

40th (newly corrected numbering) Annual Meeting of the American Arachnological Society, Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon. Hosted by Greta Binford and Susan Masta

Notes from 2011 AAS Business Meeting

Recorded by Paula E. Cushing

Minutes from last Business Meeting (2010): Brian Patrick made motion to accept meeting minutes without reading; Karen seconded. Unanimous approval of minutes.

Membership Report: Rosie presented membership numbers for Jeff Shultz. Main message is the reduction in student members (USA). Important message is for faculty and mentors to encourage students to join society. Called for motion to approve membership report – approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Karen summarized report. Reported on \$40K bequest from Peck estate. May invest this money in order to apply it towards student research. Money for SNAIM guide and for Field guide has about \$60K in it. Net total assets = \$149,000. This is a record for the society. We also expect to get more money from the anonymous donor and expect to get more \$ for the field guide. Karen met the donor and said that he was a very generous person who still wished to remain anonymous.

Journal of Arachnology report: Jim Carrel reported on journal. The Journal doing very well. Manuscripts are being processed quickly. Subscriptions going down but royalties from BioOne and other sources are increasing substantially. Encouraged members to encourage others to join society. Our impact factor has increased and we are now ranked in the middle of entomological journals. Jim has decided, after five years, to step down as editor. Bob Suter has agreed to become the new Editor-in-Chief. Ingi Agnarsson has decided to step down as editor of Araneae taxonomy / systematics papers and Matjaz Kuntner has agreed to take over this associate editor job. Rosie thanked Jim for all his hard work on the journal and thanked Ingi as well. Also thanked Bob Suter for stepping up.

Awards Committee (student research): Rosie presented for Deb Smith. Biggest message was the small number of applicants (only 8) and she did not disburse all the available funds. We will try to increase visibility of this opportunity for students. Emeritus faculty are also eligible for these research awards.

Archivist: Rosie presented for Lenny Vincent. No formal report from Lenny. Bea Vogel has been working the last couple of years on a history of the AAS. Rosie formally thanked Bea for her efforts.

Future meetings: 2012 – University of WI – Green Bay hosted by Mike Draney & Frank Pascoe.
2013 – East Tennessee State University Tom Jones
2014 Ohio State University – Newark hosted by Andy Roberts and Rich Bradley
2015 Dakota Wesleyan University hosted by L. Brian Patrick.

Elections: Next President elect is Charles Griswold; newest Director, Cara Shillington; Karen Cangialosi remains as Treasurer

Education Committee: Presented by Matt Persons. Beth Jakob, Andy Roberts, Tom Jones, Gail Stratton, James Wagner, Skye Long, Michael Sitvarin (attending 2011 AAS meeting); non-attending committee members: Ann Rypstra, Maggie Hodge, Petra Sierwald.

Their primary goal is to create a popular website that can be a companion to the society website. Last year, Beth Jakob applied for NSF Informal Science Education grant pre-proposal and received valuable feedback that will be used to re-submit to another NSF program. Want to provide educational information about arachnids for the general public. Will be sections on spider husbandry, etc. Also want to encourage that education becomes an integrated part of the meeting – a good example is the fun-with-arachnids event at this meeting. Matt also encouraged workshops to be held at future AAS meetings.

Marketing Committee: James Harwood presented a report on this committee. Committee includes James, Dustin Wilgers, and Rick Vetter. Committee created Facebook page (60 members). Brian Patrick very involved with this in updating content. Created an arachnid listserv (119 subscribers). Also created a Wikipedia page.

Also using Google Analytics to generate stats about visits to AAS website. Designed to aid in marketing and promoting websites. In last 12 months, there were 74,032 visits to our AAS website – represents an increase of 85% from the previous year. Can see what time of year visits occur, etc. Can also see how people arrive (mostly through search engines and referring sites). Most of traffic comes from NA. But those 74,000 visits come from over 100 countries – can break this down by country. Can even break it down state by state within the US. Are we getting new or returning visitors? We had 56,000 unique visitors and 17,500 returning visitors. There are some people (individuals) who visit the AAS website over 200 times in a year!

The website is being redesigned and lots of traffic is coming from iPhones. This will only increase in time. We should think about this as we design a new website.

Can figure out how people get to the site through Google Analytics – can find out the key words used. 40,000 access thru Google searches for example. Lots of access through news media sources (e.g., BBC, CNN, New York Times, Nat'l Geo).

How do we promote our society? Obviously JoA one way. Also News and media outlets (e.g., University Media Relations), pre-publication publicity through our institutional media sources, Wikipedia, Facebook, Twitter, etc.

Brian Patrick added to this report. Brian joined Facebook group. But noted that not much has been posted. Little peak right after last year's meeting, then nothing. Encouraged people to post news on the Facebook group page. Brian will talk to point people to help adding news. He also pointed out that there are only 119 people on the arachnid listserv. If people are interested in joining the listserv, e-mail Brian, Dustin Wilgers, or James Harwood.

Genome Sequencing: Rosie mentioned that Matt Greenstone brought to our attention and effort by USDA-ARS calling for a 5,000 species blitz to sequence genomes of economically, agriculturally, and medically important arthropod species worldwide. Rosie asked that people send justification to either her or Jonathan Coddington regarding arachnids that should be sequenced under this effort.

Website development: Jan Weaver has agreed to take over AAS website from Ken Prestwich. Jan's e-mail is weaverjc@missouri.edu. <http://web.missouri.edu/~umcsnresiwww/AAS/AASstest6.html> is the test site for the developing new AAS website.

She wants to make it easy to use and update. The current website has great content. Issues: audience is broad – different levels of knowledge & skills; different computers and servers and therefore different browsers; smart phone compatibility – must take this into consideration. Aiming for consistent look & format, simple architecture, no more than 3 clicks, nothing fancy for its own sake.

Jan went over website basics including markup and scripting language, template/layout, color scheme. She then showed a comparison of the existing website to her newly developing website. Will maintain content but change display to make it a bit easier to locate different levels of content for different types of audiences.

Jan pointed out that we owe a huge debt of gratitude to Ken Prestwich. Membership unanimously agreed and applauded Ken in absentia.

Rosie called for news: Joel Ledford, Darrell Ubick will be holding arachnid class in Portal, AZ next year. Will need society's help with advertisement and maybe help to support student attendance. Probably will be towards end of summer 2012.

Another member suggested subsidizing undergrad attendance to the society. Karen pointed out that the bequest money be used specifically for research but she said other uses could be considered.

Rich Bradley made a motion to formally thank hosts for a wonderful meeting. There was unanimous approval and a standing ovation.

Movement was made to adjourn and was seconded. Business meeting of the 40th (newly corrected numbering) annual meeting of the American Arachnological Society ended.

Note: Many thanks are sincerely extended to **Dr. Paula Cushing** for transcribing and producing these minutes.

Respectfully Submitted

Alan Cady

Secretary – American Arachnological Society