

Biological Society of Washington Annual Meeting, 30 May 2014

President Jerry Harasewych called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm in the Vertebrate Seminar Room (WG33) of the National Museum of Natural History. Council members present: Jerry Harasewych (President), Carol Baldwin (President-Elect), Stephen Cairns (Acting Secretary), Ken Tighe (Treasurer), Jeff Williams, Lynn Parenti (elected council), Bruce Collette, Roy McDiarmid, Stephen Gardiner (past presidents), Anna Phillips, Bob Reynolds, Rick Hochberg, Louise Emmons, Neal Woodman, and Karen Ridgway (Allen Press). A total of 15 individuals were present.

The minutes of the previous annual meeting were approved without reading, as they were published in the *Proceedings* last year. A financial report was not given because the treasurer has been ill. It will be submitted soon.

The President announced the results of the biennial election. The new President-Elect is Carole Baldwin, the Treasurer remains Ken Tighe, the new Secretary is Suzanne Peurach, and the four member council is composed of: Al Gardner, Martha Nizinski, Jeff Williams, and Anna Phillips.

The Editor, Stephen Gardiner announced that he would step down at the end of calendar 2014, and that he would be replaced by Rick Hochberg. Rick has already added 16 new Associate Editors to the editorial committee. Excerpts from the Editorial report follow:

“No *Bulletins* were published in 2013. Issues 1, 2, and 3 of the *Proceedings* were published in 2013, issue 4 was published in 2014 and statistics are as follows: 1) issue 1–19 March 2013, 7 manuscripts for 89 pages, 2) issue 2–10 July 2013, 8 manuscripts for 97 pages, 3) issue 3–16 October

2013, 8 manuscripts for 97 pages, and 4) issue 4–30 January 2014, 11 manuscripts for 169 pages. Total manuscripts submitted – 34, total manuscripts rejected – 1, total pages published – 452. Total pages subsidized by the Society – 57 (= ~12.6%). This number is up slightly from 2012 (~11%) but remains well below the 25% value allowed in our contract with Allen Press.

Thirty-five manuscripts were published in 2013. This number is somewhat higher than the number of manuscripts published in 2012 (26) but remains substantially lower than historical numbers for the *Proceedings*. Twelve major taxa were represented by one or more published papers in 2013. Vertebrates dominated the list of taxa in vol. 126 with 15 papers (fish – 2; amphibians – 3; reptiles – 3, birds – 2, and mammals – 5). Other taxa with more than one paper in vol. 126 are: 1) Crustacea – 8, 2) Annelida – 4, and 3) Gastropoda and Tardigrada – 2 each. Similar to the circumstances for recent previous years, many of the manuscripts published in 2013 were submitted by authors who have previously published in the *Proceedings*.

Difficulty in usage and other problems led to the suspension in 2013 of the use of the Peer Track site. All manuscripts are now submitted directly to the Editor.

In 2011, the impact factor of the *Proceedings* experienced a significant decline to 0.292. In previous recent years, the impact factor hovered within a range of 0.6 to 0.7. The reason(s) for the decline in 2011 were never fully elucidated. However, in 2012, the impact factor returned to its previous levels with a value of 0.662.

The use of color figures in the *Proceedings* during 2012 continued to be strong

with 19 color pages vs. 11 color pages in 2011. I am hopeful that the use of color in manuscripts will continue to increase in future years.”

Steve Gardiner concluded by saying that he was optimistic about the future of the Society and its publication.

Karen Ridgway, representing Allen Press, then presented the annual publishing report for 2014, a 30 page document. Highlights of her report follow. In 2014 Allen Press will send out electronic table of contents to inform the membership of published papers. Starting in 2015 we will publish each article independently as it is ready, not bound or constrained by a quarterly allotment. This will hasten publication. At the end of the year one hard copy will be printed and distributed. Pagination will be continuous. Any new taxa described during the year will be sent to ZooBank for validation by the Editor as

the papers are published. Journal and subscription revenue is down slightly. Our journal impact factor is 0.662. The total number of articles published in 2013 was slightly up by four, from 31 to 35, although the total number of pages decreased from 628 to 464. Total page views on the web for 2013 were 19,508, a significant increase over 2012.

The future editor Rick Hochberg was then introduced and general discussion ensued about ZooBank and the logistics of the new “issue in progress” workflow.

Under new business, Stephen Gardiner nominated Storrs Olson to receive the Emeritus Member designation, which was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen D. Cairns
Acting Secretary