

Biological Society of Washington 135th Annual Meeting, 8 May 2008

President Ron Heyer called the meeting to order at 10:40 AM in the Waldo Schmitt Room, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. Council members and editorial staff present: Wayne Mathis (President-elect), Stephen Cairns (Secretary), Chad Walter (Treasurer), Michael Carleton, Steve Gotte, F. Christian Thompson, Jeffrey Williams, Neal Woodman (elected council), Victor Springer, Bruce Collette (past Presidents), Stephen Gardiner (Editor), and Frank Ferrari (committee member). A total of 15 members were present.

Heyer introduced Peter Burns, Associate Publisher with Allen Press and our liaison with the publication of the journal. President Heyer then announced the results of the biennial election, which may be found on the inside cover of this issue. He then reiterated the points discussed in the prior council meeting, which included a lengthy discussion of the inevitability of publishing our journal as “electronic only,” with the option of hard copies on demand. We are not quite prepared to do this because of the requirement of the ICZN to distribute hard copies of new species descriptions, although we acknowledged that even this requirement may soon change. We also discussed the probability that the back issues of the PBSW will be made available as open access by the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL) in the near future. Currently only the last three years are on the web, and accessible only to subscribers. The council also heard numerous helpful suggestions from Stephen Gardiner for streamlining and improving the publication and increasing our membership. Next, President Heyer noted that he had presented a paper to the Capitol

Science Meeting of the Washington Academy of Sciences in March 2008 entitled “Can long-established, narrow-niche scientific societies such as the Biological Society of Washington survive in the digital age?,” with direct reference to the PBSW. This will be published by the WAS as well as eventually being placed on our web page. Finally, Heyer told us that he had organized the historical files for the society for the last several years and deposited them in the Smithsonian Archives.

Secretary Cairns made a brief report during which the minutes of the 134th annual meeting (published in PBSW 120(2):241–242), were approved.

The audit committee, consisting of Robert Reynolds, Michael Pogue and Michael Carlton, reviewed the financial report for 2007, and accepted it with slight corrections on May 26, 2008.

The Treasurer reported that the total assets of the Society were \$161,350 at the end of 2007, an increase of \$25,580 from the previous year. Part of this increase was due to an appreciation of the Endowment Fund of \$5,714, which now stands at \$110,540. The Society subsidized 31% of the page charges (\$9750) compared with 21% in 2006.

Editor Stephen Gardiner thanked all Associate Editors for their hard work over the last year. Gardiner reported that four issues of the *Proceedings* were published in 2007, and statistics are as follows: 1) issue 1–9 manuscripts for 115 pages, 2) issue 2–12 manuscripts for 125 pages, 3) issue 3–11 manuscripts for 123 pages, and issue 4–8 manuscripts for 102 pages. Total manuscripts submitted – 49, total manuscripts published – 40, and total pages – 465. Publication dates were:

1) issue 1–25 April 2007, 2) issue 2–21 August 2007, 3) issue 3–17 October 2007, and 4) issue 4–20 December 2007. Gardiner will try in the future to have the numbers published at regular three month intervals. No *Bulletins* were published in 2007. However, final manuscripts for *Bulletin* 15, The Invertebrate Fauna of Plummers Island, Maryland, were submitted for publication. Also, a proposal for a *Bulletin* was offered by Victor Springer and approved by the Executive Committee of the Society. Materials for that *Bulletin* have been submitted for publication as well. The last three years of the *Proceedings* are now available to members on *BioOne Free Member Access* on the Society's web site. Access is now available through a link placed on the home page of our web site. Issue one of the 2007 (121-1) *Proceedings* began the availability of the Society's publications within the BioOne.2 archive, with an archive of the previous three years also available.

The Finance Committee gave much advice to the financial details of

the agreement to publish with Alliance Communications Group (ACG), for which the President thanked the committee.

The membership committee developed a new membership application form; Steve Gotte was thanked for his service to that committee.

There was no old business.

Under new business, the topic of electronic only publication was briefly discussed again before the meeting was handed over to incoming President Wayne Mathis. Wayne thanked Past-president Ron Heyer for his service during an eventful period for the Society, praising his negotiation of the contract with ACG and the paper he presented at the Washington Academy of Science. Mathis also thanked Treasurer Chad Walter and Editor Stephen Gardiner for their diligent service.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted
Stephen D. Cairns
Secretary