

Dear AAS Members and Arachnophiles:

I have excellent news to pass on about Rich Bradley's *Field Guide to the Spiders of North America* project. Rich has signed a contract with the University of California Press! We have also received a promise from the anonymous donor who contributed to the *Spiders of North America: an identification manual* project that he will contribute \$45,000 to the AAS to pay the illustrator. The illustrator Rich has chosen for this project is Steve Buchanan, the artist who illustrated the US Postal Service's insect and spider stamp series (<http://www.amazon.com/INSECTS-SPIDERS-cents-Postage-Stamps/dp/B00136F4LU>). Steve has also signed a contract to do this work.

The artist has agreed to do this work for a total of \$50,000. Thus, the society must raise an additional \$5000. The AAS Executive Committee has agreed to launch a donation campaign to solicit donations and support for this worthy project. In fact, one member has generously agreed to provide matching funds in this campaign. For every dollar donated by an AAS member, the EC member will donate matching funds up to \$1500!

With this message, I officially launch this donation campaign! For its support of this project, the society will receive prominent acknowledgment in the Field Guide. We will also be able to sell the Field Guide to AAS members for a discounted price.

If you would like to donate towards this fund, you can do so one of two ways:

- 1) Send a check clearly earmarked to the "Field Guide Project" to AAS treasurer, Karen Cangialosi; Department of Biology, Keene State College, Keene, NH 03435-2001 (kcangial@keene.edu).
- 2) Go to the AAS website at www.americanarachnology.org; click on "How to Become a Member"; click on "Use a Visa, Mastercard..." link; scroll down and click on the "Make a Donation to one of the AAS Research Funds or an unrestricted gift to the AAS" link; and click on the Field Guide project link to make your donation.

Thank you in advance for your support of this great project!