

**41<sup>st</sup> (recently corrected numbering) Annual Meeting of the American Arachnological Society, Univ. Wis. Green Bay. Hosted by Michael Draney and Vicki Medland**

**Notes from 2012 AAS Business Meeting**

**Recorded by James E. Carrel**

At 13:05 CDST, 23 July 2012, Alan Cady called the meeting to order. (Alan chaired the meeting at the request of President Jon Coddington who had to leave the meeting early.)

**Minutes from last Business Meeting (2011):** George Uetz made motion to accept meeting minutes without reading; various seconded. Unanimous approval of minutes.

**Membership Report:** Jeff Shultz reported individual memberships are remaining steady at ~500 and institutional members receiving paper copies also is steady at ~63. Institutional memberships are actually much greater because many institutions get journal electronically from BioOne, maintained by our publisher. Currently there are 28 sponsored members located in foreign countries. About 70 members are “Green”, meaning that they get an electronic but not a paper copy of the journal. Called for motion to approve membership report; approved unanimously.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Karen Cangialosi summarized financial statement. Finances relatively stable for past 5 years: net total assets > \$100,000. Publishing the JOA is greatest expense; but funds from BioOne and other sources offset this by a lot. Reported that \$40K bequest from Peck estate and additional ~\$30 k parked in low-yielding AAS accounts now under consideration for investment in higher yielding accounts (see new business). Money for SNAIM guide and for Field guide has about \$30K in it. Artist for field guide paid with funds from private donor. Called for motion to approve membership report; approved unanimously.

**Journal of Arachnology report:** Bob Suter reported on journal. The Journal (JOA) doing very well. Temporal analyses show the acceptance rate is declining while the impact factor is rising. Ca. 90-100 mss submitted in past year. Manuscripts take too long (11-13 mo) to publish, but delays are not at the editors processing. Part of the delay is caused by publishing only three issues a year. Costs of publishing have declined because some members opt for electronic version, thus decreasing print number, and also because of payments from BioOne and other electronic clearing houses. Encouraged students and others in audience to get involved in reviewing mss in timely fashion if asked by editors. Bob is in discussion with editors and Allen press about using auto-tracking. Called for motion to approve membership report; approved unanimously.

**Future meetings:** 2013 – East Tennessee State University, hosted by Tom Jones  
2014 – Ohio State University – Newark, hosted by Andy Roberts and Rich Bradley  
2015 – Dakota Wesleyan University, hosted by L. Brian Patrick  
2016 – Open, looking for a volunteer (west of Rockies?)

**Elections:** Al Cady announced the new Director is Ingi Agnarsson; Al Cady remains as Secretary. (Al announced after this term is over in 2014 he will step down, so members interested in this position should contact the President Elect.)

**Field Guide Update:** Al Cady, standing in for Rich Bradley, announced that the field guide to spiders is almost finished and it is slated to be published by Univ. California Press in about spring 2013. There will be a discount for AAS members. Also, the marketing committee will come up with ideas and proposals for using the plates to make cards, posters, and other goods that can be sold to benefit the AAS.

**SNAIM Update:** Paula Cushing announced that 3-4 thousand copies have been sold, and more needed to be printed last year. Darrell Ubick made many minor corrections and changes, based on input from many readers including AAS members, before Book Master re-printed 1500 new copies in 2011 under the same ISBN. With

the help of many arachnological experts he is planning to do a full revision of the entire book in 2013-2015 or thereabouts. Included will be a revised, expanded entomology prepared by Don Cameron.

**Awards Committee (student research):** Al Cady presented for Deb Smith. Happily, there was a large number of applicants (17). Eight were supported by AAS funds (\$1970 total) and nine were supported by Roth funds (\$3030 total).

**Newsletter/American Arachnology:** Al Cady reported that, as sort of an experiment to explore its value to members, the newsletter has not been published in the past year. Alternative media, such as the AAS website, Facebook, and the local meeting hosts' websites, seem to have spread most information formerly in the newsletter.

**Website:** Jan Weaver (e-mail: [weaverjc@missouri.edu](mailto:weaverjc@missouri.edu)) reported she revised and updated the AAS website (<http://www.americanarachnology.org/>). It is intended mainly to be a repository of the society's materials. It also serves as our face to the public, which is a distinctly different function than the former, so she is seeking advice/input on 'punching it up' in places. She requested that faculty who wish to recruit graduate students to send her their personal research descriptions and webpages so that she can post them. The forums for discussion on arachnological topics need management. She updates the bulletin board; an autodelete application or outdated postings is being sought. She requested feedback on pages that do not load or display properly on mobile devices. The Executive Committee is forming a standing committee to give her feedback on the webpage; interested persons should contact a member of the EC.

**Investment of Endowment Funds:** As a point of information to members, Bob Suter reported that an ad hoc committee (Suter, Cangialosi, and Carrel) formed by the Executive Committee (EC) last year had made a recommendation for investment of funds (Peck and AAS idle money amounting to ~\$70k) to the EC at its business meeting earlier in the week, which the EC approved. In order to be good stewards of AAS funds, the plan is to invest long-term in a diversified portfolio (75% bonds, 20% stocks, and 5% money market; ca. ½ of equities in 'green funds') this year. The ad hoc committee will soon look into hiring a manager of the fund. It is charged with reporting on its actions to the EC in a timely fashion in order to maintain transparency within the AAS.

**Parliamentarian:** Al Cady announced Don Cameron has decided to step down after long service. Don was roundly acknowledged by a standing ovation from the membership. While the EC works on finding a replacement for Don, Brent Opell has agreed to serve on an interim basis.

#### **Al called for new business from the floor:**

Rick Vetter raised the point that the cost of the banquet exceeds the per diem limits for supper stipulated by most institutions, necessitating that a member bear the expense of the difference. A lively discussion of possible means of side-stepping or solving this problem ensued. A sense of the audience was that we should 'chew' on this and let the EC members know by email if something comes to mind.

Alex Sweger, graduate student member of the EC, requested students provide him with information about what activities they would like to have at annual meetings that might enhance their professional development.

Al Cady provided reminders that Brian Patrick is the administrator of the AAS Facebook webpage and Lenny Vincent is the AAS archivist. Please contact either of them if you have items of interest.

It was announced that the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Science and Engineering Festival (<http://www.usasciencefestival.org/>) is scheduled for spring of 2013 on the Mall in Washington, DC. This 4-day event attracts tens of thousands of

visitors. Booths cost \$600 each and sell out fast. If members are interested, they need to get busy on this project.

Mike Draney passed the traditional hand-bell to Tom Jones, host of the 2013 annual meeting

Al Cady 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 **41<sup>st</sup>** annual meeting of the American Arachnological Society ended at 1430 CDST.

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

Respectfully Submitted

Alan Cady

Secretary – American Arachnological Society