

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON - Annual Meeting, 10 June 2010

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 present: Wayne Mathis (President), Mike Carleton (President-elect), Stephen Cairns (Secretary), Seán Brady (Treasurer); F. Christian Thompson, Jeffrey Williams, Neal Woodman, Allen Collins, Bob Hershler (elected Council); Richard Banks, Ron Heyer, Bruce Collette, Roy McDiarmid (Past Presidents); Stephen Gardiner (Editor) and Bob Reynolds (Finance Committee Chair). A total of 23 members were present.

Mathis opened the meeting by asking Peter Burns, Associate Publisher with Allen Press, to summarize the highlights of our publication year. He reported that the ISI impact factor of the *Proceedings* had increased to 0.648 (2008). Also, 47,735 on-line hits had been recorded for the journal in 2009, and 24,470 articles had been downloaded through our affiliation with BioOne.2. However, membership declined by 40 and library subscriptions by 11. This decrease may be partially explained by the *Proceedings* now being accessible on BioOne.2 and thus independent print subscriptions are somewhat redundant.

Editor Stephen Gardiner made the following report: "This was my third and partial fourth year as Editor of the Society's publications, and it was a somewhat busy year for the Society. The editorial staff remained the same as in 2008 after addition of Jeffrey T. Williams, taking the place of Edward O. Murdy for fishes, and Rick Hochberg, taking over for Stephen D. Cairns, for invertebrates other than insects and crustaceans. As always, I extend my sincere appreciation to all who are serving as Associate Editors for the Society. One *Bulletin* was published in 2009 entitled: *Checklist of the Freshwater Fishes of the Guiana Shield*, edited Richard P. Vari et al. September 2009, No. 17, vii + 95 pp. Four issues of the *Proceedings* were published in 2009, and statistics are as follows: 1) issue 1 - 20 March 2009, 11 manuscripts for 129 pages, 2) issue 2 - 30 July 2009, 10 manuscripts for 118 pages, 3) issue 3 - 14 October 2009, 10 manuscripts for 115 pages, and 4) issue 4 - 21 December 2009, 9 manuscripts for 77 pages. Total manuscripts submitted - 32, total pages published - 470."

"A total of 40 manuscripts were published, and the breakdown by taxa is as follows: 1) Crustacea - 14, 2) Vertebrates - 7, 3) Other animal groups - 6, 4) Plants - 6, 5) Annelida - 4, and 6) Insecta - 3. It should be noted that a great majority of these published manuscripts came from authors who have published on numerous occasions in the *Proceedings*. Only a few manuscripts came from authors who had not previously published in the *Proceedings*. Together with the one *Bulletin*, the Society published a total of 565 pages in 2009. Allen Press moved to a new system for electronic submission of manuscripts using a portal called PeerTrack. During the year, several Associate Editors and I provided feedback to Allen Press with regard to certain issues that interfered with an intuitive process for submitting and reviewing manuscripts. Allen Press has been very responsive at all times to our concerns. The site is working more smoothly now, but it should be noted that several authors still prefer to send their manuscripts directly to me rather than use the electronic site. In most instances, I have not discouraged this practice. Electronic submission for manuscripts for the *Proceedings* remains at the URL <http://www.editorialmanager.com/pbsw>."

Following the editorial report, the minutes of the last annual meeting (published in *PBSW* 122 (2): 247-248) were approved. Secretary Cairns also reported that the biennial vote for officers of the Society was done exclusively online this year, and that we received almost three times as many votes the previous election, which was done by mail-in paper ballots.

Treasurer Seán Brady then presented the treasurer's report for 2009. Although the value of the Endowment Fund increased by \$14,360.55, the general fund decreased by \$10,484.07, resulting in an overall net increase of \$3,876.70. The Endowment Fund now stands at \$97,669.55, and the total assets of the Society, as of December 31, 2009, amount to \$156,009.73.

Robert Reynolds then presented the audit report for 2009, in which no discrepancies were found in the Treasurer's accounting procedures. The additional member of that committee was Michael Pogue.

President Mathis then outlined some of the adverse factors affecting the membership of the Society and publication of the *Proceedings*, suggesting that a series of discussions should occur among the council members this Fall to address these issues and the general future of the Society. Chris Thompson volunteered that, aside from our publication, the Society should be active in public education regarding the importance of taxonomy. We then briefly discussed the feasibility of getting post-1923 *Proceedings* posted to the Biodiversity Heritage Library.

As an item of old business Roy McDiarmid led a discussion as to whether to keep the *Bulletin* separate from the *Proceedings* or to fuse the two publication outlets. The overwhelming opinion was to keep the two publications outlets separate. Roy also presented the Secretary with a listing of the 17 *Bulletins*, their cost, and availability.

The election results were then announced by Secretary Cairns: President-elect - Robert Hershler, Secretary - Stephen Cairns (unopposed), Treasurer - Seán Brady (unopposed), and the six council members: Carole Baldwin, Allen Collins, Steve Gotte, F. Christian Thompson, Jeffrey Williams, and Neal Woodman.

Wayne Mathis then yielded the presidency and floor to President-elect Mike Carleton, who thanked Wayne for his two years of service, and reiterated that he would chair a series of council meetings this Fall to explore the future of our Society.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephen D. Cairns
Secretary