

## Program Committee

**Committee Members:** A.A. Ahlers (2018 Co-Host), K.C. Bell, B.R. Blood, E.J. Finck (2018 Co-Host), J.D. Hanson, A. Hope (2018 Co-Host), S.A. Jansa, J.E. Light, R.A. Long, J. Maldonado (2019 Co-Host), V.L. Mathis, R.N. Platt, J.L. Rachlow, A. Ricketts (2018 Co-Host), Z.P. Roehrs, L.A. Ruedas, J.M. Ryan, S.R. Sheffield, W.P. Smith, K.A. Speer, C.W. Thompson (Chair), D. Wilson (2019 Co-Host), and N. Woodman (2019 Co-Host).

### **Mission:**

The Program Committee is responsible for the solicitation and acceptance of proposals for symposia and workshops, for advertising the meeting to other scientific societies, for soliciting bids to host meetings, and assisting meeting hosts in preparing for annual meetings. In 2011, the Committee was charged with venue selection, organizing the Annual Meeting, the solicitation and acceptance of proposals for symposia and workshops, and advertising the meeting to other scientific societies.

### **Information Items:**

#### **(1) *Sponsors & Exhibitors***

2018—Jessica Light, Verity Mathis, Janet Rachlow, Zach Roehrs, and James Ryan organized sponsor and exhibitor solicitations. Vendor solicitation continues to be difficult. One hundred ten businesses, government agencies, museums, and universities were contacted. At the time of this report, these efforts have resulted in 20 sponsorships (monetary and in-kind); 4 of the 20 meeting sponsors were academic units at the University of Idaho, providing only about a 18% success rate for sponsors.

Given the low return rate, it is the recommendation of this Committee to consider establishing long-term relationships with companies that have histories with the Society (e.g., H.B. Sherman, Tomahawk, etc.), as well as large companies that deem us too small and specialized to sponsor the meeting (e.g., Fisher Scientific, Garmin, Sigma-Aldrich, etc.). Annual corporate sponsorship could provide financial support in exchange for advertising options on the website, in the journal, and at the Annual Meeting (vendor show and auction). Additional opportunity exists if Society membership and meeting attendee lists were made available to potential sponsors. Leadership from the Development Committee would help in this regard.

2019—Solicitation efforts will continue for the Washington, D.C. Annual Meeting with hopes to retain sponsors. The 2019 brochure will be distributed to sponsors and exhibitors at the 2018 Annual Meeting along with a thank you letter signed by the Society President. With the help of the local hosts at the National Museum of Natural History and the National Zoo, efforts also will focus on local businesses with Smithsonian connections, as well as nearby universities with overlapping interests.

#### **(2) *Website***

2018—With support from K-State Conference Services, the Society continued to use the *mammalmeetings.org* domain name to maintain continuity and increase reach for the Annual Meeting. This will serve as the Annual Meeting URL going forward.

The Annual Meeting website was live by the first week in January, and updates have been provided as needed since. The Annual Meeting website also includes a Twitter feed of @mammalmeetings.

2019—Efforts will be made to have the 2019 Annual Meeting website live by December 2018. Additionally, efforts will be made to include information for the 2020 and 2021 Annual Meetings.

### **(3) Registration**

2018—The ASM Business Office continued to operate the Annual Meeting registration site. This has greatly simplified the registration and abstract submission process. However, the registration software continues to be limited in its utility for revising already submitted registrations. Sponsors and vendors also utilized a similar form for their registration, which also was organized by the ASM Business Office.

Registration rates were continued at 2016 rates, which are the lowest since 2010 for regular members and lowest since 2008 for student members. Non-member rates were maintained at roughly twice the cost of annual membership to encourage new membership. The Developing Country registration rate has continued to garner interest. An online rate also was developed, but there has been little interest. Presenters also were required to register and pay in full prior to submitting an abstract, which has virtually eliminated cancelled abstracts.

2019—The ASM Business Office will continue to manage the registration process with support from K-State Conference Services.

### **(4) Travel and Lodging**

2018—Dormitories without meal plans were provided by Kansas State University. However, university limitations have delayed the opening of the reservation system for this option. At the time of this report, the reservation was not opened. Nearby hotel options, however, have been available.

2019—Dormitory space and meal plans will not be available in Washington, DC. It was the recommendation of the local hosts to not pursue this option. Therefore, the hotel room block will be the primary option for meeting attendees. Because of attrition, it is important that meeting attendees book inside the room block to avoid fees for the Society. It is the recommendation of this Committee to fund a reduced registration for those booking at the hotel to avoid attrition fees (details below).

### **(5) Abstract Submissions**

2018—Steve Sheffield, Brad Blood, and Sharon Jansa managed abstract submission and revision. This year, submissions were completed through the Oxford Abstracts software. Presenters were asked to use the form to submit their abstracts through the Oxford Abstracts site

following the guidelines of the *Journal of Mammalogy*. In total, 238 abstracts are scheduled for the 2018 Annual Meeting, which is down from the past 2 years. For the most part, abstract submissions went well, but the Oxford Abstracts software comes with a steep learning curve for the review process. However, the goal is that it will limit work for review and scheduling going forward by automating processes. The abstract booklet was offered for purchase as an a la carte option, but it also was available free as PDF and through the mobile meeting app.

2019—Interest in the printed Abstract Booklet continues to decline (~16% of registered attendees) and removing abstract submissions altogether is being evaluated (e.g., see Evolution meetings). Alternatively, abstracts could be received but without review and made electronically available only. Either way, presentation titles, author lines, and author affiliations could be used to develop the program, reducing the workload and timeline required for abstract review and scheduling the program. The goal is to offer this free of charge next year, but it will require the meeting attendee to select it as an option during the registration process. In 2020, the Committee hopes to be completely electronic.

### **(6) Program**

2018—The 2018 local hosts and Steve Sheffield assisted with program organization. The program features two plenary sessions (eight student award speakers and three senior award speakers), two symposia, four thematic sessions (all opposed with technical sessions), five meeting workshops, and two field trips. Thematic sessions were solicited via abstract submission; suggested topics were provided as choices to presenters. The printed program was again offered as an a la carte item during registration. The program was freely available online as a PDF and as a mobile app.

2019—Next year's symposia and workshops were solicited and vetted by Kayce Bell, John Hanson, Ryan Long, Neal Platt, and Luis Ruedas. Currently, five symposia and four meeting workshops are being planned (see details below). In addition, opposed thematic sessions will be solicited and vetted by the Program Committee to add content to the Annual Meeting. Continued development of mobile app will occur to allow the program to be offered free of charge next year, but Annual Meeting attendees will be required to select it as an option during the registration process. The Program Committee's goal is to be completely digital by 2020.

### **(7) Receptions & Socials**

2018—Efforts to control the cost of the picnic and closing and awards ceremony (formerly, the banquet) were continued. Prices are \$20 and \$20, respectively.

2019—The National Zoo and the National Museum of Natural History have been secured for the picnic and closing social, respectively. The National Zoo required donation was waived fully through the efforts of local host, Jesus Maldonado, and the National Museum of Natural History was reduced and generously supported through the efforts of local host, Don Wilson.

### **(8) Special Meeting Events**

2018—The Coordination Subcommittee was developed to help support meeting special events of other Society committees, such as the auction and student social. This subcommittee consists of Kelly Speer, Brad Blood, John Hanson, and Verity Mathis. The Coordination Subcommittee

developed a form for resource requests, which was shared with the other committee chairs. The goal is to transition to a protocol similar to the process used for Symposia and Workshop solicitations.

Brad Blood has continued to help the Development Committee with the solicitation of auction items. The Development Committee previously was charged with this duty, but the burden shifted to the Program Committee following the addition of K-State Conference Services. The goal is to transition solicitation efforts fully to the Development Committee by 2019. However, the Program Committee will continue to provide support. Verity Mathis will provide assistance to the local hosts for the Run-for-Research. The Coordination Subcommittee also will help with the student social.

2019—The Coordination Subcommittee will work with other committees and the 2019 local hosts to organize special meeting events organized by the other Society committees.

### ***(9) Media, Social Networking, and Public Relations***

2018—With help from the Informatics Committee, the Society's social media resources (Facebook, Google+, LinkedIn, and Twitter) were used to promote the Annual Meeting. In addition, the hashtag, #ASMwildcat, was used to generate social media interest. The meeting-specific Twitter handle (@mammalmeetings) was continued to provide greater oversight to online communication. Meeting announcements also were sent directly to the membership through the ASM Business Office and Mammal-L. Streaming presentations were organized, but the lack of interest in this effort will limit resources to videoing plenary and capstone presentations to share on social media.

2019—The Program Committee will continue to research streaming presentations as a possible way to incorporate a broader community into the Annual Meetings. Adobe Connect or other resources could allow for a "Virtual Meeting", which may increase meeting participation and provide for new revenue.

### ***(10) 2019, 2020, and 2021 Meeting Venues***

2019—The 99th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists and centennial celebration will be held 28 June-2 July at the Hyatt Regency-Washington on Capitol Hill. Jesus Maldonado, Don Wilson, and/or Neal Woodman (co-hosts) will present an update to the membership.

2020—Bids for the 100th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists are being considered from the Southwest region. Presentations will be made to the membership.

2021—The 101st Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists and Joint Meeting of the International Mammalogical Congress (IMC 13) will be held 9-15 July in Anchorage, Alaska.

**Action Items:**

(1) The Program Committee requests approval of the following budget items, which will support meeting costs and other expenses for workshops, symposia, and capstone speaker at the 2019 Annual Meeting:

**WORKSHOP**—A Roadmap to the De-Novo Assembly of Mammalian Genomes (organizers: Andreas Chavez and Stefan Post)

**REQUEST: \$2,500**

**WORKSHOP**—Hackathon for the Mammal Diversity Database (organizers: Nathan Upham and Jocelyn Colella)

**REQUEST: \$2,500**

**WORKSHOP**—1-on-1 Mentoring Workshop: Networking for Success in Mammalogy (organizers: Corey Welch and Kayce Bell)

**REQUEST: \$2,000**

**WORKSHOP**—#SciComm: Developing strategies for effective & trustworthy communication (organizer: Jessica Light, Sean Maher, and Karen Munroe)

**REQUEST: \$2,000**

**SYMPOSIUM**—Reconciling Scientific Collecting with Conservation (organizers: Link Olson and Virginie Millien)

**REQUEST: \$4,000**

**SYMPOSIUM**—The Murinae as a Model of Adaptive Radiation (organizers: Jake Esselstyn and Kevin Rowe)

**REQUEST: \$5,000**

**SYMPOSIUM**—Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior of Urban Mammals: An Emerging Field for ASM's Next Century (organizers: Matthew Combs, Carol Henger, and Jason Munshi-South)

**REQUEST: \$3,000**

**SYMPOSIUM**—Mammals of the Ecuadorean Andes (organizers: Tom Lee and John Hanson)

**REQUEST: \$5,250**

**SYMPOSIUM**—Mammal Diversity from GenBank to the RedList: Challenges and Rewards of Integrating Museum Specimens in Global Databases of Genetics, Taxonomy, and Spatial Biodiversity (organizers: Nathan Upham and Luis Ruedas)

**REQUEST: \$6,750**

**CAPSTONE SPEAKER**—The capstone speaker is to be selected by the Vice President.

**REQUEST: \$2,500**

**TOTAL REQUEST: \$35,500**

