

# AMERICAN ARACHNOLOGY

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## Dates & Deadlines

- ◆ 997 A.A.S. Meeting, 20-23 July, Dickinson, ND USA
- ◆ A.A.S. Research Fund 30 November & 30 May; (see past Newsletters for details)
- ◆ 1998 C.I.D.A. & A.A.S., 27 June - 3 July, Chicago IL USA
- ◆ 1998 Highlands Arachnology Course, late July or early August

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is the official newsletter of the American Arachnological Society and is distributed biannually to members of the Society. Items for the Newsletter should be sent to the Editor, Alan B. Cady, Dept. Zoology, Miami Univ.-Middletown, 4200 E. Univ. Blvd., Middletown, Ohio, 45042, USA, (513/727-3258, FAX: 513/727-3223; E-mail: CADYAB@MUOHIO.EDU). Deadline for receipt of material for the Spring issue (Vol. 55) is 15 April, 1997. All correspondence concerning changes of address and information on membership in the American Arachnological Society should be addressed to the Membership Secretary, Norman I. Platnick, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West at 79th St., New York, N.Y., 10024 U.S.A. (FAX: 212/769-5277). Members of the Society also receive the JOURNAL OF ARACHNOLOGY, published triannually.

## Report On The

### 1996 A.A.S. Meeting

The 1996 meeting of the AAS was hosted by Wayne Maddison and Leticia Avilés (and their minions) at the University of Arizona in Tucson, AZ. Those in attendance would agree they planned and ran a fine, well-organized meeting. Thanks to Wayne & Leticia and their hard-working crew (Greta Binford, Gita Bodner, Anne Danielson-Francois, Gina Gelsey, Peggy Gerba, Marshal Hedin, Susan Masta, Vince Roth, and Cora Varas-Vieria).

The 1996 AAS annual meeting took place at the University of Arizona in Tucson, AZ from 28- 31 July. The weather was typically hot and dry, but sporadic rain fell and moderated temperatures at times. Participants from across the United States, Canada, and Europe were treated to interesting field trips, informative paper and poster sessions (53 & 14 respectively), and an enjoyable banquet & auction.

The action started Sunday with a field trip up into the Santa Catalina Mountains. The trip started in the cool morning and wound it's way through the low desert and then up through the various vegetational types to a climate like New England (cool & moist). Those who had light jackets wore them, but this did not last for long. The return to lower elevations found the desert heat had returned. There was a mixer that evening where a taste of Mexico was available, and good conversation was evident. Those who were interested were treated to a variety of video presentations ranging from a vintage spider-and-the-fly cartoon to episodes of "Acorn the Nature Nut".

Paper sessions began Monday and continued through the day. That evening found most out in the desert again rummaging around for various arachnids. Many were treated to their first view of scorpions under blacklights, and some were industrious enough to root-out tartantulas from their burrows. Tuesday's paper sessions were as diverse as the previous day's, featuring a symposium on jumping spider behavior. That evening at the Banquet, all were treated to a good meal and a travel-research presentation by Stim Wilcox about his adventures

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