

## BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

### 136th Annual Meeting, 14 May 2009

President Wayne Mathis called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM in the Waldo Schmitt Room, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. Council members and editorial staff present: Wayne Mathis (President), Mike Carleton (President-elect), Stephen Cairns (Secretary), Chad Walter (Treasurer), Sean Brady (Acting Treasurer), Steve Gotte, F. Christian Thompson, Jeffrey Williams, Neal Woodman, Allen Collins (elected Council), Bruce Collette, Roy McDiarmid (Past Presidents), Stephen Gardiner (Editor), and Ollie Flint and Bob Reynolds (committee chairs). A total of 26 members were present.

Mathis opened the meeting by recounting the business just transacted at the council meeting. At that meeting Peter Burns, Associate Publisher with Allen Press, reported that the impact factor of the *Proceedings* had increased to 0.517, 2.1 million on-line hits had been recorded for the journal in 2008, and 13,732 articles had been downloaded through our affiliation with BioOne.2. However, our membership declined by 15 and library subscription by 14. This may be partially explained by the *Proceedings* now being accessible on BioOne.2 and thus independent subscriptions are somewhat redundant. Editor Stephen Gardiner made two technical motions: one, to increase the bed size of the *Proceedings* to the same size as the *Bulletin*, i.e., 8.5 x 11 inches, and two, to incorporate the bulletins as regular but dedicated numbers in the *Proceedings*. After some discussion both motions were tabled pending the report of committees that will evaluate the merits of each proposal. President Mathis made two motions regarding support for the Editor: one to ask for \$2700 to pay for a new computer and software, which was approved. The second motion was to ask for a \$1000 stipend for the Editor for each issue edited, this motion ultimately being tabled, pending further inquiry. Long-standing treasurer Chad Walter was thanked for his service in this important post, and Sean Brady was elected by the Council to temporarily replace him until the next regular election is held. A nominating committee, chaired by President-elect Carleton, was established. Nominees are needed by late December. The treasurer's report, presented by Sean Brady, was discussed and accepted.

Following the discussion of the council meeting, the minutes of the last annual meeting (published in *PBSW* 121(2):295--296) were approved.

Robert Reynolds then presented the audit report for 2008, in which no discrepancies were found in our accounting procedures. Additional members of that committee were Michael Pogue and Michael Carleton.

Treasurer Sean Brady then presented the treasurer's report for 2008. Although the Society received a substantial income, primarily due to our membership in BioOne.2, this gain was more than offset by the loss of \$27,231 in our Endowment Fund, the loss in that fund reflecting the economic downturn in 2008. This resulted in an overall net loss of \$9,355 (or 5.8%) to the Society for 2008. The Endowment Fund now stands at \$83,309 and the total assets at \$152,133.

Editor Stephen Gardiner made the following report: Two *Bulletins* were published in 2008 entitled: *The Invertebrate Fauna of Plummers Island, Maryland. Contribution XXX to the Natural History of Plummers Island, Maryland*, edited by John W. Brown. 21 May 2008, No. 15, 226 pp., and *Supraneural and pterygiophore insertion patterns in carangid fishes, with description of a new Eocene carangid tribe, Paratrachinotini, and a survey of anterior anal-fin pterygiophore insertion patterns in Acanthomorpha*, by Victor G. Springer and William F. Smith-Vaniz. 12 September 2008, No. 16, 73 pp. Four issues of the *Proceedings* were published, and statistics are as follows: 1) issue 1 -- 1 April 2008, 12 manuscripts for 141 pages, 2) issue 2 -- 29 July 2008, 11 manuscripts for 154 pages, 3) issue 3 -- 7 October 2008, 11 manuscripts for 115 pages, and 4) issue 4 -- 22 December 2008, 10 manuscripts for 143 pages. Total manuscripts submitted -- 50, total manuscripts rejected -- 3, total manuscripts published -- 44, and total pages -- 553. Including *Bulletins*, the Society published 852 pages in 2008. Allen Press decided to not implement a plan to move to electronic submission of manuscripts using a portal called AllenTrack. During the year, Allen Press worked to design a different system for electronic submission, now called Peer Track. This delayed the onset of electronic submission until issue one of the *Proceedings* in 2009. Electronic submission is now available for manuscripts for the *Proceedings* at the URL <http://www.editorialmanager.com/pbsw>. Editor Gardiner noted that fewer manuscripts were being submitted and made a plea for more submissions. Ollie Flint, chair of the membership committee, discussed a new membership flyer that his committee had developed.

Peter Burns then summarized the report he had made at the Council meeting, reiterating that the Society was in good financial condition and, in his opinion, had benefited from its affiliation with BioOne.2.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephen D. Cairns  
Secretary