee
GFAC	Gaige Fund Award Committee
GSPC	Committee on Graduate Student Participation
HSFC	Henry S. Fitch Award Committee
LOCL	Local Committee for the Annual Meeting
LRPP	Long Range Planning and Policy Committee
MMGT	Meetings Management Committee
MPLN	Meetings Planning Committee
NOMC	Nominating Committee
RFAC	Raney Fund Award Committee
RHGC	Robert H. Gibbs, Jr., Memorial Award Committee
RKJC	Robert K. Johnson Award Committee
STAC	Student Awards Committee

**Section 6.** Continuing Committees are provided for separately in the CONSTITUTION and/or BYLAWS, and/or are those which are normally renewed yearly to conduct society business. In years where no action by the Committee or Representative is anticipated, appointment or not is at the discretion of the President. Continuing Committees are listed in the Procedures Manual.

**Section 7.** Recurring Committees are those which are appointed on an episodic basis, as need occurs. In years where no action by the Committee or Representative is anticipated, appointment or not is at the discretion of the President. Recurring Committees are listed in the Procedures Manual.

**Section 8.** Special Purpose Committees are those which are appointed normally on a one-time basis, as need occurs. Appointment or not is at the discretion of the President. The President shall define the charge to each Special Purpose Committee upon appointment. Unless renewed by the succeeding president each such Committee shall cease to exist after a period of time up to one calendar year, commencing January 1 after date of appointment.

## **Article IX: Nominating Committee**

**Section 1.** The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members; three in the discipline of the President-Elect to be elected, and two in the alternate discipline. Five ASIH members in good standing shall comprise the Nominating Committee and serve meeting to meeting: (a) One of the two members of the outgoing Nominating Committee who is in the discipline of the President-Elect to be elected. This person shall be elected and serve as chair of the new committee. (b) The immediate Past-President of the Society. This position shall be filled automatically. (c) One person in the discipline of the President-Elect to be elected, chosen from at least two persons nominated by the Board of Governors. (d) Two persons in the alternate discipline chosen from at least four persons nominated

**Section 2.** If only one of the two persons from the outgoing Nominating Committee is available for election as chair of the new committee, this person shall receive the chairship automatically. If neither person from the outgoing Nominating Committee is available for election as chair, the Past-President shall assume the chairship and the President shall nominate two additional persons in the appropriate discipline. If

the Board of Governors fails to nominate the number of persons listed above for positions (c) and (d), the President shall provide the balance of the nominations.

**Section 3.** The election of the Nominating Committee shall be at the business meeting of the Society. All nominees, including additional nominations from the floor at the business meeting for positions (c) and (d), must provide a written agreement to serve on the committee, which would include the possibility of a second year of service as chair.

#### **Article X: Long Range Planning and Policy Committee**

**Section 1.** The Chair of the Long Range Planning and Policy Committee shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the Executive Committee and such others as the President may feel desirable. The Chair shall serve for a period of three years and may be reappointed. Six other members shall be similarly appointed and the expiration dates of the terms of their service shall be staggered in order to provide continuity. Tenure of appointment shall be on a calendar year basis.

**Section 2.** The Committee shall identify desirable Society policies and activities and shall advise the Board of Governors and Membership on the best way to carry out and fund Society activities.

**Section 3.** The Committee is responsible for the development and updating, to reflect current practice, of the ASIH Procedures Manual, and from time to time make suggestions for improvements and best response to available technologies and opportunities.

**Section 4.** The Committee shall maintain close liaison with the Endowment and Finance Committee. The Committee Chairs shall serve as consulting (nonvoting) members of the corresponding Committee and shall keep each Committee informed, as appropriate, of mutually relevant activities.

#### **Article XI: Endowment and Finance Committee**

**Section 1.** The Endowment Committee shall be appointed by the President in consultation with the Executive Committee and shall consist of five members, including the Chair. To provide continuity, members of the Committee will have staggered, five-year terms. One member should be a business person or someone with considerable experience in investing. Tenure of appointment shall be on a calendar year basis.

**Section 2.** The Chair-Elect of the Endowment Committee shall be appointed by the President. The Chair-Elect shall succeed the Chair, each of whom will serve one year in their respective positions. The Chair may be reappointed as Chair-Elect. The Chair and the Chair-Elect will work closely together in planning and organizing the activities of the Endowment Committee.

**Section 3.** The Committee shall be in charge of fund-raising and investment of the endowment.

**Section 4.** The Committee shall advise the Society on all matters pertaining to the General Endowment Fund and the Life Membership Fund.

**Section 5.** The Committee shall maintain close liaison with the Treasurer and other members of the Executive Committee and shall advise officials of the Society in the management of all funds and moneys of the Society.

**Section 6.** The Committee shall maintain close liaison with the Long Range Planning and Policy Committee. The Committee Chairs shall serve as consulting (nonvoting) members of the corresponding Committee and shall keep each Committee informed, as appropriate, of mutually relevant activities.

## **Article XII: Funds**

**Section 1.** Society Funds and income derived therefrom shall be used only for tax-exempt purposes.

**Section 2.** Funds of the Society shall be as follows:

**a.** The Frederick H. Stoye Fund shall be invested and used to offer awards for meritorious papers presented by student members at the annual National Meeting. The awards will be known as the Frederick H. Stoye Awards. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Student Awards Committee. The Student Awards Committee shall be appointed by the President-elect for service prior to and in the subsequent Annual Meeting.

**b.** The Tracy Storer Fund shall be invested and used to offer awards to students judged to have prepared the best posters in ichthyology and herpetology at the National Meeting. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Student Awards Committee. The Student Awards Committee shall be appointed by the President-elect for service prior to and in the subsequent Annual Meeting.

**c.** The Robert H. Gibbs, Jr. Memorial Fund shall be invested and used to award a yearly prize, as determined by a selected panel of judges, based on an outstanding published body of work in systematic ichthyology by a citizen of a Western Hemisphere nation who has not been a previous recipient of the award. The basis for an award decision shall be determined by a Robert H. Gibbs, Jr., Memorial Fund Committee. The Robert H. Gibbs, Jr., Memorial Fund Committee shall consist of three ichthyologists, each serving a three-year term. Each year one member is replaced by an individual elected by the Board of Governors among nominees submitted by the Nominating Committee or nominated from the floor. The Senior member of the Committee serves as its Chair.

**d.** The Edward C. and Charlotte E. Raney Fund shall be invested and used to provide support for young ichthyologists in such a way as to enhance their professional careers and their contributions to the science of ichthyology. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Edward C. and Charlotte E. Raney Fund Committee. The Edward C. and Charlotte E. Raney Fund Committee shall be appointed by the President for service prior to the subsequent Annual Meeting.

**e.** The Helen T. and Frederick M. Gaige Fund shall be invested and used to provide support for young herpetologists in such a way as to enhance their professional careers and their contributions to the science of herpetology. The basis for award decisions shall be determined by a Helen T. and Frederick M. Gaige Fund Committee. The Helen T. and Frederick M. Gaige Fund Committee shall be appointed by the President for service prior to the subsequent Annual Meeting.

**f.** The Life Membership Fund shall consist of dues received from Life Members. The interest from this Fund shall be added to the principal. When this Fund exceeds by \$1000 or more the sum computed as adequate to pay costs of fulfilling

Society obligations to Life Members, the excess shall be transferred to the Endowment Fund.

**g.** The General Endowment Fund shall be an unrestricted fund to receive money from a variety of sources. Major and minor donations to the Society without any restrictions will be placed in the principal of this Fund.

After the Fund grows large enough to be handled by a professional money manager, the Board of Governors will appoint an Investing Trustee(s) to handle the investments. The number of trustees will be determined by the Board of Governors, as well as their qualifications and responsibilities to the Society. The Endowment Committee will advise the Board of Governors on these matters and monitor the activities of the trustee(s). The General Endowment Fund initially will be invested in a cash or income instrument fund to be approved by a majority of the Executive Committee. After the Fund is invested in a broad range of securities, a percentage of the net asset value will be dispersed annually by the Board of Governors for specified activities of the Society based on recommendations of the Executive Committee.

**Section 3.** All money, stocks, bonds, or other property offered to the Society for purposes other than application to the publication expenses or other operating expenses of the Society can be accepted only by a majority of the Board of Governors, except that the acceptance of any such funds donated for use by any duly constituted activity of the Society, including the General Endowment Fund, can be approved by the Executive Committee. Acceptance of such money, stocks, bonds, or other property by the Board of Governors shall be only with the establishment by the Board of procedures to implement its use. All proposed funds shall be accompanied by a proffered gift or proposed funding source.

**Section 4.** The American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists may formally recognize major donors to the General Endowment Fund. Four levels of major donors are: Supporter, \$1000--2999; Sponsor, \$3000--9999; Patron, \$10,000--24,999; Benefactor, \$25,000 or higher. No benefits will be provided to donors.

### **Article XIII: Honorary Foreign Members**

The number of Honorary Foreign Members shall not exceed 30.

### **Article XIV: Society Sets of COPEIA**

Official bound sets of COPEIA shall be maintained in the offices of the Editor and the Secretary.

### **Article XV: Committees**

Such committees as the President shall deem necessary shall be appointed by the President or by the presiding officer at the annual meeting, unless the composition and function of committees be otherwise set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws or in motions passed by the Board of Governors or by the membership at large at the annual meeting. Unless otherwise specified, committees shall serve from one annual meeting until the next and shall normally be appointed by the President during the annual meeting.

**Article XVI: Procedures**

Procedures and other items, not specified in the Constitution or Bylaws of this Society or by action at the annual meeting, shall be in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

## Appendix M. Candidate Information for the 2006 Elections

### PRESIDENT-ELECT

**David M. Green, Professor, Director and Curator of Vertebrates,** Redpath Museum, McGill University, 859 Sherbrooke St. W., Montréal, Québec H3A 2K6, Canada. Tel: (514) 398-4086 ext 4088, fax: 398-3185; email: david.m.green@mcgill.ca

**Research Interests:** I study anuran amphibians in all manner of ways as I have long maintained that they are the “system” I can use to understand the biology of organisms. Thus I study ecology, behavior, genetics, morphology and evolution of anurans, bringing all of those aspects to bear upon understanding why animals are what they are and do what they do. Some specific aspects of my recent work include looking into evolutionary divergence between populations, historical biogeography, interspecific hybridization, determinants of species’ ranges, dispersal dynamics and the biology of population declines. Current research projects include long- and short-term studies of population dynamics, landscape ecology and conservation genetics of Fowler's toads, *Bufo fowleri*, and other amphibians.

**ASIH Service:** Board of Governors (1996 – 2001, 2004 - present), Local Host for 2008 Joint Annual Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists in Montréal, Resolutions Committee Chair (2004), Conservation Committee (2005 - present), Stoye Award judge (1988), Symposium organizer (two symposia in 1989), Session Chair numerous times, Reviewer of a great many manuscripts for *Copeia*, Member since 1977. Invited to run for President of ASIH in 2001 but declined the nomination due to election as President of SSAR.

**Goals as President of ASIH:** New challenges face our society in an age of electronic publishing and web-based communications, ever more sophisticated methods for doing science, and the increasing need for conservation to ensure the survival of animal populations. As President of ASIH, I will work to enhance the stature of *Copeia* as the premier outlet for herpetological and ichthyological research by co-operating with the editors and Editorial Committee to find mechanisms to encourage submission of top-flight research papers and to maintain high editorial standards. I will seek to take best advantage of electronic publishing for *Copeia* and other society publications by working with the Editorial and Executive committees to find the right options for our society. I will strive to maintain and enhance the vitality of our annual meetings by encouraging close co-operation between local hosts and the ASIH planning committees and exploring of avenues to reduce costs for people attending meetings. I will see that the ASIH website continues upgrading to take advantage of web-based technologies that can increase its utility to members and encourage young scientists to join. I will work with the ASIH membership to develop and implement new ways to acknowledge outstanding contributions to herpetology and ichthyology, and to our society, and I will encourage the international reach and involvement of the ASIH to attract new members from other countries. I will promote conservation issues concerning fishes, amphibians and reptiles in the USA and other countries by encouraging an active role for our Conservation committee to endorse the conservation and recovery of endangered species and the protection of natural areas. Finally, I intend to play a leading role in co-operating with our sister societies, the SSAR, HL and AES, and other like-minded organizations to

promote our common interests in the study and conservation of fishes, amphibians and reptiles.

**Henry R. Mushinsky**, Professor and Graduate Director, Department of Biology, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida 33620, [mushinsk@cas.usf.edu](mailto:mushinsk@cas.usf.edu).

**Research Interests:** Henry received the Ph.D. in Zoology from Clemson University in 1973 under E. D. Brodie, Jr. He joined the faculty at the University of South Florida (USF) in 1979 after spending six years as an assistant professor at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. While at LSU, Henry focused his research on the ecology of water snakes. Since joining the faculty at USF, his research has focused on conservation issues and rare and listed species. He has published on fire ecology, the gopher tortoise, the effects of phosphate mining on vertebrates, the use of anurans to evaluate the health of wetlands, the sand skink, and mangrove water snakes. Henry has about 85 published papers and co-edited one book. He has attracted about 3.5 million dollars in research funding, much of it with his colleague Earl D. McCoy. Henry and Earl soon will begin a three year project on the sand skink (*Neoseps (Eumeces) reynoldsi*), a federally listed species and shall continue to conduct research on the gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) and anurans.

**ASIH Service:** Henry has been active in all three herpetological societies and served as President of the SSAR (1997) and the HL (2003-05). Henry was on the ASIH Board of Governors from 1990-95 and is currently serving a second term on the BOG that expires in 2009. He has been a member of the ASIH Conservation Committee since 1995, and a member of the Meeting Management Committee since 2003. Henry served as a judge for a variety of ASIH student awards over the years. Henry and Phil Motta were co-chairs for the 2005 Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists in Tampa in 2005.

**Goals as President of ASIH:** As President of the ASIH, Henry would strive to uphold one of the key statements in the ASIH mission statement that reads, "The programs of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists are part of a global effort to interpret, understand, and conserve the Earth's natural diversity and to contribute to the wise use of natural resources for the long-term benefit of humankind." Also he would strive to make the society more appealing to young scientists. In part, this could be accomplished by seeking more research papers submitted to Copeia that deal with conservation related topics. Henry also would work to increase cooperative efforts among the four North American societies that have united to create the joint meeting of ichthyologists and herpetologists.

## **SECTION EDITOR FOR ECOLOGY & ETHOLOGY**

**JOEL M. SNODGRASS**, Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Towson University, Towson, Maryland 21252. Tel.: 410-704-5033; Fax: 410-704-2455; Email: [jsnodgrass@towson.edu](mailto:jsnodgrass@towson.edu).

**Research Interests:** Evolution, population, and community ecology of fishes and amphibians; conservation biology of stream fishes and pond-breeding amphibians; amphibian toxicology.

**ASIH Service:** Member Editorial Board 2003-2006, Paper Session Moderator, Stoye Judge.

### **SECTION EDITOR FOR GENERAL ICHTHYOLOGY**

**Carl J. Ferraris, Jr.**, Co-Principal Investigator, All Catfish Species Inventory; Research Associate: National Museum of Natural History, American Museum of Natural History, and California Academy of Sciences. Address: 2944 NE Couch St, Portland, OR, 97232. Tel. 503 234-2095; email carlferraris@comcast.net.

**Research Interests:** Systematic studies of the Siluriformes; Nomenclature of Fishes; Fishes of Myanmar

**ASIH Service:** Board of Governors, 1998-2003; Copeia Editorial Board, 2004, 2006; Local Committee member, 1990; Symposium organizer, Catfish Characters and Clades, 1988; Workshop organizer, Nomenclature for Novices, 1997.

### **SECTION EDITOR FOR GENETICS, DEVELOPMENT & MORPHOLOGY**

**Jacqueline F. Webb**, Associate Professor, Department of Biology, Villanova University, Villanova, PA 19085, Phone (610) 519-4807, FAX (610) 519-7863, E-mail jacqueline.webb@villanova.edu.

**Research Areas:** Developmental and evolutionary morphology of fishes, sensory biology, mechanosensory lateral line.

**ASIH Service:** Copeia, Interim Section Editor, Genetics, Development & Morphology (2005-Pres.); Editorial Policy Committee (2005-Pres.); Editorial Board (1999-2001); Copeia Review Implementation Committee (2005-Pres.); Board of Governors (elected to 5-year term, 1994-1999); Stoye Award Committee: Ecology and Ethology Chair (2001), Genetics, Development & Morphology Chair (1992, 1997), Judge (1989, 2005); Raney Award Committee, Chair (1992), Judge (1991); Faculty Liason, Graduate Student and Post-Doctoral Affairs Comm. (1995-1999).

### **BOOK REVIEW EDITOR, HERPETOLOGY**

**Taran Grant**, Postdoctoral Fellow, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024-5192. Tel: 212-769-5247; Email: grant@amnh.org.

**Research Interests:** Neotropical herpetology, phylogenetics, amphibian systematics, molecular, behavioral, and morphological evolution, bioinformatics.

**ASIH Service:** none.

### **BOOK REVIEW EDITOR, ICHTHYOLOGY**

**W. Leo Smith**, Lerner-Gray Postdoctoral Fellow, American Museum of Natural History, Department of Ichthyology, Central Park West at 79th Street, New York, NY 10024. Tel: 212-769-5768, Fax: 212 769 5642; email: leosmith@amnh.org

**Research Interests:** Systematics, comparative anatomy, molecular evolution, and biogeography of fishes; evolution of piscine venoms; vertebrate bioluminescence.

**ASIH Service:** *Copeia* illustration editor: 2005-present; reviewer for *Copeia*.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR

**Lawrence M. Page.** Division of Ichthyology, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-7800

**Research Interests:** Systematics, evolution, and ecology of freshwater fishes. Primary research interests are on percids and siluriforms. Current projects include revision of Peterson Field Guide to Freshwater fishes, Planetary Biodiversity Inventory of Catfishes, and a new book on darters.

**ASIH Service:** President 2003, Treasurer 1992-2000, Executive Committee 1992-2005, Board of Governors 1986-present, Chair, Local Meeting Committee 1992, Editorial Board 1984-1985, 1987-1988, 1989-1990, 1991-1992, Robert H. Gibbs Memorial Award Committee 2003-2005 (Chair 2005), Web Content & Management Committee 2004, Robert K. Johnson Award Committee 2004 (Chair, 2004), Nominating Committee (as Past-President) 2004-2005.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE (HERPETOLOGY)

**Chris Beachy,** Professor, Department of Biology, Minot State University, Central Park West at 79th St., New York, NY 10024-5192. Tel.: 701-858-3164; Fax: 701-858-4150; Email: [christopher.beachy@minotstateu.edu](mailto:christopher.beachy@minotstateu.edu).

**Research Interests:** Amphibian metamorphosis; life histories of salamanders; salamander genomics; conservation biology and toxicology of amphibians.

**ASIH Service:** Judge, Stoye and Storer award for General Herpetology, 2004; reviewer for *Copeia* since 1993.

**Stanley F. Fox,** Regents Professor of Zoology and Curator of Reptiles and Amphibians, Department of Zoology, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078. Tel: 405-744-9682; Fax: 405-744-7824; Email: [foxstan@okstate.edu](mailto:foxstan@okstate.edu).

**Research Interests:** Lizard social organization and sexual selection; social cost of tail autotomy; global amphibian declines; amphibian disease; forest herpetofaunal community structure.

**ASIH Service:** Editorial Board, 1993-98; Board of Governors, 2001-present; Henry S. Fitch Award Committee, 2003-05; Chair, 2005; Sectional Editor for Ecology and Ethology, 2003-present.

**Andrew Storfer,** Assistant Professor, School of Biological Sciences, Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164-4236; (509) 335-7922; Fax (509) 335-3184; Email: [astorfer@wsu.edu](mailto:astorfer@wsu.edu)

**Research Interests:** Disease ecology and coevolution, population and landscape genetics, phylogeography, limits to species' ranges

**ASIH Service:** Member at large since 1998, Attended/ presented at 1996, 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2005 National Meetings, Ad hoc reviewer of approximately 15 manuscripts for *Copeia*. Published two articles in *Copeia* (1999, 2004). As part of the joint meetings in Manaus, Brazil, 2003, Co-chaired a symposium on Amphibian Diseases.

**Other notes:** Chaired a graduate student's committee who won the Gaige Award (Andy Giordano 2003); won the Herpetologist's League Award for Graduate Research at the

1997 joint meeting of ASIH, SSAR and HL. Associate Editor, Herpetology, *Western North American Naturalist* (2001-2005).

#### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE (ICHTHYOLOGY)**

**Walter R. Courtenay, Jr.** Center for Aquatic Resources Studies, U.S. Geological Survey, 7920 NW 71<sup>st</sup> Street, Gainesville, FL 32653-4065

**Research Interests:** Systematics and ecology of freshwater and inshore marine fishes. Primary research interests are on distribution and environmental effects of introduced, nonindigenous fishes. Current projects include participation as an author on a new book containing biological synopses and risk assessments on three species of introduced Asian carps and development of a tri-national risk assessment process on invasive fishes for Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

**ASIH Service:** Board of Governors, 1970-1975, 1979-1984; Environmental Quality Committee (now the Conservation Committee), Chair 1975-1980, 1981-1995; member 1995-present; Committee on Public Affairs, member 1985-1995; ASIH and the National Biological Survey, Liaison Officer 1993-1995.

**Philip J. Motta.** Professor of Biology, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL 33620

**Research Interests:** Functional and ecological morphology of fishes, biomechanics, evolution of functional systems. Current research primarily focuses on the feeding morphology and behavior of sharks and rays, suction feeding performance in sharks, evolution of shark feeding mechanisms.

**ASIH Service:** AES Grant Fund Committee 1996-1997; AES Board of Governors 1997-2004; AES Executive Committee 1998-2003; AES Conference Committee 1998-2005; AES Publication Fund Committee 1998; AES Don Nelson Grant Fund Committee 1998-2001; AES President 1998; AES Past-President 1999-2004; AES Nominating Committee 2003; ASIH Stoye Award Judge; ASIH meeting Co-Host 2005, Tampa, FL.

#### **ROBERT H. GIBBS, JR. MEMORIAL AWARD COMMITTEE**

**Carole C. Baldwin,** Division of Fishes, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, P.O. Box 37012, Washington, DC 20013-7012

**Research Interests:** Systematic ichthyology, especially diversity and evolutionary history of tropical-marine and deep-sea fishes; patterns of speciation and morphological divergence in Caribbean and eastern Pacific fishes; ontogeny; marine conservation.

**ASIH Service:** Editorial Board for *Copeia* 1997-2000; Nominating Committee, 1994-1995; Stoye Award Judge for General Ichthyology, Los Angeles 1995, Seattle 1997 (Committee Chair), State College 1999; Mentor in Equal Participation Program, ASIH La Paz 2000; Stoye Award Judge for Genetics Development & Morphology, ASIH, State College, PA, 2001.

**Carl J. Ferraris, Jr.,** Co-Principal Investigator, All Catfish Species Inventory; Research Associate: National Museum of Natural History, American Museum of Natural History, and California Academy of Sciences. Address: 2944 NE Couch St, Portland, OR, 97232. Tel. 503 234-2095; email: carlferraris@comcast.net

**Research Interests:** Systematic studies of the Siluriformes; Nomenclature of Fishes; Fishes of Myanmar

**ASIH Service:** Board of Governors, 1998-2003; *Copeia* Editorial Board, 2004; Local Committee member, 1990; Workshop organizer, Nomenclature for Novices, 1997; Symposium organizer, Catfish Characters and Clades, 1988.

**Theodore W. Pietsch:** Professor, School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences; Adjunct Professor, Department of Biology; and Curator of Fishes, Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98195.

**Research Interests:** Marine ichthyology, especially the biosystematics, zoogeography, and behavior of deep-sea fishes; and the history of science, especially pre-Linnean history of ichthyology. Major projects currently underway include books on Deep-sea Anglerfishes of the world, Fishes of Puget Sound, and an annotated English translation of Georges Cuvier's History of the Natural Sciences.

**Service to ASIH:** Member, Board of Governors, Class of 1981; member, Long-Range Planning and Finance Committee, 1977-1981; member, Resolutions Committee, 1980, 1982; member, Nominating Committee, 1980-1981; chairperson, Resolutions Committee, 1981; member, Board of Governors, Class of 1987; member, Committee on Honorary Foreign members, 1982-1983; General Ichthyological Editor, *Copeia*, 1986-1991; member, Nominating Committee, 1991-1992; member, Robert H; Gibbs Award Committee, 1991-1994; Faculty Representative, Committee on Graduate Student Participation, 1991-1995; Chairperson, Ichthyological and Herpetological Collections and Resources Committee, 1992-1995; member, Board of Governors, Class of 1998; Chairperson, Robert H; Gibbs Award Committee, 1994; member, Time, Place, and Program Committee, 1994-present; member, Committee on Book-length Publications, 1995-1996; President-Elect, 1996; member, Committee on Special Publications, 1996-1999; Chairperson, Local Committee, 77th Annual Meeting University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, 26 June—2 July 1997; President, 1997; Chairperson, Ad Hoc Committee to Revise Meeting Guidelines, 1998-1999; member, Nominating Committee, 1999.

## **HENRY S. FITCH COMMITTEE**

**Aaron M. Bauer,** Professor of Biology, Villanova University, Villanova, PA 19085. Tel: 610-519-4857, fax 610-519-7863; email aaron.bauer@villanova.edu.

**Research Interests:** Systematics, phylogenetics, biogeography and evolutionary morphology of squamates, particularly lizards of the Old World tropics and south temperate zones.

**ASIH Service:** Board of Governors (1993-1997, 2000-2004), Resolutions Committee (1996), Endowment Committee (1998-present), Nominating Committee (1996, 2004).

**Kevin de Queiroz,** Curator and Research Zoologist, Department of Vertebrate Zoology, Division of Amphibians and Reptiles, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560. Tel: 202-633-0727; Fax: 202-357-3043; E-mail: dequeirk@si.edu.

**Research Interests:** evolutionary biology of reptiles, amphibians, and fishes, with emphasis on phylogenetic systematics; theory of systematic biology.

**ASIH Service:** Board of Governors, 1991-1995; Nominations Committee, 1991-1992; Stoye Award Judge, 2001; Committee on Standard English and Current Scientific Names of North American Reptiles and Amphibians (joint ASIH, HL, SSAR committee), 1997-present; Reviewer for *Copeia*, 1991-present.

**Harold K. Voris**, Curator, Department of Zoology, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, IL 60605. Tel: 312-665-7769; email [hvoris@fieldmuseum.org](mailto:hvoris@fieldmuseum.org).

**Research Interests:** Ecology, systematics, molecular phylogenetics, biogeography, and conservation biology of amphibians and reptiles with special interests on marine and freshwater snakes.

**ASIH Service:** Member of Board of Governors and Long Range Planning Committee 1977-1981, 1983-1988; Chairman of Subcommittee on Special Collections 1977-1979; Chairman of Time, Place, and Program Committee 1978-1981; Chairman of Joint Committee on Resources in Herpetology (with S.S.A.R.) 1979; Chairman of Joint Committee on Management of Systematic Resources 1980; Chairman of Committee on Program Excellence 1982-83; Chairman of Nominations Committee 1985-1986; Chairman of Ad Hoc Committee for Honorary Foreign Members (1995-1996).

#### **ROBERT K. JOHNSON COMMITTEE**

**Janalee P. Caldwell**, Curator and Professor of Zoology, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, 2401 Chautauqua Avenue, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK 73072. Tel.: 405-325-5022; Fax: 405-325-7699; email: [caldwell@ou.edu](mailto:caldwell@ou.edu).

**Research Interests:** Ecology, behavioral ecology, and systematics of amphibians, especially Neotropical frogs.

**ASIH Service:** Co-editor, General Herpetology section, *Copeia*, 1988-1991; Stoye Award Judge for best Graduate Student Paper, 1993 and 1997; Board of Governors, 1992-1997 and 1999-2004; Nominating Committee, 2000; Chair, Local Committee, 2004 Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists.

**Brian I. Crother**, Professor of Biology and Assistant Dean, College of Science and Technology Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, LA 70402. Tel.: 985-549-2055; Fax: 985-549-3396; Email: [bcrother@selu.edu](mailto:bcrother@selu.edu)

**Research Interests:** Evolutionary genetics and biogeography amphibians and reptiles; evolution and development.

**ASIH Service:** Storey Award Committee, 1992; Resolutions Committee, 1996; Local Host (New Orleans) Organizing Committee, 1996; Session Chair Committee, 1996; Storer Award Committee, 1996; Chair, Storer Award Committee, 1998; Storer Award Committee, 1999; Chair, Stoye and Storer Award Committees, 2000; Board of Governors, 2000-2004; Meeting Planning Committee, 2002–; Meeting Management Committee, 2002–; Local Host Committee (New Orleans), 2006.

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS – HERPETOLOGY

**Dean Adams**, Assistant Professor, Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011. Tel.: 515-294-3834; Fax: 515-294-1337; Email: [dcadams@iastate.edu](mailto:dcadams@iastate.edu); <http://www.public.iastate.edu/~dcadams/>

**Research Interests:** salamander ecomorphology, community ecology, evolution of phenotypic diversity, theory of phenotypic pattern analysis.

**ASIH Service:** Society member since 1998. Reviewer of *Copeia* manuscripts.

**Steven J. Beaupre**, Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701. Tel: 479-575-7561; Fax: 479-575-4010; Email:

[sbeaupre@uark.edu](mailto:sbeaupre@uark.edu).

**Research Interests:** Physiological Ecology of Squamates, bioenergetics, and life history. Effects of environment (food and temperature) on metabolism, growth, and reproduction.

**ASIH Service:** Board of Governors, 1998 - 2005; Section Editor, *Copeia* Physiology and Physiological Ecology. Sp. 2002 -2005; *Copeia* Editorial Policy Board 2002-2005; Herpetological Animal Care and Use Committee - Chair, 1999 - 2004. Revised guidelines for use of Amphibians and Reptiles in research; Fitch Award Committee, Chair, 2002; Resolutions Committee, Chair, Annual Meeting, La Paz, B.C.S. Mexico 2000; Student Awards Competition Chair, Guelph, Ontario 1998 meeting.; Stoye Award Competition Judge, Competition, annual meetings 1996, 1997, 2005.

**Rafe M. Brown**, Assistant Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Assistant Curator of Herpetology, Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Research Center, University of Kansas, Lawrence KS 66045, Tel: (785) 864-4304; FAX (785) 864-5335; Email: [rafe@ku.edu](mailto:rafe@ku.edu); <http://nhm.ku.edu/rbrown>

**Research Interests:** Process of diversification in island archipelagos; phylogenetic systematics and historical biogeography; evolution of anuran mate recognition systems and advertisement call character evolution; diversity and conservation of SE Asian amphibians and reptiles.

**ASIH Service:** Reviewer for *Copeia*

**Frank Burbrink**, Assistant Professor, College of Staten Island/City University of New York, Biology Department, 6S-143, 2800 Victory Blvd, Staten Island, NY 10314, [burbrink@mail.csi.cuny.edu](mailto:burbrink@mail.csi.cuny.edu), Fax# 718-982-3852

**Research Interests:** Phylogenetics and phylogeography of snakes and salamanders. Statistical phylogenetic theory.

**ASIH Service:** Reviewer for *Copeia*

**Tiffany M. Doan**, Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, Central Connecticut State University, 1615 Stanley St, New Britain, CT 06053 USA. Tel.: 860-832-2676; Fax 860-832-2594; Email: [tiffperu@yahoo.com](mailto:tiffperu@yahoo.com).

**Research Interests:** Evolutionary biology of reptiles and amphibians; taxonomy; biogeography; ecology of South American herpetofauna.

**ASIH Service:** Society Member since 1994; Session Moderator 2004 Joint Meetings.

**James Hanken**, Professor of Biology, Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, Curator in Herpetology and Director, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138. Tel: 617-495-2496; fax: 617-495-5667; email: hanken@oeb.harvard.edu.

**Research Interests:** Evolutionary morphology; evolutionary developmental biology; taxonomy systematics of neotropical salamanders.

**ASIH Service:** Board of Governors, 1982–92, 2000–04; Publications Secretary, 1982–82.

**Jason J. Kolbe**, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Biology, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405 Tel: 812.855.8250; Email: jkolbe@indiana.edu

**Research Interests:** Evolutionary genetics, evolutionary ecology, community ecology, and invasion biology of reptiles

**ASIH Service:** Reviewer for *Copeia*

**Anne M. Maglia**, Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Missouri-Rolla, Rolla, MO 65409. Tel: 573-341-7190; Fax: 573-341-4821; Email: magliaa@umr.edu.

**Research Interests:** Evolution and systematics of amphibians; amphibian development and life history; development of computational methods for visualizing and analyzing biological data.

**ASIH Service:** Annual meeting session chair 2004; reviewer for *Copeia*.

**Sarah A. Smith**, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Ecology and Evolution, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY 11794-5245. Tel: 631-632-1886, Fax: 631-632-7626. Email: ssmith@life.bio.sunysb.edu

**Research Interests:** Phylogeny and biogeography of reptiles, reptile diversity in New Caledonia, evolutionary and ecological determinants of species richness.

**ASIH Service:** none

**Emily N. Taylor**, Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA 93407-0401. Tel.: 805-756-2616; Fax: 805-756-1419; Email: etaylor@calpoly.edu.

**Research Interests:** Environmental physiology of reptiles, including thermal, endocrine, and reproductive physiology.

**ASIH Service:** *Copeia* reviewer.

## **BOARD OF GOVERNORS - ICHTHYOLOGY**

**James S. Albert**. Department of Biology 42451, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lafayette, LA 70504. Tel: (337) 482-6627

**Research Interests.** Systematics, evolution, and ecology of freshwater fishes. Primary research interests are on Gymnotiformes. Projects include a faunal survey and inventory of a Peruvian Amazon floodplain, historical biogeography of Neotropical fishes, body size evolution, systematic revisions of several gymnotiform taxa (*Gymnotus*, *Brachyhypopomus*, *Steatogenini*, *Rhabdolichops*, *Sternopygus*), functional genomics,

development and diversification of electric organs and electric signals, and an electric eel genome project.

**ASIH Service.** Served as an external reviewer for Copeia.

**Salvador Contreras-Balderas, PhD.** J. Solís 1504, Colonia La Nogalera  
San Nicolás de los Garza, N. L., México 66417.

**Research Interests.** Fish Biosystematics, Endangered and alien's fish species, Fish as bioindicators of impacts.

**ASIH Service.** Indirectly, I have participated in the combined Committees ASIH/AFS for fish at risk since 1978, and at Names of fishes since 1994. Also served on ASIH Conservation Committee since 2005.

**Marlis R Douglas.** Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Conservation Biology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1474.

**Research Interests:** Evolution, ecology and conservation of fishes. Geographic emphasis on Western North America. Primary research interests involve molecular approaches that (a) address questions in biogeography, systematics, phylogeography, population structure, population dynamics, and behavioral ecology of fishes; (b) decipher small- to large-scale patterns of diversification within a landscape perspective, as a guide for biodiversity conservation.

**ASIH Service:** Book Review Editor Ichthyology, 2003-2006; Editorial Policy Committee, 2003-2006; Board or Governors, 2002-2006; Editorial Assistant Copeia, 1995-1998; Stoye Award Committee, 2001; Resolutions Committee, 2000.

**Rebecca C. Fuller:** Department of Animal Biology, University of Illinois, 104 Shelford Vivarium, 606 E. Healey, Champaign, IL 61820.

**Research Interests:** Ecology, ethology, and evolution of fishes. Primary research interests are on fundulids and percids. Current projects include large scale quantitative genetics study to estimate the heritability of vision physiology and behavior as well as genetic correlations between behaviors in addition to a speciation project examining the role of salinity tolerance in diversification in fundulids.

**ASIH Service:** None. ASIH member (1999-present).

**Terry Grande.** Department of Biology, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago IL, 60305.

**Research Interests:** Systematics, development, and biogeography. Primary research interests are on actinopterygian systematics. Current research projects include the evolution of sound transmission mechanisms within actinopterygians, the development of the anterior vertebral region in lower teleosts, esociform evolution and hybridization patterns within the Esociformes. I am currently serving as editor for the book "A Comprehensive Review of Gonorynchiformes and of Ostariophysan Relationships", Scientific Publishers, Inc. I am a member of the DeepFin Steering Committee and Chair of the student exchange subcommittee.

**ASIH Service:** Reviewer for Copeia.

**Phillip M. Harris.** Curator of Fishes, Dept. of Biological Sciences, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0345

**Research Interests:** Systematics, evolution, and ecology of freshwater fishes. Primary research interests are on cyprinids, catostomids, centrarchids, and atherinopsids. Current projects include Cypriniformes Tree of Life Project, and NSF Collections Improvement Grant for UA's Ichthyology, Herpetology, and Malacology collections.

**ASIH Service:** Book Raffle Coordinator for the Committee on Graduate Student Participation, 1994-1996.

**Eric J. Hilton.** Geology Department, Field Museum of Natural History, 1400 South Lake Shore Drive, Chicago IL, 60605

**Research Interests:** Comparative anatomy and phylogenetic systematics of actinopterygian fishes. Current projects include: a monograph on the descriptive, developmental, and comparative osteology and systematics of sturgeons; osteology and biogeography of living and fossil Osteoglossidae; a redescription of the electric knife-fish genus *Orthosternarchus*; a descriptive osteology of the Indo-Pacific carangid genus *Parastromateus*.

**ASIH Service:** Editorial Board, 2001-present; Judge, Storer Award, 2005.

**Carol E. Johnston,** Department of Fisheries, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama 36849

**Research interests:** Behavioral ecology and conservation of fishes; primarily percids and cyprinids. Current projects include the evolution of acoustic signals in darters and North American minnows, life history variation in response to habitat degradation, fish movement and relationships of habitat patch size and connectivity to population dynamics of imperiled fishes.

**ASIH service:** Raney fund award, 1991; Local committee, 1992; Stoye award, Ecology and Ethology, 1992; Resolutions committee, 1992; Symposium organizer, 1992; President, Southeastern Division, ASIH, 1997; Chair, student awards committee, 2003; Board of Governors, 1999-2003; Long range planning committee, 2003 - present.

**J. Andrés López.** Division of Ichthyology, Florida Museum of Natural History, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL. 32611-7800

**Research Interests:** Systematics and molecular evolution of fishes. Primary research interests are on early euteleost divergences, anguilliforms and siluriforms. Current projects include phylogeny of anguilliforms, taxonomic revision of several bagrid genera, phylogeography and introgression in North American freshwater groups and genome size evolution in esociforms.

**ASIH Service:** Graduate Student Participation 1998 & 1999; Local Meeting Committee, 1997; Reviewer for Copeia, 2000-present

**H.J. Walker, Jr.,** Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Marine Vertebrates Collection, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92093-0208. Tel.: 858-534-2199, fax: 858-534-5306; email: hjwalker@ucsd.edu

**Research Interests:** Systematics, life history, biogeography and ecology of fishes.

**ASIH Service:** Reviewer for *Copeia*; Ichthyological and Herpetological Collections Committee (1992-present); Joint ASIH/AFS Committee on Fish Names, Advisory Subcommittee (2005-present); Curatorial Supplies and Practices Committee (1988-1992); Chair, Curation Newsletter Subcommittee (1994-present).

# SUMMARY OF THE MEETINGS

*Copeia*, 2005(4), pp. 947–957

The 85<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH) was held at the Marriott Tampa Waterside Hotel in Tampa, Florida from 6–11 July 2005, in conjunction with the 21<sup>st</sup> annual meeting of the American Elasmobranch Society (AES), the 63<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting of the Herpetologists' League (HL), and the 47<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles (SSAR). Henry Mushinsky and Phil Motta served as co-chairs of the local committee.

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING: 6 JULY 2005

The meeting of the ASIH Board of Governors (BOG) was called to order by President Lynne R. Parenti at 1700 h on 6 July 2005. Forty-eight governors and two guests were in attendance. President Parenti appointed Governor Roy McDiarmid as Parliamentarian for the BOG meeting. Secretary Donnelly conveyed messages of regret from Governors James Atz, Reeve Bailey, Paulo Buckup, Frances Cashner, Robert Cashner, Tony Echelle, Harry Greene, David Greenfield, Arnold Grobman, Karsten Hartel, Gene Helfman, Fred Janzen, Nathan Kley, Joe Pechmann, Frank Pezold, Kyle Piller, Tod Reeder, Richard Rosenblatt, Jay Savage, Tom Turner, Marvalee Wake, and Kent Wells. Secretary Donnelly announced the passing of George Dahrymple, Guido Dingerkus, Michael Ewert, Raymond Laurent, Kristina Louie, Peter Lutz, Jack Moyer, Arthur Myrberg, Barbara Stahl, Patricia Stocking-Brown, and William Taylor. The minutes as published in *Copeia* 2004 (4):978–991 and the agenda for the meeting were approved unanimously.

Late reports (Special Publications, Policy on Meeting Location from Meetings Management, Complete Candidate Information, and Representative to the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections [SPNHC]) were distributed to the governors.

President Parenti announced that Adam Summers will serve as the chair of the 2005 resolutions committee. Hank Bart, Todd Campbell, and Karen Warkentin are members of the committee.

President Parenti then announced that Michael Ghedotti and Darrel Frost are co-chairs of the 2005 Student Awards Committee. The names of judges will be announced during the banquet.

## FUTURE ANNUAL MEETINGS

President Parenti called on Henry Mushinsky, member of the Meetings Management Committee to describe future meeting sites. In 2006, the Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists will be held in New Orleans (12–17 July 2006). The 2007 meeting will be held in St. Louis and our sister

society, the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In 2008 we will meet in Montreal but not in conjunction with the World Congress of Herpetology. For 2009 we have an invitation from Vancouver, Long Beach and other sites. The Meetings Management Committee will propose a rotation that will move the meeting around North America. If a rotation can be established, negotiations for sites can be initiated early to secure venues that best serve the membership. Competition for our meeting can accrue savings to the societies. The Meetings Management Committee works closely with the group from Kansas State Conference Services. Governor Mushinsky, the co-host of the 2005 Joint Meeting, described his working relationship with this group as exceptional. Governor Cannatella asked Governor Mushinsky to speak about the situation with the World Congress of Herpetology. Governor Mushinsky explained that we plan to meet in Montreal without the World Congress, but we have not yet signed a contract with a hotel. Governor Mushinsky explained that the ASIH was not willing to pay costs for the World Congress of Herpetology and hotels wanted financial assurance from the ASIH that the costs of the World Congress would be covered. The members of the Meetings Management committee agreed that we could not spend ASIH funds to support the World Congress. Governor Mushinsky indicated that the recent World Congress meeting in South Africa generated a slight profit. Governor Wassersug asked if the World Congress would be able to enter negotiations for 2008. Governor Green explained that the venue for the World Congress was no longer available and a lack of fiscal support from ASIH led to the withdrawal of the invitation to the World Congress from the original meeting site. The Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists is invited to Montreal for 2008.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

President Parenti asked Secretary Donnelly to read the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting that was held earlier in the day. The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by President Parenti at 0845 h. First, EXEC discussed issues related to our relationship with Allen Press. We signed a three year printing contract with Allen Press and are currently in the first year of that contract. Several issues related to electronic publishing of *Copeia* were discussed and EXEC has determined that the Silo site offered by Allen Press best suits the needs of the ASIH. The silo site will provide individuals and institutions the ability to receive *Copeia* electronically.

Second, the ASIH charges authors who are not members page charges for publishing in *Copeia*. Editor Schaefer will copy the Treasurer to these

invoices so that she can follow up to ensure that these invoices are paid.

Third, the ASIH is happy to announce that all back issues of *Copeia* are now available on JSTOR. The complete holdings of *Copeia* became available on 1 July 2005. EXEC unanimously voted to pay JSTOR to provide individual access to JSTOR documents.

Fourth, the Executive Committee commended Editor Schaefer and the members of the *Copeia* Review committee for their exceptionally thorough report on the status of *Copeia*.

Fifth, the Executive Committee agreed to support the recommendations from the *Copeia* Review Committee to change the page size, page layout, outside front cover and other aspects of format to stimulate interest in the journal. President Parenti will appoint an ad hoc committee to develop an action plan for implementing these changes and suggests that these changes to our journal be coupled with changes in our website.

Sixth, the cost of printing colored figures is currently \$800 per figure. Based on the recommendation from the *Copeia* Review Committee EXEC voted unanimously to reduce to the cost of publishing color from \$800 to \$300 for members. Non-ASIH members will continue to pay \$800 per figure.

Seventh, The *Copeia* Review Committee suggested a reorganization of the sectional editors. EXEC voted unanimously to accept this recommendation as well as the recommendation that the Editor seek sectional editors as needed. This necessitates a constitutional change that will come before the membership in 2006.

Eighth, Hank Bart and Nelson Rios presented a proposal to host the ASIH website at the Tulane Museum of Natural History. There has been substantial dissatisfaction with the website and this proposal is a remedy to our problems. EXEC unanimously accepted the proposal from Tulane and we will work to move the website as soon as possible because our website is extremely important to our society.

Ninth, members of EXEC noted that there have been declines in membership of the ASIH. EXEC voted to approve the formation of an ad hoc committee to investigate these declines. President Parenti will appoint the committee. EXEC also charged LRPP to consider our relationships with our sister societies to determine how our interactions may affect membership in the ASIH.

Tenth, the Society Historian, David Smith, presented a proposal to EXEC to add a second historian. President Parenti appointed Joe Mitchell to be the herpetological historian. President Parenti will form a committee to determine what we need to document the history of the ASIH, write obituaries, and continue to produce the Historical Perspectives.

Eleventh, there will be some clean up of the Constitution next year. If any of you detect any problems, please submit them to Secretary Donnelly so we can take care of them in 2006.

Twelfth, EXEC discussed meeting issues. The decision by Cornell to withdraw their invitation was

unfortunate. We have located a substitute site for 2007 and we will be meeting in St. Louis. Rick Mayden has agreed to serve as the chair of the local committee. We also discussed university versus hotels as meeting sites and EXEC endorsed the activities of the Meetings Management Committee to secure future meeting sites.

Thirteenth, EXEC decided that Gaige and Raney certificates will be presented each year at the Annual Business Meeting. We hope this will increase attendance at this important meeting.

Fourteenth, EXEC authorized President Parenti and Mel Warren, Chair of ENFC, to write letters to our life members and encourage them to make a financial donation to the ASIH.

Fifteenth, EXEC voted to accept appropriate advertisements in *Copeia* as a way to generate funds.

Sixteenth, President Parenti had communicated with members of the Graduate Student Participation Committee about what they wanted from the ASIH. The students expressed an interest in panel discussions and workshops rather than one-on-one mentoring.

Seventeenth, Secretary Donnelly reported that she discovered that student participation in our meetings over the last ten years varies from 40% to over 50%. Student participation is extremely high this year.

Eighteenth, President Parenti announced that the Newsletter of Systematic Ichthyology is now co-sponsored by ASIH and Deepfin and the newsletter is available on the Deepfin website.

Nineteenth, President Parenti announced that AFS special publication #6, the common names of fishes, is being sold to ASIH members for \$42 + shipping and handling. This price represents a 30% discount from the list price. The AFS donated two copies of the book to the ASIH student book raffle.

The executive committee was adjourned at 1328 h.

#### REPORTS TO THE BOARD

President Parenti exempted reports from the Meetings Management Committee, the Meetings Planning Committee, the Nominating Committee, the report from the *Copeia* Review Committee, and late reports from the Special Publications Committee and from the Representative to the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections. President Parenti asked the Governors for exemption of additional reports. Hearing no requests, it was moved and seconded that all other reports be accepted. The motion passed unanimously.

President Parenti called on Henry Mushinsky to describe the policy for selection of meeting sites. The policy calls for moving meeting sites in a predictable way among regions. The sequence begins with the 2009 meeting on the Pacific Coast, a 2010 meeting for the East Coast, a 2011 meeting in the Midwest, a 2012 meeting in the Southwest, and a 2013 meeting in the Southeast. The sequence can be interrupted by an opportunity to hold our meeting in Central or South America. Governor

Collette moved to accept the report, the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

President Parenti then called on Deanna Stouder, chair of the Meetings Planning Committee, to describe the three proposals described in the report from the committee which were considered in three votes. Stouder described the proposal to limit the number of symposia held each year. Scheduling symposia is complicated and the proposal limits the number held in any year to eight. Each of the four JMIH societies will have one symposia and other proposals will be considered to balance interest and accommodate the needs of any additional societies that meet with the JMIH. Governor Steve Ross asked how the symposia will be selected. Stouder replied that the review process used by the ASIH Meetings Planning Committee will be used, wherein proposals for symposia are reviewed and ranked. Governor Neighbors asked if our sister societies agreed with this policy. Governor Mushinsky, speaking on behalf of the Herpetologists' League and the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, indicated that these societies had adopted the policy. Governor Burgess indicated that the American Elasmobranch Society had adopted the policy. The governors moved to accept the policy, the motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Stouder then described the rationale for the second policy which is related to a process to review workshop proposals. Last minute requests for workshops are difficult to honor because they require space and equipment that are not cost neutral. To assist local host committees in coping with these requests, a policy was developed that mirrors the current policy for symposium proposals. The proposals would be due to on 1 March for the meeting in the following calendar year. For example, a workshop proposal for the 2007 meeting would be due on 1 March 2006. A motion to approve the proposal was made, the motion was seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Stouder then described the third policy which is one that would limit the total number of oral presentations for the annual meeting to 700. Seven hundred and thirty oral papers were scheduled this year and it strained the limits of capacity. The only way to accommodate more presentations would be to add a room, which is often difficult, or add a day to the meeting, which is not acceptable to the membership. The first 700 oral papers will be accepted; poster presentations will make up the rest of the presentation slots. A total of 1142 abstracts were received in 2005 and the committee tried to prevent overlap between oral papers and posters to emphasize the importance of poster presentations. Governor Collette asked if presenters were still restricted to giving a single paper and a single poster. Stouder replied that this was the current policy. Governor McCormick asked if there was some limit to the number of posters. Stouder indicated that the number of posters is limited by the exhibitor space and hallway space to handle the poster boards. Governor Johnson asked how the limit was determined. Stouder replied that this was

decided based on this year's submissions. Governor Wassersug indicated that if we move to presenting posters, we might need to provide technology for poster presenters interested in using such technology for dynamic presentations. The governors moved to adopt the policy, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

President Parenti then called for approval of the Nominating Committee report. Governor Ross noted that one of the nominees for the Board of Governors is already a governor. Once Christopher Taylor was removed from the ballot, the governors moved to approve the report and the ballot, the motion was seconded and it passed unanimously. The governors then moved acceptance of the ballots for the Robert H. Gibbs, Jr. Memorial Award Committee, the Henry S. Fitch Committee, and the Robert K. Johnson Committee, the motion was seconded, and the ballots were unanimously approved.

President Parenti then turned to discussion of the report presented by the ad hoc *Copeia* Review Committee. Governor Buth mentioned that elements of the report were discussed during the Editorial Policy Committee Meeting. Governor Buth then explained that currently Sectional Editors are elected and there was a proposal in the report that would change that structure and have sectional editors appointed by the editor. Governor Buth suggested that Sectional Editors might want to be elected because it is more prestigious to be elected rather than being appointed. Governor Schultz wanted clarification among the subjects depicted in the report; he asked how population biology differed from Ecology. Editor Schaefer replied that this was the current distribution to balance the workload. Governor Hutchinson mentioned that it would be more functional to appoint editors. President Parenti pointed out that nothing has changed but she will appoint a committee to examine an implementation plan for the most serious recommendations offered by the *Copeia* Review Committee. Governor Mayden mentioned that the ad hoc committee should contact the membership for additional input. Governor Green pointed out that the acceptance of the report from the committee did not bind us to action but provides a point for discussion. Governor Collette moved acceptance of the report, Governor Phillips seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

President Parenti then turned to two late reports. The report from the Representative to the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections was discussed, a motion for acceptance was made, the motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

President Parenti then called on Governor Armbruster to discuss the report from the Special Publications Committee. The sales of special publications has increased but are still lagging behind expectations. We have only made a profit on Special Publication number 4 (Fishes of Bermuda). Jon also reported that Special Publication Number 5 can be downloaded as a PDF file from the NAO site. Jon described the recommendations from his committee regarding future special publications. Secretary

Donnelly reported that the Executive Committee approved advertising in the Allen Press Buyer's Guide in 2007. A motion was made to accept the report, the motion was seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

#### OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

President Parenti then turned to items of Old Business. Parenti described the status of electronic publishing and delivery of *Copeia*. We currently produce an electronic version of *Copeia* that is available from BioOne and JSTOR. President Parenti reminded the governors that they were asked to vote on the establishment of a silo site to provide electronic access to all members of ASIH. The governors approved that motion by a vote of 40 for, 8 against, and 1 abstention. Since this motion was approved the society has been bombarded by proposals to publish *Copeia* electronically. President Parenti called on Al Savitzky to elaborate on some of these proposals. Carl Ferraris asked what will happen to old issues of BioOne. Julian Humphries asked how many folks needed individual access. Governor Savitzky described how the silo site carries the least amount of risk for us at this point in time because it provides access to libraries.

President Parenti asked for any other items of old business, hearing none she turned to new business. She informed the governors that we have received a proposal from the Tulane Natural History Museum to sponsor the ASIH website. The Executive Committee voted unanimously to accept the proposal. Hank Bart described the elements of the proposal that includes a server, maintenance of the server, and a portion of the salary for a web developer. President Parenti called for a motion to approve the proposal which was made, the motion was seconded, and it carried unanimously.

President Parenti called for other items of new business and hearing none she called on the governors to cast their ballots for the Gibbs, Fitch, and Johnson committees. Carter Gilbert was elected to a three year term on the Robert H. Gibbs, Jr. Memorial Award Committee. H. Bradley Shaffer was elected to a three year term on the Henry S. Fitch Committee. Frank H. McCormick was elected to a three year term on the Robert K. Johnson Committee. All newly elected members will serve as chairs of these committees in 2008.

President Parenti adjourned the BOG meeting at 1836 h.

#### ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING: 10 JULY 2005

The Annual Business Meeting (ABM) was called to order at 1801 h in Room 9–10 of the Marriott Tampa Waterside Hotel.

President Parenti called for a motion to approve the minutes of the annual business meeting held on 30 May 2004 at the NCED Center in Norman, Oklahoma as published in *Copeia* 2004:980–985. The minutes were unanimously accepted. President Parenti called on Secretary Donnelly to read the

minutes from the Board of Governors meeting held on 6 July 2005. President Parenti called for motion to approve the minutes of the BOG meeting; the motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously.

President Parenti then announced the appointment of chairs for four ad hoc committees: Secretary Historians David Smith and Joe Mitchell will co-chair the ad hoc Committee on the History of the Society; Matthew Parris will chair the ad hoc Committee charged with implementation of the ideas presented in the *Copeia* Review Committee report; Hank Bart is the chair of the ad hoc Web Content Advisory Committee; Dawn Wilson and Larry Page will co-chair the ad hoc committee on Declining Membership.

President Parenti then called on Adam Summers to read the serious resolution presented to his committee. The resolution for Steven J. Beaupre was passed by acclamation. Frank McCormick came forward to read two resolutions from the Conservation Committee and three resolutions from AES. Following a reading of the resolutions, Jay Savage moved, and Brian Crother seconded the motion to approve all five resolutions. The motion carried unanimously.

#### SUBSTANTIVE RESOLUTIONS

**RESOLUTION FOR STEVEN J. BEAUPRE.—** WHEREAS Steven J. Beaupre has served three years as Sectional Editor for Physiology and Physiological Ecology, and

WHEREAS Steve put his own research projects aside while he helped our members improve their manuscripts, and

WHEREAS this dedicated service is essential for the production of *Copeia*,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the ASIH extends its thanks to Steve for his generous service as the Sectional Editor of Physiology and Physiological Ecology.

**RESOLUTION FOR TURKEY CREEK DARTERS.—** WHEREAS the Turkey Creek Basin, Alabama contains populations of two imperiled fish species, the federally endangered Vermilion Darter (*Etheostoma chermocki*) and the imperiled Rush Darter (*E. phytophilum*), a candidate species for federal listing, and

WHEREAS both species are also protected by the State of Alabama as Priority 1 species (Highest Conservation Concern), and

WHEREAS habitat degradation has increased throughout the basin over the last decade, with the most serious aquatic habitat destruction being directly attributable to subdivision development that increased sedimentation in Turkey Creek and resulted in the decline of Vermilion Darters, and

WHEREAS the request to rezone property in the Turkey Creek Basin near Pinson, Alabama from industrial/commercial to single family homes will negatively impact two newly discovered populations of Vermilion and Rush Darters in an unnamed

tributary of Turkey Creek (33°40'56"N, 86°41'35"W; T15S, R2W, Sec. 36 SE 1/4 and (33°40'7"N, 86°42'18"W; T16S, R2W, Sec. 1 SW 1/4),

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists urges the Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Commission to decline the above mentioned rezoning request and suspend any planned modifications to streams in the Turkey Creek watershed.

RESOLUTION FOR THE PALLID STURGEON.—WHEREAS the Pallid Sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*) is a federally endangered species found in large river habitat in the Missouri and Mississippi river systems, and

WHEREAS Pallid Sturgeon from the upper Missouri River system (Recovery-Priority Management Areas 1 and 2) differ from Pallid Sturgeon in the lower Missouri River (RPMA 4), Mississippi River (RPMA 5), and Atchafalaya River (RPMA 6) in both genetic and morphological characters, and

WHEREAS the Pallid Sturgeon is being propagated at a number of hatcheries using broodstock from the upper Missouri River System (RPMA 1 and 2) and progeny from these captive rearing activities are being stocked in the lower Missouri River system (RPMA 4), and

WHEREAS Pallid Sturgeon have been observed to move from the lower Missouri River system (RPMA 4) into the Mississippi River proper (RPMA 5) where they have an opportunity to exchange genetic material with distinctive pallid sturgeon resident to this area,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists urges the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to discontinue these stocking activities and if captive rearing and stocking activities are to be continued, that the introduction of progeny into RPMA's with resident pallid sturgeon should be restricted to individuals with the same morphological and genetic characteristics as the broodstock from which they were produced.

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE CONSERVATION OF THE UNITED STATES WEST COAST SPINY DOGFISH.—WHEREAS the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Pacific Fishery Management Council are considering measures to limit participation and catch in a developing fishery for Spiny Dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*) off Washington, Oregon, and California, and

WHEREAS the exceptionally low intrinsic rate of increase associated with Spiny Dogfish sharks is well documented and warrants a cautious management approach, and

WHEREAS management action came too late to conserve United States Atlantic Spiny Dogfish and resulted in serious depletion of record high populations and recruitment failure within just ten years, and

WHEREAS Northeast Pacific Spiny Dogfish grow even more slowly than those in the Northwest Atlantic, and

WHEREAS Spiny Dogfish stock assessment will not occur until 2007 and the status of the Puget Sound Spiny Dogfish population is already of concern, and

WHEREAS Spiny Dogfish cross state and national boundaries off the United States West Coast,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists urges the PFMC and NMFS to work cooperatively with the Pacific states and Canada to impose precautionary limit on participation and catch in West Coast Spiny Dogfish fisheries in order to conserve populations while comprehensive assessments and management programs are developed.

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE MAGNUSON-STEVENS FISHERY MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION.—WHEREAS scientists nationwide, and the United States Commission on Ocean Policy, have found that many of our nation's fish populations are persistently overfished and in some cases, in danger of collapse, and

WHEREAS sound science is critical to successfully managing fish populations and ensuring their long-term sustainability, and

WHEREAS the scientific committees convened by the nation's eight Regional Fishery Management Councils are responsible for developing stock assessments and providing scientific advice on appropriate catch levels and identification of essential habitat for federal fish populations, and

WHEREAS the Regional Fishery Management Councils, responsible for managing federal fisheries, face intense political pressure to improve short-term economic conditions of fisheries and often downplay or ignore recommendations from their scientific committees in favor of decisions that result in overfishing, and

WHEREAS the United States Commission on Ocean Policy recommended amending the Magnuson-Stevens Act to strengthen the role of the Councils' scientific committees and to require the Councils to conform their management decisions to the scientific determinations and recommendations of these committees,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists urges the United States Congress to pass legislation reauthorizing the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act that serves to strengthen the role of science in fisheries management by requiring Councils to adhere to the advice of their scientific committees.

RESOLUTION REGARDING AMENDMENT TWO TO THE FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR UNITED STATES ATLANTIC SHARKS.—WHEREAS the United States National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is in the process of amending its fishery management plan (FMP) for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) including sharks, and

WHEREAS NMFS considers the large coastal shark complex to be both overfished and experi-

encing overfishing, while the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN; World Conservation Union) Shark Specialist Group (SSG) has proposed two Atlantic large coastal shark species, the Great Hammerhead Shark (*Sphyrna mokarran*) and Scalloped Hammerhead Shark (*Sphyrna lewini*), as endangered under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, and

WHEREAS the IUCN SSG and Canada have both proposed the Porbeagle Shark (*Lamna nasus*) for endangered status, based on a Canadian stock assessment that reveals an 89% decline in the Northwest Atlantic population since the 1960's, and

WHEREAS exceptionally slow growing deepwater sharks have been severely depleted by fisheries in other parts of the world, and at least five populations of gulper sharks, including two species also found in the Northwest Atlantic (*Centrophorus uyato* and *Centrophorus granulosus*), are included on the IUCN Red List, and

WHEREAS the NMFS has yet to address any of these species in the ongoing process to amend the Atlantic HMS FMP, and

WHEREAS NMFS has taken action in the past to prohibit the take of 19 other shark species considered especially vulnerable and/or poorly understood in terms of exploitation risk,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists urges the National Marine Fisheries Service to include Draft Amendment 2 to the Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan options for stopping overfishing of large coastal sharks and prohibiting directed fishing for other vulnerable and/or depleted shark species, particularly porbeagle and deepwater sharks.

#### PRESENTATION OF GAIGE AND RANEY AWARDS

President Parenti called on Secretary Donnelly to present the 2005 certificates for the Raney and Gaige award winners.

In 2005, the Gaige Fund Award Committee was chaired by Christopher Phillips. Kirsten Nicholson and Adam Summers served on the 2005 committee. The committee received 24 applications and made the following 10 awards of \$500 to: **Lelena Avila**, Indiana University, "Why do *Thamnophis sirtalis* eat toxic newts?"; **Nathan Calder**, University of Central Oklahoma, "Do neuropeptides mediate alternative reproductive tactics in male collared lizards?"; **Jena Chojnowski**, University of Florida, "Identifying candidate genes for temperature-dependent sex determination in the red-eared slider turtle, *Trachemys scripta*"; **Paula Kahn**, Auburn University, "Gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) relocation: Effects of stress, immunocompetence, and reproduction"; **Daria Koscinski**, University of Western Ontario, "Comparative phylogeography of Andean frogs"; **Gregory Pauly**, University of Texas, "Sexual selection and mating signal evolution in the western toad, *Bufo boreas*"; **Daniel Rabosky**, Cornell University, "Rampant parallel evolution of color pattern in a clade of Australian skinks"; **Jennifer Sheridan**,

University of California San Diego, "Reproductive variation across latitude for a wide-ranging tropical species"; **Justin Touchon**, Boston University, "Does an embryo's environment alter later tadpole interactions with predators?"; **Jessa Watters**, University of New Hampshire, "A test of optimal foraging theory in two lizard species: *Sceloporus virgatus* and *Sceloporus jarrovii*." Justin Touchon received a warm round of applause as he came forward to accept his certificate.

The Raney Fund Award Committee was chaired by Cheryl Wilga in 2005. Andrew Simons and Kent Carpenter also served on the committee in 2005. The committee received 42 applications of which 39 were evaluated. The five winners each received \$1000 to support their research as follows: **Benjamin Ciotti**, University of Delaware, "Spatial variability in growth and diet of juvenile plaice: Predator-prey linkages in dynamic nursery environments"; **Donovan German**, University of Florida, "What does it take to eat wood: Mechanisms of digestion in closely related armored catfishes (Loricariidae) representing algivory, herbivory, and xylophagy"; **Shannon Gerry**, University of Rhode Island, "A comparison of feeding morphologies and behaviors in a generalist and specialist shark species"; **Erin Reardon**, McGill University, "Effects of hypoxia on the life history and energetics of the African Cichlid *Pseudocrenilabrus multicolor*"; **Takashi Maie**, Clemson University, "Relationships of feeding morphology and performance to habitat distribution in Hawaiian stream gobies: *Awaous guamensis* and *Lentipes concolor*."

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President Parenti then moved to the election of ASIH officers, including the President Elect, two new sectional editors, new members of the Board of Governors (Class of 2010), the Nominating Committee Chair, and members of the Nominating Committee. The slate of nominees as provided by the Nominating Committee and the BOG are posted on the website. Nominations from the floor were invited and Michael E. Douglas, F. Douglas Martin, and Jacqueline F. Webb were added to the ballot (Board of Governors - Ichthyology). All candidates nominated from the floor provided a signed statement indicating they would serve if elected. A motion was made to close nominations, the motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Kristen Bell, Alessandro Catenazzi, Ralph Saporito, Matthew Warren, James Watling, and Steven Whitfield distributed and tallied the ballots.

Results of the elections were announced at the banquet and are listed here (an asterisk [\*] denotes re-election of an incumbent officer): President-Elect: Richard L. Mayden; Secretary: Maureen A. Donnelly\*; Treasurer: Margaret A. Neighbors\*; Editor: Scott A. Schaefer\*; Ecology and Ethology Editor: Stanley F. Fox\*; Ecology and Ethology Editor: Christopher M. Taylor\*; General Ichthyology Editor: Donald G. Buth\*; General Ichthyology Editor: Jonathan W. Armbruster\*; General

Herpetology Editor: Michael J. Lannoo\*; General Herpetology Editor: Tod W. Reeder\*; Genetics, Development and Morphology Editor: Robert M. Wood\*; Genetics, Development and Morphology Editor: Joseph M. Quattro\*; Physiology and Physiological Ecology Editor: Robert Mason; Physiology and Physiological Ecology Editor: Eric Schultz; Subject Index Editor: Frances Cashner\*; Taxonomic Index Editor: Jay W. Orr\*; Book Review Editor Ichthyology: Marlis R. Douglas\*; Book Review Editor Herpetology: Kentwood D. Wells\*; Board of Governors Class of 2010 Herpetology: Richard E. Glor, Craig Guyer, Kirsten E. Nicholson, Melissa A. Pilgrim, Jennifer B. Pramuk; Board of Governors Class of 2010 Ichthyology: Henry L. Bart, Michael E. Douglas, Bernard R. Kuhajda, Joseph S. Nelson, and Mark S. Peterson. The chair of the Nominating Committee is Maureen Kearney, and members of the nominating committee are: Karen R. Lips, Larry M. Page, and Deanna J. Stouder.

#### OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

President Parenti called on Al Savitzky to describe old business that deals with the electronic access to *Copeia*. Savitzky described that the only way institutions can get *Copeia* electronically is through BioOne. Al mentioned that EXEC wanted to provide all of our members individual access and BioOne would do it for members but not for institutions. Allen Press has a silo site for *Copeia* that allows AP to deliver *Copeia* electronically to several institutions. The cost is approximately \$15,000/year. Carl Ferraris asked if institutions will get both print and electronic versions for free. Al mentioned that this year it is a single charge for electronic and print but next year, we will charge extra for electronic and print. Carl then said we will be paying \$15,000/year for the silo site and he wondered if we make money would we lower costs? Al said that this will all be reconsidered 2 or 3 years out.

President Parenti then called for other items for old business, hearing none, she called on Hank Bart to come forward to describe the move of the website from Allen Press to Tulane. Hank described how the Tulane Natural History Museum recently got a dedicated T1 line and they offered to sponsor our website. For the price of a server, a one-time upfront cost of \$5000, and a monthly charge of \$296 (to cover future changes to the server, and part of the salary of a web developer, and the web development software), Tulane could host our website. The website will be redesigned, it will be installed on a dedicated ASIH file server. The web developer will redesign and add other functionalities. Hank pointed out that he will work closely with the web content committee to continually improve the ASIH website. Hank is certain we will soon have a website we are proud of and we can get it out to the world. Eric Schultz thanked Hank for his willingness to do this but voiced concerns over security. Hank responded that they currently deal with security issues and Nelson Rios is in charge of

these functions at Tulane. Tulane hosts a large portal, they are collaborators on FishNet2, and they are part of a georeferencing consortium. Hank feels his team is knowledgeable enough to handle security. Bruce Collette asked how the costs compare with what we pay Allen Press. Hank said that he is open to suggestions for the website and asked interested persons to contact him. There will be a full-time web developer that will be supported on soft money and the web developers first project will be to move the site. Doug Martin said we are going to move the domain name and Margaret Neighbors controls the domain name. Barbara Savitzky asked if we would face \$5000 cost every four years and Hank explained that the server cost was a one-time cost. Brian Crother thanked Hank and the audience applauded.

President Parenti called for additional new business. Hearing none, Lynne called on Bob Cashner to describe future meetings. The city of cafe au lait and beignets, and the city that says, 'When in New Orleans, please pretend you are in Tampa'. The co-hosting institutions are University of New Orleans, Tulane University with strong support from other Louisiana institutions including Southeastern Louisiana University. The 2006 meeting will be held 12-17 July and although Phil warned you not to walk to Ybor City, you can take a cab across Canal Street to the French Quarter. There are new services, an expanded trolley line service to the zoo and museums. There are 134 bistros near the meeting venue. The audience applauded.

President Parenti then called on Larry Page to discuss the LINNE initiative. Larry described two workshops held in 2003 at the University of Florida and the New York Botanical Garden which resulted in the new initiative called LINNE. Larry informed the membership that a proposal has been submitted to NSF which includes a series of workshops. There will be several workshops on taxonomy and LINNE is asking for money to support biological collections. Larry urged interested parties need to get behind this new initiative. LINNE is comparable to NEON, the national observatory network, Page believes that LINNE is ahead of NEON in terms of organization.

President Parenti then called for other announcements. Jay Savage moved adjournment which was seconded by Brian Crother. The meeting adjourned at 1920 h.

#### ANNUAL BANQUET: 11 JULY 2005

Emcee Larry Page called the banquet to order and informed the assembled body that the banquet was the final event of the Joint Meeting of the American Elasmobranch Society, the Herpetologists' League, and the Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles, and the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. Larry proposed a toast to the attendees of the joint meeting for doing important research and belonging to important societies. Larry then told a joke about

a man with a gator, a woman, and a bar. He then introduced ASIH representatives seated at the head table: President Lynne Parenti and her partner Tina Ramoy, Secretary Maureen A. Donnelly, Treasurer Margaret Neighbors, Herpetologists' League President Henry Mushinsky and his wife Pat Yarnot, American Elasmobranch Society President Jeff Carrier and his wife Carol, Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles President Robin Andrews and SSAR Secretary Marion Preest.

Larry then described the meeting statistics for 2005: There were a total of 1,361 attendees and over half of these were students (636 students). Sixty-seven accompanying persons, 5 members of the Press, and 19 exhibitors also attended the meeting. Larry read the list of represented countries: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, England, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, PR China, Portugal, R.O.C., Scotland UK, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan/Taiwan R.O.C., United Kingdom, United States, and Venezuela.

Larry then asked all past-presidents of AES, HL, SSAR, and ASIH to stand and be recognized. The audience applauded as the past leaders of the societies were acknowledged.

The committee on Graduate Student Participation raised \$3910 during the book raffle, and the ASIH will provide a match of \$2000 to bolster the travel award fund.

Larry Page called on the presidents of AES and SSAR to present their awards and then Henry Mushinsky came forward as the President of the Herpetologists' League. Henry pointed out that we had a tornado last year, a hurricane this year, and he called on Bob Cashner to meet the challenge in 2006. Henry announced the results of the Jaeger student competition. Larry Page then called on Mo Donnelly to present the certificates of appreciation. Mo presented a certificate to Steve Beaupre in appreciation for his years of service as the Physiology and Physiological Ecology Editor and to Pat Gregory for his year of service as ASIH President.

#### PRESENTATION OF STOYE AND STORER AWARDS

Larry then called the Chair of the Student Awards Committee, Michael Ghedotti to the podium to present the 2005 Stoye and Storer Award winners. Mike and President-Elect Frost brought together 24 judges to work with them during the 2005 competitions. Each Stoye/Storer winner receives a cash award of \$250, a certificate, and all existing back issues. Kevin Tang chaired the subcommittee for the Stoye Award for Conservation. Tomas Near and Dawn Wilson served on the committee. **Tanya Darden**, University of Southern Mississippi won the Stoye Award in Conservation for her talk entitled "Dispersal in Enneacanthini sunfishes: A test of wetland regulatory assumptions". Andrew Kinziger chaired the Stoye Ecology and Ethology subcommittee that included Pablo Delis, Mark Pyron, Christopher Shiel and John Switzer as judges

along with Andrew. **M. Rockwell Parker**, Oregon State University, won the Stoye Award in Ecology and Ethology for his talk entitled "Revealing greater complexity in rattlesnake chemical ecology: Change is in the air." Michael Ghedotti chaired the General Ichthyology Subcommittee; Jason Knouft, Bernard Kuhajda, and Nathan Lovejoy served as judges.

**Rebecca Blanton**, Tulane University, won the Stoye Award in General Ichthyology for her talk entitled "The geographic distribution of genetic diversity in the *Etheostoma flabellare* species complex (Percidae, *Catonotus*) from the lower Atlantic Slope River drainages of North and South Carolina." Jacqueline F. Webb chaired the Genetics, Morphology, and Development subcommittee. Jim Bogart, David Cundall and Paula Mabee served as judges for the subcommittee and **Lisa Lobel**, University of Massachusetts, won the Stoye Award for Genetics, Development, and Morphology for her talk "Field studies evaluation of developmental and reproductive effects of chemical exposure in the coral reef fish, *Abudefduf sordidus* (Pomacentridae)." Steve Beaupre was the chair of the Physiology and Physiological Ecology subcommittee; Steve Kajjura and Frederick Zaidan served as judges. **Rita Mehta**, University of Tennessee, won the Stoye Award in Physiology and Physiological Ecology for her talk entitled "Comparative epaxial motor patterns in snakes during constriction." Carol Spencer served as the chair of the subcommittee for the Storer Award in Herpetology; Darrel Frost and Maureen Donnelly served as judges. **Krista Larson**, Purdue University, won the Storer Award in Herpetology for her poster entitled "Call complexity in northern leopard frogs: Are males advertising beauty or brawn?" Nancy Holcroft Benson served as the chair of the subcommittee for the Storer Award in Ichthyology. Hank Bart and Eric Hilton served as judges; **Kurtis Gray**, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, won the Storer Award in Ichthyology for his poster entitled "Population genetic structure of the marlinsucker, *Remora osteochir* (Perciformes: Echeineidae) inferred from mitochondrial control (D-loop) DNA sequence analysis."

Larry then called on Mo Donnelly to present the Robert K. Johnson Award, Stan Fox to present the Henry S. Fitch Award, and Joe Nelson to present the Robert H. Gibbs Award.

#### PRESENTATION OF THE ROBERT K. JOHNSON AWARD

The Robert K. Johnson Award was formalized by the ASIH membership during the 2004 meeting in Norman, Oklahoma. Bob was a very dedicated ASIH member and devoted much of his time to improving the quality of our professional lives through his service to ASIH. Bob served the ASIH as the editor of our journal *Copeia*, as the chair of the Long Range Planning and Policy Committee, and as Secretary. His legacy is large. Bob's development of the policy manual has improved the quality of life for all those volunteers who govern the society. Constitutional changes formalized the Robert K. Johnson Committee that is charged with the review

of nominations. The Johnson Committee consists of three members with three year terms. Each elected member serves as chair during their last year. Each year a replacement member is elected to serve on the committee by the Board of Governors.

The award is given annually and the first Robert K. Johnson Award was presented to Clark Hubbs in 2004. In even years the award is given to a deserving ichthyologist and in odd years, the award is given to a deserving herpetologist.

This year's winner, like our winner in 2004, has a long, distinguished record of service to the ASIH. The winner has served as a reviewer for our journal *Copeia*, has reviewed books for *Copeia*, has served on the Editorial Board, and served a three-year term as General Herpetology Editor. This year's winner served on the nominating committee, served 10 years on the time and place committee, and served a five year term on the Environmental Quality Committee. This year's winner attended several ASIH meetings, gave contributed papers, participated in ASIH symposia, and co-hosted an annual meeting. Our winner has been an active participant in our annual meetings which I believe are the best among those sponsored by academic societies. This year's winner greatly contributes to the spirit of what makes the joint meeting a great experience, and I personally was made to feel like a true member of ASIH because of my interactions at annual meetings with the 2005 winner. This year's winner has served several stints as session moderator, as a Stoye judge, and was honored by an ASIH-sponsored symposium in 1997.

The 2005 winner of the Robert K. Johnson award not only served the ASIH, the winner served her department, her university, and several other professional societies. Over 100 seminars and popular lectures were presented to a variety of professional and civic groups during the winner's academic career, and countless lives were touched in the process.

The winner served several years on the ASIH Board of Governors, served as the President, and most importantly served five years as the Historian. Our professional lives are better because of the efforts she put forth capturing the stories of our members. The 2005 winner of the Robert K. Johnson award is Margaret McBride Stewart.

#### PRESENTATION OF THE HENRY S. FITCH AWARD

First of all, I would like to thank the other members of the Henry S. Fitch Award Committee: Al Savitsky and Julian Lee. It was a pleasure to work with them, I wish Al the best of luck as he serves as the chairperson of the committee for next year.

The Henry S. Fitch Award for Excellence in Herpetology from the ASIH is awarded to an individual for long-term excellence in the study of amphibian and/or reptile biology, based principally on the quality of the awardee's research, with consideration given to educational and service impacts of the individual's career in the field of herpetology. It honors individuals who in a loose

way carry on the powerful contribution that Henry Fitch made to our field, especially in the field of natural history, taken in the broad sense.

The Henry S. Fitch Award is a relatively new award for ASIH; we have only 6 past recipients since the first in 1999. They are: A. Stanley Rand, David B. Wake, Jay M. Savage, Robert F. Inger, Richard Shine, and Harry W. Greene.

The 2005 winner of the Henry S. Fitch Award for Excellence in Herpetology is a past-President of ASIH and has made her career as an Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Full Professor, and now Professor Emeritus at the State University of New York at Albany. Her most famous research was a long string of herpetological field studies conducted in Puerto Rico. Ingenious, clever, careful studies of a small, abundant, vociferous anuran. There are but two words that sum up her long and industrious career: [Co-quí whistle]. This distinguished herpetologist published a long string of papers not just in *Copeia*, *Herpetologica*, and *Journal of Herpetology*, but also in *Science*, *Oecologia*, *Ecology*, *Animal Behavior*, *Physiological Zoology*, and many others. This string of papers on the biology of *Eleutherodactylus coqui* is legendary and a powerful contribution to herpetology, but she has also published widely on other topics.

This 2005 Fitch Award recipient has been extremely active in professional societies and outreach activities. She has been past president of ASIH and also SSAR and served on many of their committees, board of governors, editorial positions, etcetera. She has been ASIH historian since 1999 and instituted and authored the popular (I hope not just among the old codgers) Historical Perspectives in *Copeia*.

In closing just let me say that this esteemed herpetologist served as a role model for young women with a passion and desire for field biology, for field herpetology—and this in a time when that was not such an easy thing to be. She has been a role model and mentor for many sitting in this room today. Times have changed—look around you—and this changed environment of herpetology is due in large part to this 2005 award winner and those like her.

For this lifetime commitment to excellence in herpetology in the tradition of Henry Fitch, ASIH makes the 2005 Henry S. Fitch award to Margaret “Meg” Stewart.

#### PRESENTATION OF THE ROBERT H. GIBBS AWARD

It is a pleasure for me to present this year's award to an outstanding ichthyologist. Ichthyology is alive and well as we have seen with the wonderful talks at this meeting. These are very exciting times.

Our thanks to all those who have submitted nominations for the Gibbs award.

The Robert H. Gibbs, Jr. Memorial Award for Excellence in Systematic Ichthyology is presented by the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH) to a citizen of a Western Hemisphere nation (the Americas) for “an outstanding

body of published work in systematic ichthyology". The award is offered annually and consists of a plaque and a cash award [and this year—a book!].

The award is in memory of Bob Gibbs (1929–1988), a truly wonderful person. I encourage all young members to read Bob's obituary in *Copeia* for 1989 written by Vic Springer and Bruce Collette.

The first winner of the Gibbs Award was Bruce B. Collette in 1989—and there have to date been a total of 16 winners.

This year's award committee consisted of Larry Page, myself, and David Greenfield and was ably chaired by Larry Page. Larry is this years Master of Ceremonies, so to bring some diversity to the program I will present the award (thanks Larry for this privilege)! It is exciting to win this prestigious award and also to present it!

This years winner had educational training in Indiana, Michigan, California, & Massachusetts (Harvard).

Those familiar with the history of collection builders will know these states as home to many outstanding ichthyologists!

This years winner [he or she—you do not yet know their sex!] has worked on many diverse fish taxa and been involved with many international expeditions. Although the winner is truly a person of honor & integrity, [a good ambassador for the US—I have witnessed this first hand—of course this is not relevant to the award & I digress!] the winner seems to have shown a particular, peculiar, AND perverse interest in male sexual parasites.

The winner is a near neighbor of myself, hailing from Seattle Washington—please join me in congratulating Dr. Ted (Theodore) W. Pietsch.

Congratulations Ted—I know what a thrill it is to have this award bestowed on you by your peers.

Ted came forward and said "I'm not worthy" and then expressed his gratitude for the special honor.

Larry then called on Mo Donnelly to announce the results of the election which were reported earlier in the summary. Larry then called on Adam Summers to come forward and read the Banquet Resolutions.

#### BANQUET RESOLUTIONS

**RESOLUTION FOR THE LOCAL HOSTS.—**WHEREAS the Tampa meeting was a great success, and

WHEREAS the local color was interesting, tasty, and, in Ybor City even titillating,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the society heartily and sincerely thanks Phil Motta and Henry Mushinsky for their hard work as local committee chairs.

**RESOLUTION ON MATURATION.—**WHEREAS 20 years ago Henry Mushinsky, then a callow assistant professor hosted a meeting of SSAR and HL in Tampa, and

WHEREAS the information packet for that meeting contained a list, complete with extensive reviews, of the local topless bars,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the society recognizes Henry for having matured and mellowed into a politically correct, tactful, and tasteful full professor.

**RESOLUTION OF GRATITUDE.—**WHEREAS the society recognizes that a substantial portion, some would say all, of the work associated with the meeting was accomplished by the many students associated with the Motta, McCoy and Mushinsky labs, and

WHEREAS these students put their own research efforts aside while they helped run the meeting,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the society recognizes and thanks them for their efforts.

**RESOLUTION ON WEATHER.—**WHEREAS, the timing of the Joint Meetings of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists coincides with the tropical hurricane season, and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Dennis caused some anxious moments for participants at this year's meeting, altering plans for yet another outdoor picnic, preventing most participants from venturing from the meeting hotel for two full days, overwhelming restaurants and bars at the hotel, and stranding those brave enough to dine elsewhere, but causing no harm to anyone, and

WHEREAS, Floridians have had to deal with far too many Hurricanes in the past few years, with many people losing their life and homes or were otherwise massively inconvenienced, and

WHEREAS, the Florida Keys and Panhandle had to endure the wrath of Hurricane Dennis,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that participants at the Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists send well wishes to Floridians affected by Hurricane Dennis and previous hurricanes, and hopes that the state will be spared from future hurricanes.

**RESOLUTION FOR CLARK HUBBS.—**WHEREAS Clark Hubbs, Past-President of ASIH and long term managing editor of *Copeia* was unable to attend our annual meeting for health reasons, and

WHEREAS no one at this meeting could remember, or was indeed alive, the last time Clark missed an ASIH meeting, and

WHEREAS it is simply not the same without him,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we wish Clark Hubbs a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him at an annual meeting next year in New Orleans.

**RESOLUTION ON STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN JMIH.—**WHEREAS these meetings are greatly enhanced, and even defined by the contributions of our student members, and

WHEREAS student members made up more than 50% of our total attendance, and

WHEREAS students rather than professors brought the vast majority of the captured herps to the hotel bar,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the society thanks the students for their presence and reminds them to attend the business meeting and volunteer their service to the society.

RESOLUTION ON THE VALUE OF GLOBALIZATION.—WHEREAS many foreign members have attended this meeting, and

WHEREAS these members endure greater expenses, and border crossing indignities, and

WHEREAS on their return they are likely to encounter further border related indignities, in the case of herpetologists perhaps not even stopping short of cavity searches, and

WHEREAS the meeting is greatly enhanced by their participation, and perspectives

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we express our heartfelt gratitude for your unfailing attendance at these meetings.

RESOLUTION ON WEATHER II.—WHEREAS last year in Oklahoma the picnic was moved indoors on account of a tornado, and

WHEREAS this year's picnic was moved indoors on account of a hurricane, and

WHEREAS God, if she exists, has shown either poor aim or a desire to scare the bejabbers out of us, and

WHEREAS in Tampa the temperature was 90 degrees, the humidity 90% and the winds 90 MPH,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that next year the annual meeting will be held in someplace cool, calm, dry, safe, quiet, sober, and grey...like New Orleans in hurricane season!

To conclude the banquet, Larry Page called Bob Cashner to the podium. Bob invited all of us to New Orleans for 2006. We look forward to seeing you there.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maureen A. Donnelly  
ASIH Secretary