

NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF MALACOLOGY, ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES

1900 BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PARKWAY, PHILADELPHIA PA 19103-1195, USA



VOLUME 36, No 2. FALL 2005

<http://erato.acnatsci.org/ams>

ISSN 1041-5300

ANNOUNCEMENTS

72nd AMS Annual Meeting



The 72nd annual meeting of the American Malacological Society and the 39th annual meeting of the Western Society of Malacologists will be held jointly in Seattle from 29 July – 3 August 2006 under the coordination of co-president Dr. Roland C. Anderson. The main venue for the meeting will be the University of Washington with reasonably-priced housing available at the University dormitories and the University Inn Motel. The opening night reception will be in the Burke Museum, located on campus, and the ending banquet will be at the university's University Club, also on campus. Thursday 3 August will be devoted to field trips.

There will be three symposia: one on cephalopod behavior organized by Jennifer Mather of the University of Lethbridge, one on Chitons organized by Douglas Eernisse of the California State University at Fullerton, and one on Opisthobranchs organized by Sandra Millen of the University of British Columbia.

There will be a sale of molluscan reprints to benefit the student fund of the WSM and the traditional spirited auction of books and mollus-

can memorabilia (no shells) that will benefit the student funds of both organizations. Several notable items of cephalopod art have already been donated and a copy of Abbott's 2nd edition of *American Seashells*. Let's bring some of your unused reprints, books and molluscan art to benefit this very worthy cause! Reprints and auction items can be sent to Roland Anderson at the address below.

For further information please contact AMS and WSM president:

Dr. Roland C. Anderson
1483 Alaskan Way
Seattle, WA 98101 USA

Ph: 206-386-4346

Roland.anderson@seattle.gov



NOTICES TO MEMBERS

MEMBERSHIP DATABASE

Starting in Fall 2005, the membership database will discontinue the practice of maintaining a separate 'mailing address' and 'directory address' for each member. Members will now receive all AMS correspondence at their directory address. If you would like your directory address changed, please contact the Secretary at the address above or by e-mail at callomon@acnatsci.org

MEMBERS' DIRECTORY

The 2005 Members' Directory is now in preparation, with publication planned in early November. This will be delivered electronically or by post to all current members.

THE 2005 AMS ANNUAL MEETING

The 2005 meeting was held at Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove, California from June 26th to 30th, 2005. A full program of symposia and presentations was balanced with several social events and excursions. The meeting photograph is available at

<http://erato.acnatsci.org/ams/meetings/past.html>

The council meeting took place on the 26th, and the minutes are here reported.

Minutes of the Council Meeting

June 26, 2005

Present: Dianna Padilla, Tim Pearce, Bob Prezant, Rob Dillon, Sue Cook, Roland Anderson, Jose Leal, Amy Wethington, Carole Hickman, Paul Callomon, Frank Anderson, Janice Voltzow, Angel Valdes and Diarmaid O'Foighil.

Introduction by President Dianna Padilla

The **Secretary's report** was presented*.

There was discussion of trends in membership, and methods of assessing and comparing membership figures. Membership has risen steadily since 2002, with an increasing number of student members. The society grants discounts on membership and meeting registration for students, and these measures were reviewed and approved. Recruitment of new members was discussed, together with methods for reminding members about expiring membership.

Motion: to accept the Secretary's report
Passed unanimously

The **Treasurer's report** was presented*

The Society continues to sustain a small deficit (about \$1000) in its checking account, but in view of the resumption of the publication schedule of the Bulletin and other factors this is not a source of particular concern. Invoicing and accounting for the journal remains difficult, with some remittances still being sent to previous treasurers. Payments for reprints, which are sent directly from the printers, are also difficult to track. There is no overall problem with payment, but delays make it difficult to compile an overall assessment at any given time. The Society is on a sound financial basis, but must continue to proceed with caution. To balance the budget, some funds will have to be transferred from the endowment to the operating account. The dividend interest from the endow-

ment account is to be used to fund symposia, as allowed for in the Society's laws. This has not been necessary in recent years, as the last two meetings have generated sufficient profit to cover the following year's symposia.

Methods of invoicing for dues and accepting payment were discussed, with special reference to on-line use of credit cards and to PayPal. The latter was rejected as a default method for payment of dues and other Society fees due to its high charges and poor reputation. The advantages of continuing with a paper-based system of invoicing and record-keeping were outlined by the treasurer, particularly in view of the continued use of checks by the majority of members.

A 2006 budget was requested and will be posted at the business meeting.

Motion: to accept the Treasurer's report
Passed unanimously

The **AMB Editor's report** was presented*

Fewer submissions are being received from researchers on freshwater mollusks. Sufficient papers are on hand for vol. 21, but ways to further encourage submissions were discussed. The publication of symposium papers in the AMB was discussed. The Society's laws give it the right of first refusal on all manuscripts resulting from AMS symposia.

Thanks were expressed to Leslie Skibinsky at the Delaware Museum for helping with the maintenance of the AMB stocks.

It was suggested that back issues be advertised on the Society's web site.

Motion: to accept the AMB Editor's report
Passed unanimously

Roland Anderson presented a report on the 2006 meeting.

Motion: to accept the 2006 meeting report
Passed unanimously

Paula Mikkelsen presented a preliminary report on the 2008 joint meeting with UNITAS in Antwerp, Belgium. More information will be available following a meeting of the UNITAS council in September. Full AMS participation in the meeting was encouraged, especially with regard to the publication of symposium papers.

The report of the **Nominating Committee** was presented*

Motion: *to accept the slate of candidates*
Passed unanimously

Motion: *to accept the Nominating committee report*
Passed unanimously

The **Auditing Committee** report was presented*

Motion: *to accept the Auditing committee's report*
Passed unanimously

The report of the **Endowment Committee** was presented*. Alan Kohn was acknowledged for his fine efforts in the role of chair of this committee. The three recommendations of the report were discussed, with special reference to strategies regarding the balance of stocks and bonds in the fund.

Motion: *to accept the Endowment committee report*
Passed unanimously

Motion: *to adopt the recommendations of the Endowment report*
Passed unanimously

The **Publications Committee** report was presented*. There was discussion of the production of the book 'Mollusks: a guide for study, collection and preservation', and of the budget for this project. Marketing and advertising strategies were presented for this book, which will be published on demand and sold at \$33.20 per copy.

Motion: *to accept the Publications committee report*
Passed unanimously

The **Membership committee** report was presented*. Strategies were discussed for increasing membership. A questionnaire is being circulated at the present meeting and distributed by other means to help with planning. A revised membership brochure has been prepared and can now be distributed at other meetings. Recent trends in membership were discussed, including the recent recovery in overall numbers. Better representation of the AMS at the meetings of other societies was recommended.

Motion: *to accept the Membership committee's report*
Passed unanimously

The **Student Awards** committee report was presented*. Roland Anderson announced that he will

be stepping down from the committee after its final meeting this year.

Motion: *to accept the Student Awards report*
Passed unanimously

The **Conservation and Systematics committee** reports were not presented as neither had any activity in the period since the previous meeting. The Conservation committee had not been charged with any task by council.

A **Resolutions committee** report was not presented, as there have been no new resolutions in the last year. Rob Dillon reported on the activities of the Constitution and Bylaws committee. No new amendments have been proposed.

Motion: *to accept the Constitution and Bylaws committee report*
Passed unanimously

NEW BUSINESS

The first item of new business was a discussion of the role of the Society's webmaster. Liath Appleton was invited to comment on the Society's web site. It was proposed that the site be moved from the server of the Academy of Natural Sciences to a commercial server. This would allow the Society to have its own domain name. The idea was discussed of constructing templates for web sites for the annual meeting, though many difficulties were seen with standardizing formats between different meetings. Online registration for meetings was also discussed. Suggestions for improving the content of the site were made, and various examples were given of existing web sites that should be studied in this respect.

Motion: *that the Society's web site be moved from the Academy's server to a commercial server.*
Passed unanimously

The second item of new business was a proposal to raise more funds for students, and to increase the number of awards. There was discussion of the matter, but no motions were tabled. The topic was then raised of enhancing the auction by the sale of specimens, which is currently not permitted by Society laws. There was considerable discussion of this matter, touching on the possible implications for the Society's scientific legitimacy and on the role of serious amateur malacologists in the Society. The president proposed to appoint a committee to examine the matter further. The pre-

sent discussion culminated in a vote. A secret ballot was taken on the proposal:

Proposed: *that once again shells be made available for sale and auction at the American Malacological Society meeting*

Proposal defeated by 9 votes to 5.

Suggestions were made by the membership committee, including a proposal that surplus funds from the student awards budget be distributed to defray students' travel expenses. This was determined by council to be a violation of the terms of the Constance Boone Student Award fund. The President proposed appointing a new committee to consider the matter further.

The President asked Council to draw up a written schedule of duties for each of its officers. She also proposed the setting up of a Programs committee to handle the planning and funding of symposia.

Bob Prezant then presented a motion resulting from earlier discussion of the Treasurer's report

Motion: *That the AMS executive council be allowed to allocate up to 30% of any previous year's meeting's profits to the next year's primary symposium*

A friendly amendment resulted in the revised wording:

Motion: *That the AMS executive council be allowed to allocate all or part of the previous year's meeting's surplus to the next year's primary symposium*
Passed unanimously

Jose Leal thanked the Society formally for its financial contribution to the recovery of the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum from the hurricane of August 2004.

Motion: *that the meeting be adjourned*
Passed unanimously

Minutes recorded and submitted by P. Callomon, Secretary, June 27, 2005

* Copies of all AMS council reports are available on request from the Secretary at the address above.

NEWS FROM MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Section of Mollusks

The Section of Mollusks at the Carnegie Museum is now more than 50% computerized with over 60,000 electronic records. The collection is worldwide in scope with particular strengths in freshwater mussels and terrestrial gastropods from the eastern USA. We anticipate it taking more than a year to reach our goal of Internet access to the database, but in the meantime you can send inquiries to Tim Pearce

PearceT@CarnegieMNH.org

Tim's recent research focuses on updating distribution maps for land snails of Pennsylvania. Numerous new county records and a few new state records allow better understanding of what lives where, and what is rare.

www.carnegiemnh.org/mollusks/index.htm



Contributions to the biannual AMS newsletter are always welcomed. Send articles, short notes or news items to the Secretary at the address above, or electronically to callomon@acnatsci.org

