



### **Annual Business Meeting Agenda**

Virtual 2021 Conference, June 30, 2021 7-8 pm ET (by Zoom)

100 people in attendance (virtually)

1. Approval of 2019 Business Meeting Minutes (there was no 2020 business meeting)  
Brian Patrick makes motion; Rich Bradley seconded; all approved.
2. Announcements made by President Greta Binford:
  - a. New website developed and launched
  - b. Norman Platnick Award for Taxonomic Research created and first award presented
  - c. Constitution Update
  - d. Hosted the Virtual 2020 and 2021 meetings
    - i. Outreach Committee activities
    - ii. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives
3. Reports (see complete set sent by Brian Patrick)- Overview by Greta Binford (see detailed reports accompanying these notes as a pdf).
  - a. Election Results - Mercedes Burns  
Linda Rayor was elected as new President Elect; Cara was re-appointed as Treasurer; Hannah Wood was elected as the new Director.
  - b. Secretary's Report - Paula Cushing
  - c. Treasurer's Report - Cara Schillington
  - d. Membership Report - Brian Patrick
  - e. Journal of Arachnology Report - Deb Smith
  - f. Student Grants Report - Brent Hendrixson
  - g. Herb Levi Memorial Fund for Arachnological Research Report – Petra Sierwald
  - h. Engagement & Outreach Committee Report – Eileen Heberts
  - i. Graduate Student EC member Report – Alex Berry (and call for student volunteer)
  - j. Common Names Committee Report – Sarah Rose
  - k. Platnick Award Committee (summarized in announcements)
  - l. Website Update – Daniel Gloor
  - m. Future Meeting Sites – Andy Roberts  
Luis García expressed an interest in hosting but asked for additional information on what that would entail. He will email Paula

Rich Bradley approved; Ivan Maghaeles seconded; all approved.
4. Old Business:
  - a. All covered in announcements

5. New Business:
  - a. New DEI Committee
  - b. Expand society *Code of Conduct* beyond meetings
  - c. Aspects of virtual conference to maintain
  - d. How to celebrate major milestones of the society - AAS 50th anniversary!
    - i. Society founded in 1972
    - ii. 1st issue of JoA published in 1973
  - e. *Journal of Arachnology* may reinstate page charges to balance cost of publication
  - f. Finances
    - i. Revenue for AAS Virtual Meeting used to pay balance of new website cost
    - ii. SNAIM proceeds, Platnick GoFundMe will go into investment account (Schwab)
  - g. Schlinger account is nearly empty and can no longer support non-student meeting travel; may be reinstated at a later date
  - h. An ad hoc Development Committee will plan sustainable long-term financial strategies with goals of accessible membership while maintaining funds to support society priorities
  - i. Additional new business items from attendees
  
6. Presentation of plan for 2022 meeting at UC Davis

NOTES:

**Future Meeting Host from Chat:**

- Luis García offered to help with Spanish-English translations.
- Matthias Foellmer is open to it.
- Neil McReynolds is not.
- Leticia Aviles and Wayne Maddison as co-hosts came up as suggestions.

**Development/AAS Budgetary Suggestions:**

- It was suggested that a mechanism be created to donate to keep the Schlinger fund active online (on the website).
- Maybe AAS could host fundraisers.
- Sell sponsored artwork – sales to support AAS.
- Move JoA to entirely online. This idea was brought up by a few people; a few others pushed back. It was brought up that taxonomic papers needed to be published in hard copy. Others pointed out that this could still be done (meeting ICZN requirements) w/out having a hard-copy journal. Abel Bustameante Ferrada pointed to info at <https://zookeys.pensoft.net/article/3096/>
- Question came up about whether the Schlinger money was principle or interest?
- Request from Eileen to find money to support Engagement and Outreach activities and people.
- Rich Bradley & Darius Przygoda asked about an additional cost if people wanted hard copy subscriptions to the JoA.
- Luis García suggested collaborative work between AAS and Latin American societies to jointly raise money.
- Ivan Magalhães pointed out: “Other Latin American colleagues and I were thinking that membership fees could take into account the country of origin of potential members, as the costs

might be a barrier to some people who are living in countries not currently covered by the waivers. I don't know how many current members come from other countries, but we think that discounts could potentially attract more members. If there are discounts, we could promote this using the RAEL's mailing list.”

- Maddy Hannappel suggested that we offer sponsorship opportunities for companies relevant to the society.
- Catherine Scott suggested: The EC should consider charging the graduate student member of the board (perhaps expanding this position to a pair of co-chairs who overlap in term) with forming and chairing a student and Early Career Researcher (ECR) committee (ECRs include those who recently completed their PhD). This committee could have a member(s) cross-appointed with the Outreach and Engagement Committee. The goal of this committee would be to foster connections among students and ECRs both at meetings and throughout the year, to provide guidance and advice on the kinds of support, workshops, etc that would be most helpful for students. The student representative(s) (in collaboration with the Social Media subcommittee of the Outreach and Engagement Committee) could also create a peer network through social media so students and early career members can be better connected with others outside their institutions and labs (this could include connecting new students with more senior student or ECR mentors), and could curate resources for students and ECRs that would be posted on the website and shared via social media (e.g. lists of labs where students can do arachnological research as undergraduates or graduate students, sharing research assistant job ads or relevant courses and workshops). The committee could also track and regularly highlight via social media the publications of student and ECR members of the AAS.
- From Luis García mentioned that the Brazilian entomological society offers 2 for 1 subscription into the biocontrol and Entomological Societies to attract more members.
- Catherine Scott pointed out that the current model (of sponsored membership) depends on country mean income, which is not great. This model should be adjusted. Please note that students who identify as a person of colour can get free membership from EntoPOC but I think the AAS should make sponsorship more flexible.
- Several attendees supported the idea of a hybrid meeting in the future (live w/ virtual capabilities). Linda Rayor suggested a model of biannual meetings in person and oppisig biannual meetings that are virtual to more easily include our international colleagues.

### **2022 AAS Meeting Presentation from Jason Bond**

Jason Bond ended Business meeting by promoting the 2022 LIVE AAS meeting in Davis, California. Meeting will be held June 26-29, 2022. Conference center next to Modavi Center for the Arts on campus and venue is near downtown (w/in walking distance of restaurants and bars).

Eileen Hebets added that “We'll have a science communication workshop in addition to Eight-Legged Encounters...and we might even do some experiment on the participants (e.g. eyetrackers on participants as they walk through the event).” And that she “will be able to fund the development of informal science communication projects for a select number of early career scientists too so stay tuned!”

Motion made by Brian Patrick to end business meeting; Sean Walker seconded; all approved.

## **Online Auction raised \$600 for the society!**

### **Winners of Photo/Art Contest:**

Mixed Arachnid Art Category winner (prize by : Runner up – Sadie Anderson; Winner was Weaving Nephila by Yi Lin Zhou. Prize was art by logo artist Tea Francis.

Microscopy Category (prize spider masks by Catherine Scott): Runner up Sex Requires complexity by Abel Pérez Gonzalez; Winner Bad Hair Day by Ivan L.F. Magalhaes.

Scientific Illustration Category: prize all the arachnids T-shirt by Thomas Shahan: Runner up, Micrathena beta by Ivan L.F. Magalhaes; winner Spiders of Yogyakarta, Indonesia by Franz Anthony

Arachnids in controlled environments Category (prize beanie by The Vexed Muddler): runner up Fresh Feet by Isa Betancourt; Winner Oranised Chaos by Caitlin Henderson.

Winners of Arachnologists at Work (prize spider bandana by Mary Capaldi): runner up Colonial Defenses by Angela Chuang; Winner Let there be light by Darko D. Cotoras.

Arachnids in the Wild Category (prize painting by Rebecca Steele): runner up Opiliones of New Zealand by Erin Powell; winner A good night's work by Sean McCann. Sean declined to accept so Erin Powell will receive painting (Sean was an organizer of the contest).

**BioBlitz Results:** Huge success! One amblypygi found; one solifuge; 6 pseudoscorpis (5 species); 20 observations of 5 species of scorpions; 117 observations of 20 species of mites; 1,188 observations of 279 species of spiders. BioBlitz occurred over just three days! Spider highlights included a *Ummidia*; *Aphonopelma johnnycashi* was recorded by Sadie Anderson; *Kulkulkania*; *Phidippus*; *Neospintharus trigonum*, *Cosmophasis valerieae* sent by the iNat speaker at the conference. Susan Wise Eagle headed out dedicated to collect some rare species when she encountered a bear! She found an alternate place to look for spiders!

There was an associated contest for how many species would be recorded. Prize was a T-shirt from the Tarantula Collective. The winner was Naufal (guessed 321 species; 327 species were recorded). Naufal was the presenter representing iNat at the conference.

Most identification got signed copy of Spi-Ku book by Leslie Buliion. Winner was Rebecca Ray.

Most observations got luggage cover by Nicky Bay. Winner for most observations went to Naufal Urfi Dhiya'ulhak with over 100 observations in three days.

### **Winners of Student Presentation Awards:**

First place Poster Award: Madeline Hannappel; Mud Dauber Nests as Sources of Spiders in Mercury Monitoring Studies

Second place Poster Award: Tiffany Guth; Landmark-guided T-maze learning in the wolf spider *Tigrosa helluo*

## Track 1

First place Oral Presentation Track 1: Abel Corver; Towards a computational ethology of web-making: quantifying movement sequences underlying stages of web-building in *Uloborus diversus*

Second place Oral Presentation Track 1: Anna Holmquist; The role of historical legacies in shaping spider communities across two mountain ranges in Sulawesi, Indonesia

## Track 2

First place Oral Presentation Track 2: Tierney Bougie; Dynamics of hybridization in a complex unimodal hybrid zone between members of the *Habronattus americanus* subgroup (F. Salticidae)

Second place Oral Presentation Track 2: Daniela Candia-Ramirez; Diversity and evolution of a new genus of tiger rump tarantulas of southern Mexico and Central America (Araneae: Theraphosidae: Theraphosinae)

The judges would like us to mention the excellent talk by Freddie Wolfe (a 12 year old attendee who presented on arachnological outreach to adult audiences).

Winners receive \$100; runner-ups/2<sup>nd</sup> place receive \$50. All receive one-year free membership to the society.

President Greta Binford ended the virtual banquet thanking all those who were on the organizing committee: Sydney Gelling, Peter Midford, Daniel Gloor, Sebastian Echeverri, Catherine Scott, Brian Patrick, Rich Bradley, Sarah Stellwagen (who single-handedly coordinated the scientific schedule), all the judges, moderators, artists, and all others who helped.