



Annual Business Meeting Agenda

June 28, 2023; Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

1. Approval of 2022 Business Meeting Minutes. Apologies but no 2022 Business Meeting Minutes were captured during the 2022 AAS meeting in Davis, California.
2. Announcements made by President Andy Roberts:
 - Andy presented ideas he gleaned from conference about future of virtual meetings. Still compiling these. However, he also talked about possibility of adding a Dec virtual meeting in between annual meetings as a compromise to fully hybrid meetings, which are logistically challenging to pull off.
 - DEI committee will be releasing a diversity survey.
 - Announced appointment of new membership secretary for the society, Dr. Alex Berry.
 - Thanks were made to former membership secretary, Dr. Brian Patrick, who asked to step down.
 - Questions from Engagement and Outreach Committee were sent to the Executive Committee. We were unable to meet or provide all funding asked for by the E&O committee. Instead, we agreed, through \$1000 from anonymous donor, to provide this discretionary support to that committee as well as several free memberships, also to be distributed at their discretion.
 - Andy also mentioned that our non-profit agency was established in California and the person associated with that status is no longer living. We will be looking into changing that agent.
 - Andy also said that anyone who is a host should be aware that they will also need to be added as an agent representative for the AAS within their state when hosting a meeting in order to preserve our non-profit status for meeting-related activities.
3. Reports
 - a. Election Results
 - 50% of the society membership voted – this is the highest participation ever.
 - There was a tie for President Elect with Jason Bond and Anne Danielson-Francois both receiving 109 votes. The AAS Executive Committee decided that one of the candidates (at their discretion) would serve as the next President Elect beginning the term September 1, 2023 while the other candidate would run uncontested as President Elect during the next election cycle for that position. The candidates were in agreement with this solution to a tie. After a discussion between them, Jason Bond agreed to serve as the next President Elect and Anne Danielson-Francois will be the uncontested candidate during the next cycle for this position.
 - Sarah Stellwagen and Daniel Proud agreed to run as candidate for the open Director position and Sarah Stellwagen won. The AAS EC thanks both candidates for agreeing to run.

- Nina Sandlin will be our next Treasurer.
 - The AAS EC would like to thank all these candidates for agreeing to serve the society and encourages anyone who is interested in serving on the Executive Committee to please let us know of their interest.
 - The EC would also like to thank Cara Shillington for her excellent service as AAS treasurer
- b. Secretary's Report - Paula Cushing:
- Paula also announced that another print run of the 2nd edition of *Spiders of North America: an identification manual* (SNAIM) would be forthcoming with minor corrections, including names of families in the top margins.
 - Paula also called for names of senior arachnologists who could be interviewed for inclusion in the *American Arachnology* newsletter and also called for other items to be published in the newsletter.
- c. Treasurer's Report - Cara Schillington: Report available separately
- d. Membership Report - Brian Patrick: Report available separately
- Brian encouraged students and colleagues not already members to renew and/or join AAS
 - TJ Jones asked if there was an option to automatically renew – not right now but we are looking into that.
- e. Journal of Arachnology Report - Deb Smith
- Deb reported that long-time publisher, Allen Press, was purchased by another Academic Press. But this change-over has not significantly changed costs or processing. There may be some slight differences in the near future, but should not be significant.
 - Revenue shortfall reported last year has been reduced.
 - This year we are beginning to implement way to collect page charges.
 - In addition, establishing tiered subscriptions so that those who want hard copies are now paying more than those who just want a green (electronic) access has helped.
 - Also our Impact factor has increased to 1.38.
- f. Student Grants Report - Brent Hendrixson: Report available separately and winners will be reported in Fall *American Arachnology* newsletter.
- g. Herb Levi Memorial Fund for Arachnological Research Report – Sean Walker: Report available separately and winners will be reported in Fall *American Arachnology* newsletter.
- h. Engagement & Outreach Committee Report – Eileen Hebets: see above. E&O committee provided \$1000 support from anonymous donor to support upcoming activities as well as six free (green) memberships. Support to be distributed at committee's discretion.
- i. Graduate Student EC member Report –
- Ryan Jones agreed to continue serving as grad student rep.
 - Called out for students to join student Discord. It is a good way to see faces in advance before a meeting so they recognize people when they arrive (contact Ryan).
 - He also promoted a virtual event with RAEL that is upcoming. Date to be announced.

- j. Common Names Committee Report – Sarah Rose: Report available separately.
 - k. DEI Committee: Mercedes Burns:
 - Committee (Burns with Andy Roberts) had applied for an NSF grant for diversity activities – not funded.
 - Mercedes did get a different grant supporting some DEI activities – such as those implemented at this 2023 meeting.
 - Mercedes will also be sending out a demographic survey to members to capture demographics data. There will be prizes for completion.
 - DEI also established an English Language initiative – called ELRAW, or English Language Review for Arachnologists Worldwide that will provide volunteer who can work with non-native English speakers who just want their JoA manuscripts reviewed for English usage before submission. The ELRAW information, including submission requirements, will be available and posted on the AAS website. Mercedes said that for more information on this program, you can email ELRAW.aas@gmail.com.
 - Call out to anyone willing to help with English language (not content) review to contact ELRAW at email above.
 - l. Platnick Award Committee (summarized in announcements). Winner was Jeremy Wilson (reported after business meeting at banquet).
 - m. Website Update – Daniel Gloor
 - We are currently negotiating with ISA to implement module to help us manage membership so we can establish multi-year memberships.
 - Brian pointed out that he can process multi-year memberships right now.
 - Daniel and Peter Heiko (PS Brands) are also getting estimate for social media module.
 - n. Future Meeting Sites
 - 2024 AAS meeting will has been proposed by Jann Henaut, César Raziel, and Salima Mankour M'Rabet. To be held in southern Mexico at Chetumal. Andy provided ppt about this meeting cite. Timing of the meeting is TBD. Team requested to hold meeting in April, which EC thought would be too challenging for Northern Hemisphere attendees. We will propose late May or early June instead. That team will be contacted about the new proposed time. Will hold meeting in the Centro Internacional de Negocios.
 - The meeting hosts asked to hold meeting in both Spanish and English. However, EC decided that oral presentations would be in English only w/ possibility of including translations on slides in Spanish and possibility of providing assistance for non-English speakers.
 - Andy called out for volunteers willing to host future meetings.
4. New Business:
- a. Expand society *Code of Conduct* beyond meetings - Andy mentioned efforts forthcoming to improve Code of Conduct and other Diversity/Equity issues that have arisen recently.
 - b. Aspects of virtual conference to maintain – in discussion and TBD.
 - c. Finances – EC still looking for way to establish Development Committee to plan sustainable long-term financial strategies with goals of accessible membership while maintaining funds to support society priorities.

- d. Andy made resolution: “Let it be resolved that Linda Rayor and Matthias Foellmer, aided by their able crew, have conducted a very successful 47th annual meeting of the American Arachnological Society at Cornell University. Let it be further resolved that the success of the meeting is in large part due to the extraordinary quality of the papers and posters and those presenting the. This meeting has clearly supported Society goals to communicate new research and foster networking and cooperation among Society members. The Society and participants of this, the 47th AAS meeting sincerely, enthusiastically, thank Linda, Matthias, and their staff and express our deep gratitude for a fine meeting.”
 - e. Andy also said “We owe a huge round of thanks to two members of the EC for their service to the AAS: the membership secretary, Brian Patrick, and the Treasurer, Cara Shillington.
 - f. Additional new business items from attendees: none forthcoming from the floor.
5. TJ Jones made motion to adjourn business meeting; Al Cady seconded motion; all in attendance approved.

3. Treasurer Report

To: AAS Executive Committee

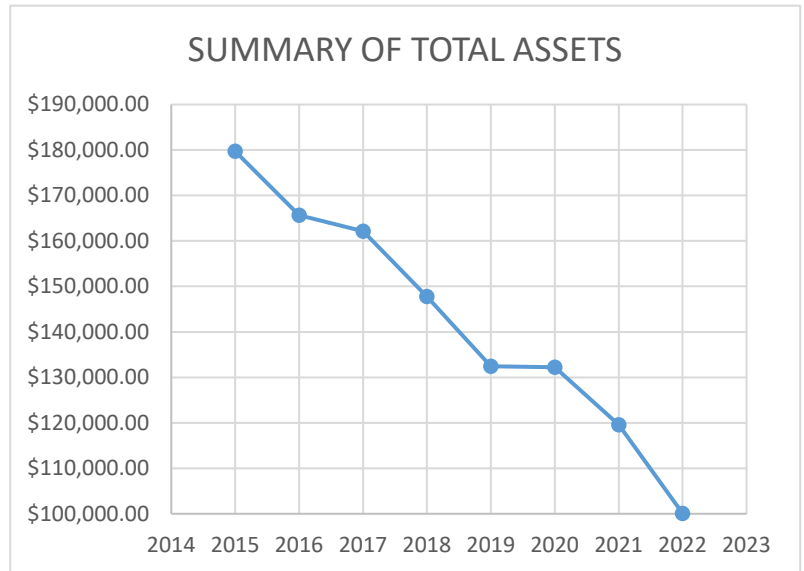
From: Cara Shillington, Treasurer

Date: June 2023

RE: Financial Report for January-December 2022

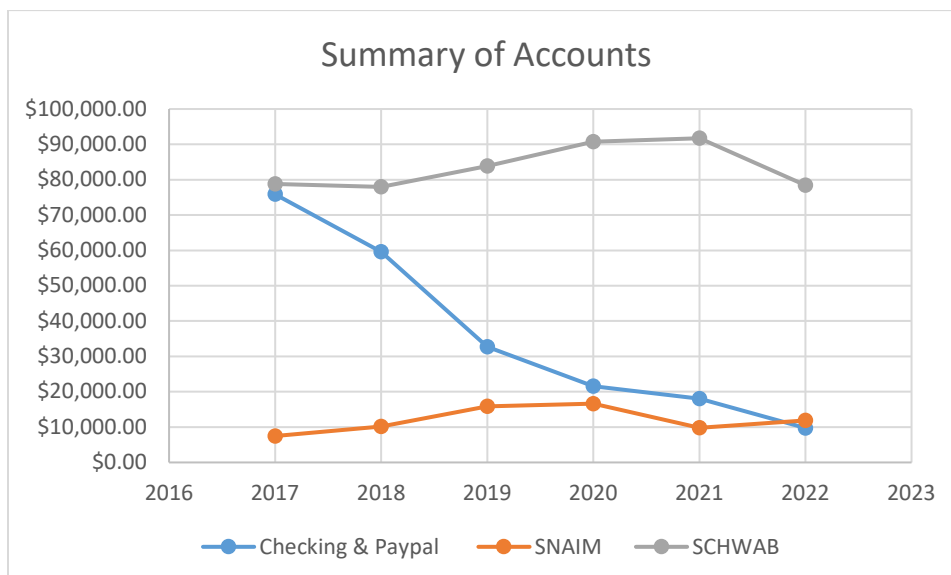
Quarterly Reports and annual financial reports are available on request.

1. Received \$5000 donation from Don Cameron Estate
2. Frances Levi transferred royalties from the Herb Levi Spider Book to AAS. Set up direct transfer from MacMillan to AAS bank; \$549 received in 2022.
3. \$5861 reimbursement from 2019 meeting (Nadia Ayoub)
4. \$5000 donation in support of 2023 meeting (Chris Malloy)
5. Transferred money (\$5,000) from Charles Schwab account to pay society expenses.
6. Total assets continue to decline.



Summary of Individual Accounts

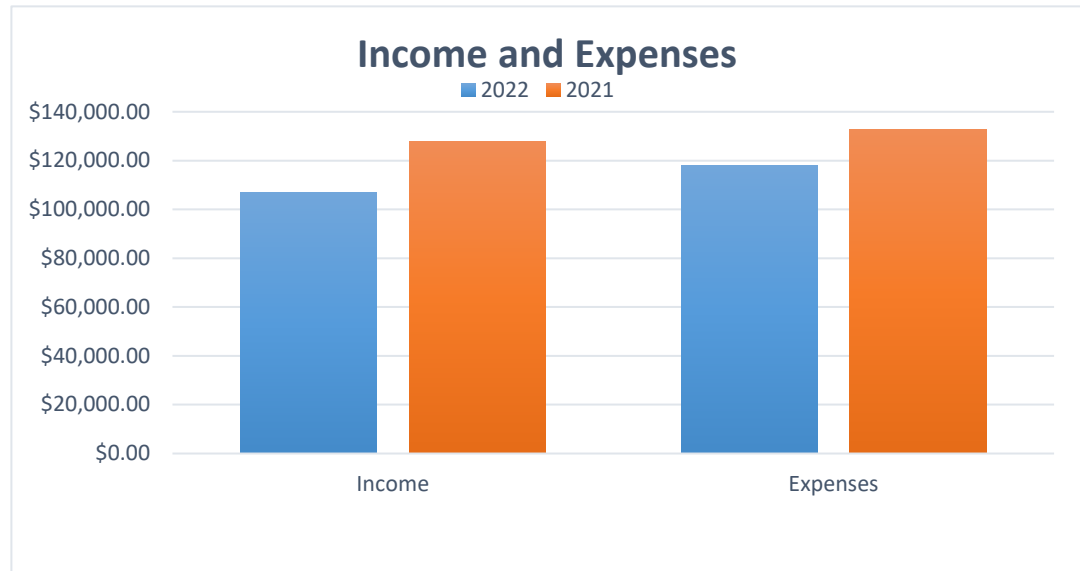
1. SNAIM account contains to gain money. The SNAIM account in the graph does not reflect the money that was transferred to Schwab i.e., an additional \$12,550 in Schwab belongs to the SNAIM account. This is from an original \$15,000 that was transferred. The loss reflects losses due to the stock market.
2. Checking and Paypal probably appear lower than usual due to a late membership drive.
3. Schwab account decreased by ~\$13,000 which includes a \$5,000 transfer to SBW and stock market losses.



3. Treasurer Report

Comparison of Expenses and Income based on Checking and Paypal accounts:

1. Both income and expenses are lower compared to last year and the deficit between the two is ~\$11,000. See additional details about major expenses and income at the end.
2. Some of the decrease in income is likely due to a late membership drive; membership dues increased this year so income for 2022 is (currently) looking a bit more robust.
3. Our expenses continue to be larger than our income and the society as a whole is continuing to lose money. I am cautiously optimistic that some of the changes this year (increased dues, lower journal costs, reduced website costs) will lead to a level of sustainability.



Taxes

1. I switched to online submission for the 2022 federal taxes using Tax990 software. This cost was \$100 for the efile, but we received notification of acceptance of the taxes within a week.
 - i. With the efile, it is clear that some things need to be updated; from now on all AAS awardees must be listed with their award amount and a permanent address. I updated the award form that is required for all awardees to collect this data.
 - ii. It might be helpful to work through the taxes with a tax preparer at some point
2. The California 199 form continues to be completed and sent via regular mail; all other tax documentation is completed via online portals.
3. Changes/updates needed: New CA agent is required.
4. Our status as a non-profit filing in California can be accessed from <https://bizfileonline.sos.ca.gov/search/business>

Type in American Arachnological Society in the query box to view our details and status. This shows that our status is "Active" and we are in "Good" standing.

3. Treasurer Report

The American Arachnological Society Financial Report Summary

31-Dec-22

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Total Assets, Year End | \$100,084.07 |
| Savings Bank of Walpole, Main Society Account | \$1,749.97 |
| Bank of America | \$707.39 |
| Savings Bank of Walpole, SNAIM | \$11,895.85 |
| Charles Schwab Account | \$78,439.37 |
| MAJOR SOURCES OF INCOME | |
| Royalties (Cengage, BioOne, JSTOR, Macmillan) | \$50,186.91 |
| Misc Income (interest both SBW accounts)) | \$8.93 |
| Membership | \$19,799.42 |
| Donations | \$11,322.40 |
| Donation - Don Cameron Estate | \$5,000.00 |
| JOA Payments (page charges, open access etc) | \$1,130.00 |
| SNAIM Sales | \$200.00 |
| Meeting Reimbursement | \$5,861.09 |
| Schwab Transfers | \$5,000.00 |
| Baker & Taylor | \$6,698.97 |
| MAJOR EXPENSES | |
| Allen Press | \$57,371.99 |
| Editor & Webmaster Honoraria | \$6,970.64 |
| Awards | \$27,046.28 |
| World Spider Catalog | \$5,000.00 |
| Website | \$5,478.97 |
| Misc Meeting Expenses | \$4,946.00 |
| Misc Business Expenses (fees, taxes, reimbursements etc) | \$1,649.80 |

4. Secretary Report

2023 AAS Secretary Report

Submitted by Paula Cushing

- Election Results:
 - 50% of AAS members participated in the election – this is the greatest participation ever.
 - Anne Danielson-Francois and Jason Bond were exactly tied at 109 votes each!
 - Nina Sandlin was elected (uncontested) as the new AAS Treasurer.
 - Thanks to Sarah Stellwagen and Daniel Proud for agreeing to run as the new AAS Director. Sarah won with 65% of the vote.
- PR Report: Rix MG, Wilson JD, Oliver PM. 2023. A new species of Endangered giant trapdoor spider (Mygalomorphae: Idiopidae: *Euoplos*) from the Brigalow Belt of inland Queensland, Australia. *Journal of Arachnology* 51(1): 27-36. This article received excellent and extensive press coverage no thanks to the AAS Secretary. Rix's university promoted this article and it was picked up by 20 or more news outlets including CNN, BBC, The Guardian, CBS, NPR, USA Today, Fox, NBC, The Independent, etc.
- *American Arachnology* newsletter:
 - The newsletter is being produced twice a year – article submission deadlines (April 15 and Oct 15) are posted on the AAS website.
 - We are using the newsletter to promote the annual meeting, report on the annual meeting (but no such report was ever received from the 2022 meeting hosts despite reminders), report on student recipients of awards and grants, and publish various natural history articles.
 - I am also soliciting interviews from retired arachnologists and have published interviews with Jack Brookhart, Norman Horner, and Jerry Rovner thus far. I plan to continue to solicit such interviews.
 - Finally, articles published in the AA are now being picked up via Google Scholar searches!
- *Spiders of North America: an identification manual*: We are finally down to 246 copies of the 2nd edition, 1st printing.
 - We have been making corrections to the manual pointed out by users. Now that we are down to about 200 copies of the 1st printing, I have reached out to the other editors to find out their thoughts about doing a 2nd printing of the 2nd edition. This edition will incorporate corrections and will have family names in the top margin (as the 1st edition did).
 - Despite the initial and early clamor for an electronic edition of SNAIM – which was completed and made available during the pandemic – the e-version, as far as I can tell, has not been a huge seller.

5. Director Report

American Arachnological Society – Director’s Annual Report June 2023.

The directors are tasked with two primary responsibilities: gathering names to run in the election and handling the student travel awards. The director (Hannah Wood) and the junior director (Edmundo González Santillán) worked collaboratively on the tasks listed below.

a. Elections.

This year the following positions were open: President-Elect, Treasurer and Jr. Director.

For President-Elect two people agreed to run:

Jason Bond

Anne Danielson-Francois

For Jr. Director two people agreed to run:

Daniel Proud

Sarah Stellwagen

It was challenging to find someone to run for the Treasurer position, but Nina Sandlin agreed to run! She is aware that she is the only candidate running for this position.

For future elections, Directors might want to reach out to Nadia Ayoub and Eileen Hebets for the President-Elect position. Both of them seemed willing to serve, but couldn’t take on this commitment this year, but may be willing in the future.

b. Student travel awards. The second responsibility of the Director is to organize the student travel grants. Sarah Stellwagon generously agreed to serve on the travel grant committee with the two Directors. The application this year was left unchanged from last year with the exception of noting that accommodation would only be reimbursed up to the cost of the conference dorm rooms. Compared to last year, we had more than twice as many students apply (24 this year versus 11 in 2022). Unfortunately, we had far less funding this year (\$4,000 versus \$6,570 in 2022). Of the \$4,000, we started with \$3,000 from Cara Shillington and the last \$1,000 came as a generous donation from Paula Cushing. Because of limited funds and a large applicant pool, the committee decided to try to stretch the funds out to as many applicants as possible.

The travel committee came up with a rubric to determine who would get funded. The rubric awarded points for students who were in the last year of their degree, who were from an underserved country, who were giving an oral presentation, and who did a good job articulating how they would benefit from the meeting. We had two tiers of awards - \$366 for the highest tier, and \$200 for the second tier. This year we awarded 6 applicants in the highest tier, and 7 applicants in the second tier, and we additionally awarded the student representative \$400. In total, we provided partial funding to 14 students.

We suggest fundraising as well as a standardized rubric for future travel awards. We also discussed how to increase diversity of the society through these awards. Future travel award committees might want to consider gathering background information as part of the application in order to use this to promote diversity.

6. Membership Report

Annual Report of the Membership Secretary to the Executive Committee of the American Arachnological Society

June 20, 2023

1. Overall membership numbers for 2023 are comparable to 2022.
2. With the change to the new AAS website for membership management, there are some Life members who have not made profiles, despite several individualized emails sent during 2022 with instructions from two different email addresses (membership@americanarachnology.org and brian.patrick@dwu.edu) and a letter sent February 2023. These are the Life Members who have not yet made a profile on the new AAS web page:

James Berry, Denis Blanchet, Jerry Bowen, Brendan Bower, Michael Brewer, Debbie Folkerts, Barry Nichols, Robert Raven, Peter Stoddard, Mark Stowe, Jan Weaver

As a result of these individuals not having a profile on the AAS page, they are no longer receiving emails from the society and no longer receiving hard copies of *Journal of Arachnology* for those on this list that preferred a hard copy. They have been counted in the membership total.

3. The number of Sponsored Members has increased back to levels previous to the creation of the new AAS website and profiles used to collect member information.
4. With the creation of the new AAS website for managing the society membership, it is no longer possible to record reliably whether members are new or returning. Thus, these data will no longer be reported.
5. Starting January 2023, the Student category was expanded to include individuals who are Retired. Using the membership database as it exists through the AAS website, one cannot differentiate between “student” and “retired” individuals, so these two categories are reported as a single number in the below table.

Respectfully submitted,



L. Brian Patrick
Membership Secretary

6. Membership Report

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

| | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total for calendar year | 522 | 524 | 494 | 512 | 498 | 482 | 456 | 492 | 478 | 460 | 488 | 551 | 505 | 457 | N/A |
| | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
| Total* | 491 | 495 | 476 | 494 | 491 | 471 | 425 | 471 | 463 | 437 | 480 | 530 | 504 | 448 | 458 |
| Total Regular | 342 | 325 | 317 | 315 | 313 | 283 | 271 | 240 | 255 | 238 | 267 | 293 | 278 | 240 | 207 |
| Total Student/Retired (*2023) | 100 | 97 | 82 | 97 | 90 | 103 | 72 | 135 | 100 | 91 | 110 | 124 | 94 | 83 | 130 |
| Total Sponsored | 15 | 19 | 22 | 28 | 32 | 29 | 28 | 39 | 48 | 46 | 40 | 45 | 60 | 45 | 59 |
| Total Life/Gratis | 49 | 51 | 54 | 54 | 56 | 56 | 54 | 57 | 60 | 62 | 63 | 68 | 69 | 64 | 62 |
| Electronic Regular | na | na | na | 49 | 44 | 38 | 53 | 58 | 69 | 60 | 87 | 110 | 109 | 81 | 129 |
| Electronic Student | na | na | na | 22 | 22 | 20 | 22 | 49 | 33 | 42 | 45 | 61 | 40 | 36 | 94 |
| Electronic Life/Gratis | na | na | na | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 11 | 10 | 10 | 15 | 16 | 19 | 21 |
| Domestic (USA) | 299 | 312 | 286 | 305 | 309 | 298 | 272 | 280 | 279 | 264 | 311 | 348 | 314 | 291 | 300 |
| International | 192 | 183 | 190 | 189 | 185 | 173 | 153 | 191 | 184 | 173 | 169 | 182 | 190 | 157 | 158 |

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

| | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total for calendar year | 91 | 71 | 63 | 65 | 57 | 54 | 46 | 40 | 35 | 26 | 26 | 23 | 20 | 21 | N/A |
| | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
| Total* | 89 | 65 | 62 | 63 | 57 | 51 | 43 | 39 | 35 | 25 | 26 | 23 | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| Total Domestic (USA) | 66 | 43 | 42 | 40 | 35 | 35 | 29 | 26 | 24 | 16 | 16 | 13 | 12 | 11 | 12 |
| Total International | 23 | 22 | 21 | 23 | 22 | 16 | 14 | 13 | 11 | 9 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 9 | 8 |

* indicates total at the time the membership report is produced

AAS Student Representative Report

I am pleased to inform you of the following relevant developments since the 2022 AAS meeting in Davis:

1. The student member Discord server that was previously established has nearly doubled in size since the last report and includes members from over about a dozen countries and four continents (to my knowledge). The server has been an improvement in connectivity in the student community and continues to grow and develop.
2. I have fielded countless emails from current and prospective student members on a variety of topics, such as career advice or finding prospective mentors in specific subdisciplines.
3. I organized a pre-meeting virtual hangout on June 16, 2023 that was lightly attended (~12) but the majority of those attendees were new members that will be traveling to the upcoming meeting in Ithaca alone and would not have known anyone else in attendance.
4. As of the writing of this report, I am coordinating with members of RAEL to have a virtual event immediately following the meeting in Ithaca.

I would like to note that this is my last meeting as the student representative, so I understand that a process will begin to select a new representative. I would like to put forward Jillian Kurovski-Legrís as a candidate for this position. Jillian has been instrumental in running the Discord server (and has been more active there than myself), is prominent on arachno-social media, and has a variety of experiences that would make her a fantastic student representative. She also has shared some ideas with me that I believe will be a great service to the AAS community. She has demonstrated interest and I have encouraged her to apply for the position when it becomes available.

Sincerely,

R. Ryan Jones

Journal of Arachnology – Overview of events

The biggest news: In January 2023 our contacts at Allen Press announced, “the business, assets, and employees of Allen Press have...been acquired by CJK Group and we’ve now become part of their Sheridan print services and KnowledgeWorks Global, Ltd. (KGL) content services divisions. ...aside from a forthcoming change to our email addresses and a necessary change for invoicing, it will be business as usual for the production of your publications.”

The CJK Group announcement is attached.

The invoicing for issue 51(1) seems to follow the Allen Press charges. The company is making changes in procedure gradually. In the upcoming issue, we will have different procedures for authors to make changes to their page proofs, but I haven’t seen the details yet.

Mentioned in report for 2021, implemented in 2022:

Mark Harvey stepped down as subject editor for non-spider systematics and Sarah Boyer from Macalester College joined as the new subject editor. Solicitations for new subject editors are made in consultation with the other subject editors, but primarily the one stepping down.

Anniversaries – In 2022 we produced our 50th volume using a gold-colored cover with a special “50th” AAS logo. In 2023 we’ll go back to our blue cover but keep the AAS logo.

Continuous publishing – Beginning with volume 50 we began a continuous publication model. Papers are posted on BioOne as soon as the manuscripts are print-ready. Once posted on BioOne (the official “publication” date) they are posted on the AAS website. The page numbers that appear on the early online publication are the final page numbers that will also appear in print.

COVERS - We are now including the COMPLETE covers of our issues on the JoA website. These are not available on BioOne, but they include information on the cover illustrations and material of possible historical interest (editors, publishers, etc.). Working back through older issues will take time, as publishers did not retain these files. We do have a complete run of issues that can be scanned.

Noted in last year’s report as needed for the future:

An easy way to PAY page charges.

- >Cara Shillington and Daniel Gloor have arranged for payment via Paypal
- >\$75 pr page for non-members
- >\$10 per page for members

A consistent plan for billing authors for page charges.

- >We are still writing to authors and/or the Membership Secretary to confirm whether member or non-member charges are appropriate. This is tedious and slows down invoicing.
- >I propose we add a question to the manuscript submission process, asking if any of the authors are members of the AAS. Having that information early in the process would be very helpful.

Practical guidance for reviewers.

- >I haven’t drawn up a “best practices” list for reviewers but will do so. This will include a check list of common problems to watch out for.
- >Do the figure legends accurately describe the figure (a surprising number of times, they are not even describing the correct figure)
- >Are there spelling errors in the figures?

8. JOA Report

- >Do figures conform to the guidelines in Instructions for Authors? (Will the figure fit on a printed page? Tall, skinny figures are the biggest problem)
- >Could a figure using color convey information equally well using shading, patterns, or dashed lines?
- >Are abbreviations in figures and tables adequately explained?

Taking care of these items like these early in the review process—rather than waiting until the manuscripts are being prepared for page proofs—would speed up manuscript processing quite a bit.

Journal of Arachnology – Summary of 2022 submissions and finances

How are we doing?

Manuscripts submitted: In 2022 we received 63 manuscripts for review. This fewer than in 2021 (79) and fewer than our norm ~ 95 to 100 papers.

Of these, 31 (49%) were accepted, 18 rejected (29%) and an additional 7 are in revision, 5 in review process, and once indecision making process. If the 7 in review were accepted, the acceptance rate would be 60%.

Our BioOne Impact factor is 1.38, up from the previous ranking of 1.01.

We published a total of 385 pages (417 in 2021, 345 in 2020, 400 in 2019) comprising 1 review article, 24 feature articles, and 11 short communications.

How much is this costing us?

Cost per page was \$135.14, compared to \$127.91 in 2021, \$142.02 in 2020.

Can we afford this on our revenue from BioOne and JStor

Not really – not if the Journal is supposed to survive on its royalties.

Our income from BioOne for Volume 50 was \$45,842, plus \$4,697.66 from JStor

Total income from royalties: \$50,539.66

Total expenditures: \$52,297.82

Shortfall: \$ 1,758.16

What are we doing about it?

We have made changes to page charges that took effect in May of 2022; charges for non-members remain at \$75 per printed page, but members will be charged \$10 per printed page. Papers submitted from May 2022 onwards are starting to be published and generating (a little) revenue.

Also required are a more efficient system for billing and a more user-friendly method for payment. As noted above, the online payment of page charges is now active. A small addition to the paper submission site—Are any authors of this manuscript members of the American Arachnological Society (please indicate by name)—will make invoicing simpler and faster.

8. JOA Report

Top 10 papers accessed by BioOne users in 2022

| Rank | Article Title | Volume | Hits |
|------|--|---------|--------|
| | SOCIAL BEHAVIOR IN AMBLYPYGIDS, AND A REASSESSMENT OF ARACHNID SOCIAL PATTERNS | Vol.34 | 60,287 |
| 2 | An identification key for eggs and egg sacs of spiders of potential agro-economic importance: a feasibility study | Vol. 41 | 23,512 |
| 3 | Parasites of spiders: Their impacts on host behavior and ecology | Vol.49 | 14,420 |
| 4 | Spiders (Arachnida: Araneae) feeding on snakes (Reptilia: Squamata) | Vol.49 | 5,786 |
| 5 | Asexual reproduction in a sexual population of the Brazilian yellow scorpion (<i>Tityus serrulatus</i> , Buthidae) as evidence of facultative parthenogenesis | Vol.49 | 4,003 |
| 6 | UNDER THE INFLUENCE: WEBS AND BUILDING BEHAVIOR OF PLESIOMETA ARGYRA (ARANEAE, TETRAGNATHIDAE) WHEN PARASITIZED BY HYMENOPEMPECIS ARGYRAPHAGA (HYMENOPTERA, ICHNEUMONIDAE) | Vol. 29 | 3,342 |
| 7 | A phylogenetic classification of jumping spiders (Araneae: Salticidae) | Vol.43 | 3,126 |
| 8 | Plant eating by spiders | Vol.44 | 2,787 |
| 9 | Reflections on the tapetum lucidum and eyeshine in lycosoid spiders | Vol. 41 | 2,645 |
| 10 | Spiders feeding on earthworms revisited: consumption of giant earthworms in the tropics | Vol.45 | 2,639 |

Who's reading our papers? (based on online hits) (1 highest, 10 lowest)

| Rank | Institution | Hits | Rank | Country | Hits |
|------|--|------|------|----------------|-------|
| | Universidade de Sao Paulo (USP) | 521 | | United States | 6,423 |
| 2 | Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Hamburg (WIB6262) | 321 | 2 | Brazil | 2,278 |
| 3 | University of Florida | 263 | 3 | Germany | 1,750 |
| 4 | University of Winnipeg | 250 | 4 | China | 1,045 |
| 5 | Washington University in St Louis | 235 | 5 | Canada | 957 |
| 6 | Universidade da Integração Internacional da Lusofonia Afro Brasileira (UNILAB) | 197 | 6 | Australia | 760 |
| 7 | Loyola University New Orleans | 189 | 7 | Mexico | 665 |
| 8 | University of Queensland | 185 | 8 | United Kingdom | 662 |
| 9 | Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) | 179 | 9 | Czech Republic | 453 |
| 10 | Museum national d'Histoire naturelle | 166 | 10 | Japan | 368 |

Respectfully,
Deborah Smith
Editor-in-Chief

NEWS RELEASE**CJK Group Acquires Allen Press, Adding a Printing Facility to the Sheridan Family as well as Key Editorial Capabilities to KnowledgeWorks Global Ltd.**

Media Contact: Susan Parente, CJK Group Publications Marketing Manager, susan.parente@cjkgroup.com

BRAINERD, MN – January 9, 2023 – CJK Group, Inc. is pleased to announce that it has completed an agreement to acquire the assets of venerable print and publishing services company Allen Press, located in Lawrence, Kansas. This acquisition is unique for CJK Group in that it will supplement and expand services and capabilities to both the Sheridan print operations in addition to its KnowledgeWorks Global Ltd. (KGL) content solutions company.

Allen Press originated in 1935 as a family-owned company serving a local print market and grew to incorporate a wide variety of editorial, production, marketing, and digital services tailored to the needs of independent society and association publishers.

The print facility will be renamed Sheridan Kansas, bringing the number of Sheridan's print locations across the country to a total of ten. Work is produced offset and digitally, with a full complement of finishing equipment; back issue fulfillment, warehousing, and ancillary graphics services also offered. The plant's central US location affords Sheridan a strategic production option for both Midwest and West Coast publishing communities with more efficient mailing and distribution. The addition of this location further broadens Sheridan's job-share abilities and raw material procurement strength.

On the content side, Allen Press's extensive suite of publishing services and technology solutions will be incorporated into the KnowledgeWorks Global Ltd. operation, further bolstering KGL's one-stop content proposition, which includes peer review and editorial office management, business consulting, AI-powered language analysis and copyediting, XML composition and proofing, digital and print production, and online hosting. The addition of Allen Press to the KGL portfolio will add marketing services, advertising sales, and association management to the spectrum of specialized services for scholarly publishers.

CEO of CJK Group Chris Kurtzman remarked, "Allen Press has long held a unique and highly respected place in the print and publishing market, offering exceptional front-end capabilities as well as creative and marketing solutions, in addition to high-quality print and distribution. We see this as a perfect fit for both our Sheridan and KGL families. The entrepreneurial customer-centric culture at Allen Press is a mirror reflection of our own, something we look for and place a very high value on when we bring companies such as Allen Press into the fold. We are looking forward to bringing streamlined performance and additional capabilities to both our existing and new customers."

CJK Group, Inc. represents one of the largest printing and publishing services organizations in the country, continuing to grow both organically and through acquisitions. At the core of the CJK Group



strategy is investment in employees, equipment, technologies, and thoughtful acquisitions that mirror the same principles and values that all CJK Group companies possess.

About CJK Group, Inc.

Headquartered in Brainerd, MN, CJK Group, Inc. is an international portfolio of print, publishing service, and technology/information solutions companies.

The Sheridan family of print companies provides a wide array of full-service solutions for books, magazines, journals, catalogs, and commercial print. Sheridan print facilities are located in Brainerd, MN, Brimfield, OH, Chelsea, MI, Grand Rapids, MI, Hanover, NH, Hanover, PA, Lawrence, KS, Madison, WI, Random Lake, WI, and Versailles, KY.

KnowledgeWorks Global Ltd. offers content services such as editorial, peer review, management consulting, learning solutions, and online hosting to the journal, educational publishing, and eLearning markets. KnowledgeWorks Global Ltd. content service facilities are located in Lawrence, KS and Richmond, VA in the US; Bengaluru, Chennai, Mumbai, and New Delhi in India; and London in the United Kingdom.

Tweddle Group serves the OEM industry with custom support solutions and is headquartered in Clinton Township, MI, with European and Asian headquarters in Italy, Belgium, and China. For more information, visit www.cjkgroup.com

American Arachnological Society - Website Report

June 17, 2023

Website Content Management System Upgrade

The current version of our content management system (CMS) for the AAS website is end-of-life and won't receive any crucial security fixes for known vulnerabilities from the maintainers. In addition, the server-side programming language on which the CMS currently runs is end-of-life too and needs to be upgraded.

The AAS Executive Committee received a quote from Psbrands GmbH outlining the costs for:

- Upgrade the Typo3 core to version 11.5 LTS, including the upgrade of ~20 modules
- Upgrade to PHP 8.2 (the underlying programming language), including the upgrade of the custom website theme templates

If the Society decides to upgrade now, it will be facing the same situation in October 2024, as the long-term supported version Psbrands GmbH is planning to upgrade to will be end-of-life at that point. So, the Society would need to allocate financial resources again for the next Typo3 core upgrade in 2024.

Website updates

- The Google translate widget has been successfully integrated.
- Journal of Arachnology covers and ToCs in PDF format are now available for volume 30 (2002) onwards. The work will continue for earlier volumes.
- The PayPal donation button has been significantly improved. The donation button now opens a single form where donors can select the fund (currently 7 funds) they wish to support.

Planned or ongoing website improvements:

- Offering an online payment option for Journal of Arachnology page charges: a PayPal button for non-members has been implemented. The PayPal button for members will be implemented soon.
- Create a web presence for the English Language Review for Arachnologists Worldwide (ELRAW) service on the AAS website.

Respectfully submitted

Daniel Gloor
AAS Webmaster

10.a. Archivist Report

Archives Division

April 27, 2023

Lenny Vincent
31526 Monterey Street
Laguna Beach, CA 92651

Dear Mr. Vincent:

This letter is to acknowledge that the Smithsonian Institution Archives received one box from the American Arachnological Society on June 22, 2022. These materials consist of **Records**, with dates 1973-2010. When requesting information about this transfer, please refer to accession **23-093**. The materials were rehoused into acid-free folders and placed into one acid-free document box. A finding aid is enclosed for your information.

These records are restricted for fifteen years, beginning with the most recent date of the material (2010), to you and others who receive permission from the American Arachnological Society. The restriction will be lifted at the beginning of calendar year 2026.

Many of the archives holdings are located off-site, and therefore we request advance notice if you wish to consult an accession. Please contact our Reference Team at osiaref@si.edu to retrieve records.

Thank you for your help transferring these records to SIA. If you have any questions, or if there is any other way in which I can be of service, please do not hesitate to call me at (202) 633-5923.

Sincerely,

Mitch Toda
Archivist

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
Capital Gallery Building Suite 3000
MRC 507 PO Box 37012
Washington DC 20013-7012
202.633.5923 Telephone
202.633.5927 Fax
todam@si.edu E-mail

**American Arachnological Society,
Records,
1973-2010**

Accession 23-093

This accession consists of records that document the activities, history, membership, and publications of the American Arachnological Society (AAS). People represented include Vincent D. Roth, Christopher K. Starr, Robert Ray Jackson, Max Vachon, Robin Leech. B. J. Kaston, Leonard S. Vincent, H. Don Cameron, Paula Elizabeth Cushing, Norman I. Platnik, and Herbert W. Levi. The collection also includes the AAS newsletter, *American Arachnology*. Materials include correspondence, memoranda, articles of incorporation, and newsletters.

Box 1

Articles of Incorporation - State of California, 1973

Vincent D. Roth - Correspondence and notes, 1967, 1974 and undated

Correspondence of Christopher K. Starr to Robert Ray Jackson, Max Vachon and Robin Leech, 1973, 1980, and 2005

B. J. Kaston and Leonard S. Vincent - Correspondence, 1976-1988

H. Don Cameron - Correspondence, 2000-2002

H. Don Cameron comments to Norman I. Platnick regarding nomenclature, 2000

Paula Elizabeth Cushing's early recollection of Herbert W. Levi, undated

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Number 22, October 1980

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 23 and 24, 1981

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Number 26, November 1982

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 27 and 28, 1983

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 29 and 30, 1984

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 31 and 32, 1985

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 33 and 34, 1986

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 35 and 36, 1987

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 37 and 38, 1988

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 39 and 40, 1989

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 41 and 42, 1990

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 43 and 44, 1991

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 45 and 46, 1992

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 47 and 48, 1993

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 49 and 50, 1994

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 51 and 52, 1995

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 53 and 54, 1996

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 55 and 56, 1997

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 57 and 58, 1998

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 59 and 60, 1999

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Number 61, May 2000

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 62 and 63, 2001

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 64 and 65, 2002

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 66 and 67, 2003

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Number 68 and Supplement, Number 69, 2004

10.b Archivist Report

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 70, 71, and 72, 2005

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Number 73, Number 74 and Supplement, and Number 75, 2007

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 76 and 77, 2008

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Numbers 78 and 79, 2009

Newsletter - *American Arachnology* - Number 80, April 2010

2023 Common Names Committee Annual Report

The current members of the common names committee are:

Sarah J. Rose PhD (Chair)
Lecturer
The Ohio State University
srose891@gmail.com

Richard Bradley, PhD
Associate Professor Emeritus
The Ohio State University
bradley.10@osu.edu

Ray Fisher, PhD
Entomologist at Mississippi State Entomological Museum
Based in Fayetteville, Arkansas
Naturalist; systematist; mites, spiders, ants, aquatic arthropods
jrf521@msstate.edu

Kari J McWest, MS
West Texas A&M University (former)
REVSYS, AMNH
kari.mcwest@gmail.com

Susan E. Riechert PhD
UTK Distinguished Service & Chancellor's Professor
The University of Tennessee Knoxville
rieichert@utk.edu

Louis N. Sorkin B.C.E.
American Museum of Natural History
sorkin@amnh.org

The committee has been working on revising the rules and a document are hoping to have them published on the website in the near future.

Ray Fisher is working through the Acari as they have been some major taxonomic changes since the last common names list.

Sarah Rose has worked through the current listing and has made over 60 updates based on taxonomic changes that have occurred. There are still a few issues to be worked out before the new listing will be ready to publish.

The committee is working in conjunction with the Entomological Society of America in order to have consistent usage of common names. Sarah Rose has sent emails to Bugguide and iNaturalist in the hopes of also having consistent use of common names. Bugguide has a link to our 2003 common name

11.a. Common Names Committee Report

listing, but has not responded to the question of updating their site to reflect the approved common names. Sarah Rose is in communication with iNaturalist; once we have the completed updated file we will send them a listing of our common names. They will add our common name to any species in their database that are lacking a common name, if they currently have a common name and it does not match our listing they are unsure of what they will do.

We continue to process common name requests as they are submitted, and have approved two requests in the last year. Once we have all the documents ready to publish on the website there will be a streamlined process for submitting those requests.

Submitted by
Sarah J Rose PhD
Chair of the AAS Common Names Committee

11.b. DEI Committee Report

DEI committee status report:

Chair: Dr. Mercedes Burns

Members: Dr. Richard Bradley, Dr. Shahan Derkarabetian, Dr. Rowan McGinley, Dr. Victoria Schmalhofer

Grad student members: Alix Coonfield, Emma Jochim, Goran Shikak, Iris Bright, Jackie Billotte, Jilian Kurovski, Laura Gatch, Megan Ma, Ryan Jones

Mission: The mission of the AAS DEI committee is to propose and carry out inclusive activities that support early-career, hobbyist, LGBTQ+, disabled, and underrepresented minority groups within the arachnological community.

Activities: Unfortunately, the BIOLeaps proposal submitted by Mercedes Burns and Andy Roberts in 2022 was not funded. However, Mercedes received an NSF CAREER award in 2023, with funds committed to some DEI programs. Mercedes Burns has collaborated with Andy Roberts (AAS president) and a colleague to prepare a Qualtrics survey of the membership and non-member meeting attendees of AAS to understand the intersectional identities of membership and the types of programming that will support us best. All DEI committee members provided input on survey questions in Fall 2022.

All DEI committee members furthermore reviewed and suggested inclusive updates to the AAS Host meeting document in 2022 and 2023. This document is provided to meeting hosts for organization of annual meetings and includes best practices for supporting the diversity of AAS membership. It is found on the AAS website.

The DEI committee has proposed and will run three events at the AAS 2023 meeting: the Lunch of the Future (DEI lunch), the LGBTQ+ breakfast, and Arachnology Storytellers. We will implement sign-in sheets at these events to get a sense of the attendance and general fields/interests represented.

Lastly, the DEI committee supported the creation of the English Language Review for Arachnologists Worldwide, an initiative started to assist arachnologists for whom English is not a primary language with preparing their manuscripts for publication in the Journal of Arachnology. The committee has requested information about ELRAW be added to the AAS website and it should be up by the 2023 meeting. To submit a manuscript for review or to volunteer, please contact elraw.aas@gmail.com.

--

Dr. Mercedes Burns (she/her/hers)
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University of Maryland, Baltimore County
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Baltimore, MD 21250
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burnslab.umbc.edu

AAS ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Director of the AAS Outreach and Engagement Committee: Eileen A. Hebets

Chairs of the Outreach and Education Subcommittee: Karen Cangialosi; Linda Rayor

Chairs of the Community Science Subcommittee: Catherine Scott; Marshal Hedin

Chair of the Social Media Subcommittee: Sebastian Echeverri

General Summary of Activities and Requests

Below, we have updated a summary of each subcommittee. We have left most of the requests from last year, as I don't believe the EC had an opportunity to discuss them. All new updates/requests will be in blue and last year's comments and request remain in black.

The following are requests from the 2022 report:

- (1) As you will read, the social media committee was not able to move forward to pull together a twitter team this past year. **We would like to ask for this commitment again this year. We are requesting a team of 6 (committee chair + 5 members) who would receive (i) free membership for 1 year and (ii) free registration to the 2023 meeting.** If this is approved by the EC, *we would like to request a time at the upcoming meeting (either during a morning/afternoon announcement or at the business meeting) to advertise this opportunity to the membership in attendance.*
- (2) In addition to renewed commitment for a social media team whose membership and registration is free during each year of their service, **we also ask the EC to consider a *paid* team that actively tweets summaries/promotion of new research in the JoA, and engages our existing community and beyond by fielding questions and running scicomm games and/or events.**
- (3) **We would also like to suggest institutionalizing professional development opportunities and outreach and engagement activities associated with the annual meetings,** similar to the science communication training and Eight-Legged Encounter event for AAS 2022. Many other societies have workshops/training the day(s) prior to the start of the conference. We suspect that there are many people in the society that may be interested in running or arranging such workshops and opening up opportunities for members to apply to host workshops could be a great way to increase member engagement in AAS. This might be something that one of the current EC members could coordinate, or the EC might consider adding another position – e.g., “Program Officer” – that works with local hosts on program development. *Perhaps the EC can consider a longer-term vision for outreach and engagement activities.*
- (4) **Similarly, we would like the EC to consider developing a more formalized way to move forward with summer meeting planning and programming; especially any programming that goes beyond the “traditional” meeting (e.g., public-facing BioBlitz’s, professional development opportunities, virtual programming, etc.).** It is currently

11.c. E&O Committee Report

unclear what any of our subcommittee's roles are, if any, in developing and planning summer meeting programming. If this is something the EC would like, then it would be great to articulate that. Alternatively, if the EC would like a meeting planning committee to work with particular Outreach and Engagement subcommittees, that will work too.

(5) We would like the EC to consider if/how funds might be secured to run a yearly "science communication/community engagement" grant competition.

(6) We are aware that AAS is not in a strong financial situation at the moment and may be focused on foundational society challenges/concerns. Given this, we are unsure that now is a good time for trying to develop and expand O&A committees and associated work. We request that the EC review the O&A mission statement and each subcommittees vision to see if it aligns with the EC's priorities. If not, we request that the EC respond with how they envision the O&A subcommittees supporting their priorities. We suspect that there may not be a place at the moment for some of our subcommittees and so we may want to re-structure/revise this committee and its leadership, as well as subcommittees following an EC's thorough and thoughtful discussion.

Please see additional subcommittee-specific achievements, comments, and concerns below.

Outreach and Education Subcommittee – Karen Cangialosi & Linda Rayor

(i) Brief summary of activities

- Eileen Hebets sought applications for a "Science Ambassador" program in which attendees of AAS2022 could participate in Science Communication professional development modules, Eight-Legged Encounters (ELE) training, and could then have a hand-on experience volunteering at a public-facing ELE event hosted by the Bohart Museum at UC Davis. The first online module was June 17th and then there was in-person training the morning prior to ELE on June 25th.
- The Science Ambassador program and associated ELE event was funded through a Nebraska Research Initiative Grant to Eileen Hebets and colleagues.
 - Email invitations were sent out through Brian Patrick's email list as well as the AAS list serve to recruit participants. Please see APPENDIX 1 to view the invitation. Sebastian Echeverri also tweeted out information about the program from the AAS twitter account.
 - We received 18 applications and accepted all applicants. Applicants included undergraduate students (n=1), graduate students (n=10), post-docs (n=4), non-professional arachnologists (n=1), and full professors (n=2).
 - We covered the registration costs for all Science Ambassadors.
 - Jason Bond and Eileen Hebets together covered hotel costs for 6 double queen rooms to house all Science Ambassadors the nights of June 24th & 25th. This enabled everyone to arrive early and participate in the training and ELE event.
 - ELE was hosted at UC Davis Bohart Museum June 25th 2022 from 1-4pm.

11.c. E&O Committee Report

1. We had 44 student/faculty volunteers
2. 250-300 public participants attended the event

(ii) Vision for the coming year

- Potentially generate an interest survey to see what interest there is among AAS members in creating an ArachnidOER hub.
- It would be great if we could organize a public-facing event associated with each annual meeting
- We would need to be proactive and creative about fundraising and grant writing to enable such activities to continue moving forward.

Community Science Subcommittee – Catherine Scott & Marshal Hedin

(i) Brief summary of activities:

- Nothing new to report

(ii) Vision for the coming year

- INatuarlist “ID-athons” organized for the coming year.

Social Media Subcommittee Report – Sebastian Echeverri

(i) Brief summary of activities:

- Continued operation of the AAS Twitter account: posting announcements from society members, RTing content from fellow arachnologists, replying to questions from the public.
- Moderation of AAS Facebook Group: approving member requests, posting announcements from society members

(ii) Vision for the coming year

- Social media: A *paid* team that actively tweets summaries/promotion of new research in the JoA, and engages our existing community and beyond by fielding questions and running scicomm games and/or events.
- Newsletter: A revival of the Arachnews newsletter, which previously covered all/as-much-as-possible of research, art, and pop culture happenings related to arachnids. This was previously run by society member Aleck Pang, along with some help from myself, but has been "out of print" since sometime last year. It became way too much work for 1-2 people to do for free, despite the engagement from the community.

11.c. E&O Committee Report

- Public-facing internet events: Bioblitzes, livestreams, etc, like we ran for the 2021 conference.

(iii) Perceived obstacles to your vision

- Limited/reduced leadership support for inclusive and equitable participation/policies that would result in that. I hope this is just a temporary situation, but am concerned about the harsh swing back to "business as usual" this year, despite the extremely positive response to the changes made for the 2020 and 2021 conferences
- I personally do not have the time and energy to keep pushing for changes against opposition. Partially this is me trying to admit that I have been working myself with extra projects past what is sustainable, and well into deep burnout, especially in light of disabilities that I am still coming to terms with/learning to deal with. It is also deeply frustrating to see what ground we have gained during 2020 and 2021 be erased so quickly.
- I am okay with continuing to run the AAS twitter and facebook pages as I have in the past few months, but am also happy to hand over the reigns to someone else who has more time, energy, and motivation. I recall that last year, after a lot of back and forth, the council approved free memberships for a social media team. I apologize that I never followed up on that, but I am sure that there are people who would be up for it.

11.d. HLMFAR Report

June 19, 2023

For 2023, the NLMFAR committee received 11 applications totaling \$20,787 (see table on next page). The committee members Paul Seldon, Sean Walker, and Petra Sierwald evaluated each proposal. Many thanks to Paul and Petra for lending their time, expertise and for answering emails and questions quickly!

The applications came from post-doctoral scholars/fellows, faculty in research positions, and Assistant and Associate professors. There was an application from a PhD student which was not eligible. Applications came from Argentina, Brazil, India, Pakistan, Mexico, and the USA.

The committee made three awards totaling \$4,999.66.

11.d. HLMFAR Report

| Name | Institution | Title | Requested Amount | Outcome |
|------------------------------|--|---|------------------|-------------|
| Guilherme H. F. Azevedo | San Diego State University | Testing the efficiency of RTA ultraconserved elements probe set in resolving recalcitrant nodes in the two-clawed spiders clade | \$2,040 | Not Awarded |
| Emmanuel Franco Campuzano | Universidad Tecnológica del Valle de Toluca (UTVT) | Agronomic management effect on the spiders and insect communities in avocado orchards from Mexico | \$1,990 | Not Awarded |
| Franco Cargnelutti | Laboratorio de Biología Reproductiva y Evolución, Instituto de Diversidad y Ecología Animal, UNC-CONICET | The challenge of mating in polluted environments: An integrated approach in a spider model | \$1,999.66 | Not Awarded |
| Angela Chuang | University of Florida | Estimating the range expansion and impacts of jorō spiders on native orbweavers | \$2,000 | Awarded |
| Rafael Fonseca-Ferreira | Universidade Estadual Paulista, Instituto de Biociências, Departamento de Biodiversidade, Laboratório de Aracnologia | Phylogenomics analysis of Idiops Perty, 1833 and Idiopinae Simon, 1889, based in Ultraconserved Elements (UCA): a sample update | \$1,960 | Not Awarded |
| Matías Andrés Izquierdo | Instituto de Diversidad y Ecología Animal (IDEA-UNC-CONICET), Laboratorio de Biología Reproductiva y Evolución. Facultad de Ciencias Exactas Físicas y Naturales. Universidad Nacional de Córdoba. | A comparative study of the copulatory behavior in Ninetinae pholcid spiders (Araneae, Pholcidae) | \$2,000 | Not Awarded |
| Jithin Johnson (PhD Student) | Dept. of Zoology, Sacred Heart College, Thevara | Pseudoscorpions of the Sky Islands of the Western Ghats of India and Sri Lanka | \$2,000 | Not Awarded |
| Bilal Saeed Khan | Department of Entomology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (38000) Pakistan. | Improvement and addition of laboratory equipment's to facilitate the preliminary study of spiders and outreach activities. | \$1,799 | Not Awarded |
| Marc A. Milne | University of Indianapolis | 100 years on: Replicating Bishop and Crosby's eastern US spider collection trip | \$1,000 | Awarded |
| Mariela Oviedo Diego | Instituto de Diversidad y Ecología Animal | Rub or Sting To Match?: Functional Morphology and Possible Constraints Between Caudal and Venom Glands In Bothriurid Scorpion | \$1,998 | Awarded |
| Pompozzi Gabriel | Instituto de Investigaciones en Zonas Áridas (IADIZA-CONICET), Mendoza, Argentina | Eating ants for dinner: exploring the potential of a myrmecophagous spider for biological control of leaf-cutting ants. | \$2,000 | Not Awarded |

**American Arachnological Society
Norman Platnick Award 2023**

The Selection Panel for the Norman Platnick Award met on 3 June 2023 (Australian Western Standard Time) to consider the four applications received by the closing date:

- Dr He Zhang
- Dr Pradeep Sankaran
- Dr Miguel Medrano
- Dr Jeremy Wilson

Conflicts of interest:

- Mark Harvey declared a working relationship with Jeremy Wilson (co-author on several publications, and co-grantee on an Australian Government grant).

Eligibility:

All four nominees and the nominators of Dr Zhang, Dr Sankaran, Dr Medrano and Dr Wilson are current members of the American Arachnological Society. Dr Zhang was self-nominated.

Discussion:

The Panel then discussed the applicants:

Dr He Zhang: Dr Zhang is only one year post-PhD and yet has made a significant taxonomic contributions to Arachnology through the description of 100 new species of huntsman spiders, including 99 in a single publication. This comprehensive revision is a major under-taking and the panel was impressed by her research profile.

Dr Pradeep Sankaran: Dr Sankaran has made numerous taxonomic contributions to Arachnology, with a total of 56 publications, and conferral of his PhD in 2019. The Panel felt that, although he is a prolific publisher, most of the publications are small contributions describing new species and redescribing previously described species, with very little synthesis of data into authoritative treatments.

Dr Miguel Medrano: Dr Medrano's PhD was conferred in 2020, and he has published 15 papers and two book chapters, including nine as first author, with numerous new species. Several of these publications represent taxonomic treatments of individual genera. He is publishing high-quality research on harvestmen.

Dr Jeremy Wilson: Dr Wilson's PhD was conferred in 2019. He has published 22 papers, including 11 as first author, which range from descriptive taxonomic papers to multi-gene phylogenies. His taxonomic outputs include the description of numerous new species and a new genus, all of which are meticulously documented with numerous high-quality images. Dr Wilson has made an impressive start to his career and was unanimously regarded as the highest ranked applicant for the Award.

Recommendation:

The Selection Panel unanimously regard Dr Wilson to be the successful applicant for the Norman Platnick Award.

Award presentation:

The Panel Chair is unable to attend the AAS Banquet and is therefore unable to participate in the award presentation. However, Dr Brent Opell is planning to be in attendance and has offered to

11.e. Platnick Award Committee Report

make the Award. If Dr Opell is unable to attend, Dr Hannah Wood will be available to make the Award.

Award:

After the Award is announced, we request the following:

- The AAS Membership Secretary to organize the production and shipping of the plaque to the recipient.
- The AAS Treasurer to contact the winner and organize the cash prize.

Awardee, keynote address:

The Panel recommends that each winner of the Award be invited to give a keynote address at the AAS meeting in the year after the Award. This will help to raise the profile of the Award and to help promote the career of an early-career researcher.

Nomination guidelines:

An application was received this year directly from the nominee, rather than from a nominator. The current wording implies that it should be received from a nominator but is not particularly explicit. The Panel seeks approval to change the wording as follows (highlighted in yellow):

Nominations must be received from a nominator and not directly from the nominee.

Nominators and nominees must be current members of the American Arachnological Society to be eligible. Nominators should have thorough knowledge of the nominee's accomplishments and nominations must address all of the selection criteria listed below. Relevant career interruptions such as illness or caring responsibilities should be outlined clearly.

The panel seeks the approval of Council to:

- Amend the nomination guidelines by the inclusion of a new sentence.

Eligibility:

The panel discussed the relatively small number of applications that have been received from the arachnological community over the first three years of the award. The panel felt that opening the selection criteria to all arachnologists and not just financial members of the American Arachnological Society would generate a broader pool of applicants. However, "all arachnologists" could be construed as opening the award to acarologists, so we recommend that it be opened to financial members of the American Arachnological Society or financial members of the International Society of Arachnology.

The panel seeks the approval of Council to:

- Approach Will Platnick to assess his views on altering the AAS selection criterion.
- If Will is amenable, to alter the webpage accordingly.

Respectfully submitted

Dr Mark Harvey (Chair)
Dr Brent Opell
Dr Cristina Rheims
Dr Hannah Wood
Dr Xin Xu

2023 Student Research Grants – Annual Report American Arachnological Society

The American Arachnological Society has two funds to support research by student members of the society (undergraduate or graduate):

- The Arachnological Research Fund (ARF) provides awards of up to \$1000 to support projects related to any aspect of the behavior, ecology, physiology, or evolution of any of the arachnid groups. The ARF subcommittee consists of Anita Aisenberg, Al Cady, and Jason Schmidt.
- The Vincent Roth Fund for Systematics Research (VRF) provides awards of up to \$1000 to support projects focused on the taxonomy or systematics of any arachnid group. The VRF subcommittee this year consists of Marc Milne and Dan Proud (the subcommittee generally consists of three members, but one member recently retired and requested to be relieved of their duties—I was unable to solicit a replacement in time for reviewing proposals).

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Total number of submitted proposals: | 18* |
| • Arachnological Research Fund (ARF) Proposals: | 10** (55.6%) |
| • Vincent Roth Fund (VRF) Proposals: | 8** (44.4%) |
| <p>• NOTES: * The number of proposals has dropped from 46 in 2020, 36 in 2021, and 23 in 2022. ** There were originally 14 ARF applications (and only 4 VRF applications), but 4 were transferred to VRF.</p> | |

Demographics:

- Total number of applicants: 18
- Applicants by educational level:
 - PhD: 12 (66.7%)
 - MS: 3 (16.7%)
 - Undergrad: 3 (16.7%)
- Nationality of applicants:
 - United States: 10 (55.6%)
 - Other: 8 (44.4%)
 - Argentina (1)
 - Brazil (2)
 - India (3)
 - Lithuania (1)
 - Pakistan (1)

Total Student Research Fund Budget: \$15,000

- Budget is allocated annually based “roughly” on relative proportion of total applicants in each fund (see above).
 - ARF: \$8,200 (\$8,196.63)
 - VRF: \$6,800
 - **NOTE:** All but one proposal was funded.
- Total funding requested: \$17,405.63
 - ARF: \$9,521.63
 - VRF: \$7,884.00
- Total Awarded ($n = 10$), Arachnological Research Fund: **\$8,196.63**
 - **Bradley Allendorfer**, MS student, Eastern Michigan University. \$900. *Title:* Daily activity and site selection of Texas brown tarantulas (*Aphonopelma hentzi*) providing maternal care
 - **Tyler Brown**, PhD student, University of Maryland, Baltimore County. \$771.63. *Title:* Phenology of Mid-Atlantic leiobunine Opiliones
 - **Patrick Casto**, PhD student, Bowling Green State University. \$1000. *Title:* Analysis of cuticular compounds in the family Phrynidae (Arachnida: Amblypygi): implications for communication and navigation
 - **Jorjia Elmore**, UG student, University of South Alabama. \$1000. *Title:* An exploration into sex-based venom variation in the Texas brown tarantula (*Aphonopelma hentzi*)
 - **Carolina Guerra**, PhD student, Centro de Recursos Naturales Renovables de la Zona Semiárida (CONICET-UNS), ARGENTINA. \$1000. *Title:* Testing the effects of anthropization on *Allocosa alticeps*, a coastal wolf spider with atypical sexual strategies
 - **Asha Joy**, PhD student, Christ College (Autonomous), Irinjalakuda, Thrissur, Kerala, INDIA. \$500. *Title:* Diversity and ecology of spiders associated with human habitations in the Western Ghats region of Kerala, India
 - **Nancy Lo Man Hung**, PhD student, Universidade de Sao Paulo, BRAZIL. \$500. *Title:* Breaking unconscious gender biases: lessons from 26 years of Latin Arachnology Congresses
 - **Gia Ramos**, UG student, Pennsylvania State University. \$1000. *Title:* Development of DIPA-CRISPR for reverse genetics studies in spiders
 - **Madison Rittinger**, PhD student, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. \$1000. *Title:* Could smaller brains be better? The association between prey capture efficiency and relative brain size
 - **Muhammad Shahzad**, MS student, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Punjab, PAKISTAN. \$525. *Title:* Collection and population dynamics of some predatory spiders of cotton crop from district Faisalabad, Pakistan

- Total Awarded ($n = 7$), Vincent Roth Fund: **\$6,800.00**
 - **Ryan Bacon**, PhD student, University of Maryland, Baltimore County. \$1000. *Title: UNAM collaboration for identification and description of tropical *Leiobunum**
 - **Nicolas Cazzaniga**, PhD student, City University of New York & American Museum of Natural History. \$1000. *Title: Blind to diversity: uncovering phylogeographic and climatic relationships in troglobite evolution*
 - **Fabián García Oviedo**, PhD student, Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi, Universidade Federal do Pará, BRAZIL. \$1000. *Title: The identity of *Falconina gracilis* (Keyserling, 1891) (Araneae: Corinnidae: Corinninae): is there a hidden cryptic diversity in this species?*
 - **Tobias Hays**, MS student, San Diego State University. \$800. *Title: Systematics of the *Aliatypus erebus* group (Mygalomorphae, F. Antrodiaetidae)*
 - **Emma Jochim**, PhD student, University of California, Davis. \$1000. *Title: Reevaluation of species boundaries in coastal dune trapdoor spider *Aptostichus simus* (Euctenizidae)*
 - **Milda Riepšaitė**, PhD student, Vilnius University, LITHUANIA. \$1000. *Title: Improving knowledge gaps in Lithuania's spider diversity and distribution through focused sampling*
 - **Kongarampilly Shilpa**, PhD student, Christ College (Autonomous), Irinjalakuda, Thrissur, Kerala, INDIA. \$1000. *Title: Molecular taxonomy and phylogeny of the genus *Araneus* Clerck, 1757 and *Neoscona* Simon, 1864 (Araneae: Araneidae) in Western Ghats, India*

Respectfully submitted,

Brent E. Hendrixson
Chair, AAS Student Research Grants Committee

MY WORK ANSWERING QUESTIONS

Jerry Rovner

May 2023

Requests for spider identification are the most common inquiries, constituting about 70% of the questions that I receive. In answering these, I usually include a link to a very good photo from BugGuide or another online source and, when possible, a link to reading material about the species (or at least about the family to which the species belongs). Being based only on photos, my IDs are a service for the public, not researchers. Relatively few questions about arachnids other than spiders tend to be submitted.

In addition to diverse questions about various aspects of spider biology, I receive numerous questions about particular categories of spider-human interactions. I deal with inquiries about “spider bites” by discussing the range of possible causes of skin wounds, along with providing links to relevant web pages. Questions about controlling spiders in the home constitute another category. Interestingly, people often want to know how to release a spider rather than kill it. A positive view of spiders also is evident when I am asked if long-observed orbweavers should be brought inside before the onset of winter. Tarantula owners sometimes seek advice through our website. I also have responded to requests from authors for a review of the accuracy of their manuscripts for magazine articles, blogs, and children’s books.

Over the years, my work load has been reasonable. For example, during 2022 a total of 169 questions were submitted, some of these having been sent as groups of questions within single emails.

You can see examples of how I have answered different kinds of questions by viewing my poster from the 2014 AAS meeting (included with this report).

ANSWERING ARACHNO-QUESTIONS

a service provided by AAS

These examples show how questions are answered.

All have been edited for brevity.

Photos submitted by questioners are not saved.

Those shown here resemble the originals and were obtained from online sources.

Arachnid identification by AAS is a service for the public, not for scientists.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



Ken Prestwich

developed AAS website, was first webmaster, put all *Journal of Arachnology* issues online.



Jan Weaver

redesigned website and is previous webmaster.



Jon Reiskind

filled in for Jerry Rovner (answer person) when Rovner was abroad.



IDENTIFICATION REQUEST – WITH A GOOD PHOTO

Q: Can you please identify this spider? I can't seem to find anything matching it.

A: It's a nursery web spider (*Pisaurina mira*; family Pisauridae). You can read about it at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pisaurina_mira

If you Google its name, you can find additional information and a couple of videos.

You can learn more about the family to which it belongs at

<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/CritterFiles/casefile/spiders/fishing/pisaurid.htm>



IDENTIFICATION REQUEST → BAD NEWS FOR A PROJECT

Q: Can you provide a name for the wolf spider shown in the five attached examples, all captured in Bond co IL in a short-grass habitat? It is being used in a project by my undergraduate students.

A: Unfortunately there are two *Schizocosa* species with similar patterns and overlapping size ranges in IL. They can be separated based on carapace markings: (1) median light band in *S. avida* ends at the posterior pair of eyes (a thin line runs between the eyes), whereas in *S. mccooki* it remains wide as it passes forward beyond the posterior pair of eyes. (2) submarginal light band is narrow in *S. avida*, wide in *S. mccooki*.

Thus, as to your five examples, 1 and 4 are *S. mccooki*; 2, 3, and 5 are *S. avida*.

PROFESSOR'S RESPONSE TO THE ANSWER: For the poster title the students will use "Schizocosa spp." and within the poster will state that the study involved *S. avida* and *S. mccooki*.



IDENTIFICATION REQUEST – WITH A POOR PHOTO

Q: I can't ID this spider with the Internet pictures I found. Do you know what it could be? Also, I couldn't find anything that explained the white dot on the head, but maybe that is a disturbance in the picture.

A: It is a wolf spider (family Lycosidae), but it is too far away for a species identification.

The white dot is a reflection from an eye. In wolf spiders, six of the eight eyes have a reflective

layer (tapetum) behind the retina to improve night vision, as found in many nocturnal animals. This makes it easy to find wolf spiders at night if you wear a headlamp.

You can read about wolf spiders at

<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/CritterFiles/casefile/spiders/wolf/wolf.htm>



SPIDER + INSECT IDENTIFICATION REQUEST

Q: I got a shot of this encounter in Louisiana and would enjoy knowing both species.

A: It is a female whitebanded crab spider (*Misumenoides formosipes*; family Thomisidae) feeding on a painted lady (*Vanessa cardui*; family Nymphalidae).

This is one of the crab spider species that can slowly change color (white ⇔ yellow) to match the flowers on which they wait for prey. You can read about this and other crab spiders at

<http://www.uky.edu/Ag/CritterFiles/casefile/spiders/crab/crab.htm>



IDENTIFICATION REQUEST – A SPECIES NEW TO NORTH AMERICA

Q: I have not been able to identify this spider that is all over my pool cage in Florida.

A: It is a colonial tentweb orbweaver (*Cyrtophora citricola*; family Araneidae).

You can read about this invasive species, which was first seen in the U.S. in 2000 in your state, in an excellent article by G.B. Edwards:

http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/MISC/SPIDERS/Cyrtophora_citricola.htm

CORRECTING INTERNET MISINFORMATION

Quote and photo from “THE BEST OF SICILY” website:



“Zelotes messinai, the Sicilian Tarantula has a leg span of about five inches.”

Q: I’m writing a book on Norman Sicily and would like to include a photo of a Sicilian tarantula with a story about the Norman army camping on a hill infested with them, causing the men to abandon the camp. Based on “THE BEST OF SICILY,” the photo I want is of *Zelotes messinai*.

A: "THE BEST OF SICILY" is wrong. *Zelotes messinai* is a tiny spider (body length = ¼ inch). The earliest use of the name "tarantula" was for a large wolf spider with an undeserved bad reputation. (Google "tarantism.") It was probably this species, *Lycosa tarantula*, that caused the camp's abandonment. You can find a photo of it at the following link:

http://www.uam.es/personal_pdi/psicologia/spiderjc/

Ask the arachnologist, Dr. Joaquín Ortega Escobar, for permission to use it.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ABOUT BEHAVIOR

Q: Today I saw hundreds of spiders on cars in a parking lot. I watched some "fly" through the air with their silk caught in the breeze.

What surprised me was how big they were--about the size of a jumping spider--much larger than what I guessed a newly hatched spider to be. Were these newly hatched, or could there be another reason there were so many?

Ballooning behavior is not limited to spiderlings that have recently left the egg sac. Given ideal weather conditions in an area, hundreds of larger juveniles--even adults--of some species will use this means of dispersal.

Indeed, the relatively large size of some silk-borne spiders is remarkable. In the genus *Stegodyphus*, ballooning can involve adults measuring up to over ½ inch in body length and weighing over 100 mg. See the following article to learn more about this behavior

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ballooning_%28spider%29

INFORMATION REQUEST INVOLVING BEHAVIOR OF “A SPIDER”

Q: A friend of mine said she saw a spider in Pittsburgh, PA that had decorated itself with moss. Are there species of spiders that are known to do such a thing?

A: There are no spiders that decorate their bodies with moss. But there are some small insects that do so: lacewing larvae (order Neuroptera), which attach debris of all sorts. Because it's hard to see how many legs are present in this situation, your friend may have mistaken such an

insect for a spider. Take a look at the photo at the following link to see what I mean:

<http://bugguide.net/node/view/11659>

EMAIL RESPONSE TO THE ANSWER:

**Yes, I showed the picture of the lacewing larva to my friend, and she said that it was a match!
Thank you for taking the time to clear this up.**

INFORMATION REQUEST FROM AN ARACHNOPHOBE

Q: I just abandoned my car and walked home in the dark because there was a big spider on the inside of my windshield. I know that spiders are an important part of the environment, and I don't want to hurt them. Is there any natural deterrent that I can put in my car? I'm scared that it's going to happen again while I'm driving and that I will have an accident.

**A: The following link is to a page describing what are claimed to be natural spider repellents:
http://www.ehow.com/way_5410696_homemade-spider-repellent.html**

But even if any actually work, there's no guarantee that a spider will not briefly enter your car.

It's important to know that, of the several thousand spider species in North America, big spiders are not among those few spiders that are dangerous.

This video of a very large spider crawling on a hand shows that such spiders do not try to bite:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-IXZFqUbFoc>

(If you squeezed it to make it bite, the typical result would be no worse than a bee sting.)

Remember this: our big spiders are not dangerous, but walking alone in the dark is!



IDENTIFICATION REQUEST – AN ARACHNID OTHER THAN A SPIDER

Q: Can you please tell me what type of spider this is? It was found in Apache Junction, AZ. Any information would be greatly appreciated, as I cannot seem to find anything online.

12.a.2. Arachnid Questions Report

A: It is not actually a spider, but is another kind of arachnid called a tailless whipscorpion (order Amblypygi). You can read about these non-venomous arachnids at

[http://www.oaklandzoo.org/Tailless Whip Scorpion.php](http://www.oaklandzoo.org/Tailless_Whip_Scorpion.php)

In the U. S., they are limited to some of the southernmost states, such as yours.

You can watch a video about the capture and handling of a large one in a tropical rainforest, showing that they are not dangerous--except that they can pinch:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=awtMPTI7Cks>