

Biological Society of Washington
Annual Meeting, 24 May 2011

President Michael Carleton called the meeting to order at 10:40 am in the Waldo Schmitt Room, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. Council members present: Michael Carleton (President), Stephen Gardiner (President-elect and Editor), Stephen Cairns (Secretary); Steve Gotte, F. Christian Thompson, Neal Woodman (elected Council); Richard Banks, Ron Heyer, Bruce Collette, Roy McDiarmid, Oliver Flint, Storrs Olson, Richard Vari, Wayne Mathis (Past Presidents); and Bob Reynolds (Finance Committee Chair). A total of 16 members were present.

Carleton opened the meeting by thanking Steve Gardiner for assuming the post of President-elect after the resignation of our current President-elect. The minutes of last year's meeting (2009) were accepted as published in volume 123(2):179-180. Robert Reynolds then presented the audit report for 2010, in which no discrepancies were found in the Treasurer's accounting procedures. The additional members of that committee were Michael Pogue and Ronald Heyer.

Although not present, Treasurer Seán Brady's treasurer's report for 2009 was distributed. The value of the Endowment Fund increased by \$7235, and the general fund decreased by \$6826, resulting in an overall net increase of \$409. The Endowment Fund now stands at \$104,904, and the total assets of the Society, as of December 31, 2010, amount to \$156,419.

Editor Stephen Gardiner made the following report: "This was my fourth and partial fifth year as Editor of the Society's publications. The staff of Associate Editors remained the same as in 2009. As always, I extend my sincere appreciation to all who are serving as Associate Editors for the Society. Their devoted efforts to excellence in the review process are reflected in the quality of the manuscripts published in the *Proceedings*. Four issues of the *Proceedings* were published in 2010, and statistics are as follows: 1) issue 1: 3 June 2010, 9 manuscripts for 92 pages, 2) issue 2: 6 August 2010, 8 manuscripts for 88 pages, 3) issue 3: 23 September 2010, 7 manuscripts for 70 pages, and 4) issue 4: 21 December 2010, 8 manuscripts for 115 pages. Total manuscripts submitted - 44, total manuscripts rejected - 9, total pages published - 365, and total pages subsidized by the Society - 64 (about 18%). Thirty-two manuscripts were published in 2010, and the breakdown by taxa is as follows: 1) Crustacea - 14; 2) Vertebrates - 6; 3) Other invertebrate groups - 6; 4) Plants - 3; and 5) Cnidaria - 3. Similar to the situation for 2009, a majority of the manuscripts published in 2010 were submitted by authors who have previously published in the *Proceedings*. It is critical for the Society to offer incentives that will encourage new authors to submit manuscripts to the *Proceedings*.

The number of manuscripts submitted in 2010 increased slightly over 2009 but remains substantially lower than historical numbers for the *Proceedings*. The number of rejected manuscripts is the highest since I became Editor of the *Proceedings*. Four manuscripts were rejected after the review process, whereas 5 were deemed inappropriate for the *Proceedings* and were rejected without being reviewed. The latter group consisted mostly of faunal checklists of certain taxa or a taxon and did not include any descriptions of new species, revisions of taxa, or pertinent biogeographical comparisons of the fauna involved. All rejections included consultation with the appropriate Associate Editor or with a recognized expert in the area of the taxon/taxa involved.

Allen Press continues to host its electronic web site for manuscript submission known as Peer Track. Unlike 2009, the majority of manuscripts were submitted to the *Proceedings* through the Peer Track portal, although a small number of authors continue to prefer direct submission to me. Electronic submission of manuscripts for the *Proceedings* remains at the URL <http://www.editorialmanager.com/pbsw>.

The Information for Contributors material was updated in late 2010, and the new version was published beginning with issue one of 2011. Two important changes include removing the requirement for membership in the Society to have a manuscript considered for publication and a change in how page charges to authors may be subsidized by the Society.

The server at Bryn Mawr College that hosts the Society's web site crashed early in 2010. Following that event, it was no longer possible to access the web site using the URL www.biolsocwash.org, although the Society still owns that domain name (will require renewal in 2014). Access to the web site was, and is, still possible using the URL www.brynmawr.edu/biology/BSW. This situation will be remedied when Allen Press launches a new web site for the Society in the near future.”

Karen Ridgway, representing Allen Press, presented a publishing report for 2010, noting that although our membership and subscriptions are steadily declining, our European subscription rate is up 18% and, in her opinion, we are doing well in regard to other similar society publications. We currently have 344 members and 154 library subscriptions. Our impact factor has remained steady at 0.643.

President Carleton reported that as the result of a general meeting held on October 14, 2010 the Society has adopted certain initiatives to improve the Society and its publication. First, a new Society website will soon be available that will facilitate business matters within the organization, replacing the currently defunct site at Bryn Mawr. Second, the remaining digitally unarchived volumes of the Society's *Proceedings* (volumes 36-117, 1923-2004) are now being scanned by the Biodiversity Heritage Library and will soon be available on line.

Third, as of volume 124, the journal itself has a subtitle (A Journal for Documenting Global Biodiversity), and its cover has been slightly reformatted to make it more attractive; key words will be added to all articles; and one no longer needs to be a member of the Society in order to publish in the *Proceedings*. Fourth, in an effort to increase circulation and impact, the journal is willing to subsidize free of charge thematic collections of papers or special papers of broad interest. Also, the journal will subsidize student memberships upon request.

President Carleton moved to incorporate the annual council meeting and regular annual meeting as one meeting, to which all members would be invited. This motion passed unanimously.

The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing whether to renew our contract with Allen Press for another five years, but no consensus was reached. A special meeting will be held soon to revisit that issue. Volunteers were asked for a nominating committee for officers for the 2012-2014 term. Volunteers were also solicited to revise parts of the Constitution in order to make it more consistent with current practice.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephen D. Cairns
Secretary