

## Archives Committee

**Historian:** A. L. Gardner (Archivist), R. M. Timm (Chair, Historian).

### Information Items:

- (1) Assisted the President and President-elect in writing a Letter to the Editor for the journal *Science*. The purpose of the letter was to call attention to the lack of funding for the Biological Survey Unit in the then proposed, and later passed, federal budget. The letter calls attention to the instrumental role the Unit's staff provide in leadership in science, tracking biotic diversity, impacts of anthropogenic changes on the earth's biota, and maintenance of the Smithsonian's irreplaceable scientific collections. It was published in the *Science* Letters section on 16 February 2018. The citation is: Sikes, R. S, D. A. Kelt, et al. 2018. Support the Biological Survey Unit. *Science*, 359(6377):754–755. This was done in collaboration with the American Ornithological Society and American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. The ASM took the lead in developing this important statement. A copy of the published letter is attached below.
- (2) References, images, and oral history were provided to a number of ASM authors and editors as they were finalizing articles for the *Journal of Mammalogy*, *Mammalian Species*, and other publications
- (3) Received several photographs of interest to the Society for the ASM's archives including a number of older Annual Meeting images. These are being sorted, labeled, and selected ones will be scanned and uploaded onto the Archives Committee's web page (see Our History tab ([www.mammalsociety.org/committees/archives#tab7](http://www.mammalsociety.org/committees/archives#tab7))). More images await uploading. Please look at the photographs of the annual meetings that are posted and provide us with the originals of any that you do not see posted. We are still missing a considerable number of annual meetings images so please check your files for us and provide interesting images to our Archives.
- (4) Background information and images on the Society and several members were provided to several authors for their chapters in the upcoming 100 anniversary volume.
- (5) A number of Society documents were received and will be sent to Archivist Gardner for transfer to the Smithsonian Archives.
- (6) A number of questions that come into the Society throughout the year about our history from a wide array of people are forwarded to the Archives Committee and we address them.
- (7) **Future needs:** We are recommending that two new members be added to the Committee to provide additional depth and breadth of expertise. Funds are being requested for travel to the Smithsonian to curate our archives. Please continue to send us images of interest to the Society and our Science of Mammalogy.

Action item: \$3000 for travel and curation of archived materials

**Respectively submitted,**

Alfred L. Gardner, Archivist

Robert M. Timm, Historian, Committee Chair (btimm@ku.edu)