

Program Committee

Committee Members: K.C. Bell, B.R. Blood, P.K. Connors, E.J. Finck, D.L. Greene, J.D. Hanson, A. Hope, S.A. Jansa, D.A. Kelt (2021 Co-Host), E.A. Lacey (2021 Co-Host), E.P. Lessa (2021 Co-Host), J.E. Light, R.A. Long, J. Maldonado (2019 Co-Host), V.L. Mathis, C. McCain (2020 Host), M. McGowen (2019 Co-Host), L. Merkler, L.E. Olson (2021 Co-Host), R.N. Platt, J.L. Rachlow, A. Ricketts, 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

2019—Jessica Light, Patrice Connors, Verity Mathis, Lois Merkler, and James Ryan organized sponsor and exhibitor solicitations. Vendor solicitation continues to be difficult. One hundred forty-three businesses, government agencies, museums, and universities were contacted. At the time of this report, these efforts have resulted in ten sponsorships (cash and in-kind). The only institutional sponsorship came from the National Zoo, who waived rental fees. This resulted in a 7.0% success rate.

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 meeting (vendor show and auction). Additional opportunities exist if Society membership and meeting attendee lists were made available to potential sponsors. Leadership from the Development Committee would help in this regard.

2020—Solicitation efforts will continue for the Boulder meeting with hopes to retain sponsors. The 2020 brochure will be distributed to sponsors and exhibitors at the 2019 meeting along with a thank you letter signed by the Society President. With the help of the University of Colorado-Boulder local host, efforts also will focus on institutional partners and local businesses with university connections.

(2) Website

2019—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 meeting. This will serve as the meeting URL going forward.

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

2020—Efforts will be made to have the 2020 meeting website live by December 2018. Additionally, efforts will be made to include information for the 2021 and 2022 meetings.

(3) Registration

2019—The ASM Business Office continued to operate the 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 utilized a similar form for their registration, which also was organized by the ASM Business Office.

Registration rates were slightly higher than previous years, in part because of costs in the DC area. 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. Presenters also were required to register and pay in full prior to submitting an abstract, which has virtually eliminated cancelled abstracts. The travel award process also was decoupled from the abstract submissions, which has helped alleviate financial concerns expressed by students.

2020—The ASM Business Office will continue to manage the registration process with support from K-State Conference Services.

(4) Travel and Lodging

2019—Per recommendation of the local hosts, dormitory space and meal plans were not provided in Washington, DC, and the hotel room block was the primary lodging option for meeting attendees. Because of contractual attrition clauses, it is important that meeting attendees book inside the room block to avoid fees for the Society.

2020—Dormitories and meal plans will be provided at the University of Colorado-Boulder. Nearby hotel blocks also will be available.

(5) Abstract Submissions

2019—Steve Sheffield, Brad Blood, Daniel Greene, Sharon Jansa, and Winston Smith managed abstract submission and revision. For the second 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*. At the time of this report, 400 abstracts are scheduled for the 2019 meeting, which is an ASM record. We anticipate this number to exceed 400 by the time of the meeting. The abstract booklet is offered for purchase as an a la carte option, but it also is available free as a PDF document and through the mobile meeting app.

2020—Interest in the printed Abstract Booklet continues to decline (~13% of 2019 meeting attendees) and removing abstract submissions altogether is being evaluated (e.g., see Evolution meetings). Abstracts could be received but without review and made electronically available only. Presentation titles, authorlines, and author affiliations could be used to develop the program, reducing the workload and timeline required for abstract review and scheduling. Either way, the committee hopes to offer abstracts only in electronic format for 2020.

(6) Program

2019—The 2019 local hosts and Steve Sheffield assisted with program organization. The program features two plenary sessions (eight student award speakers and three senior award speakers), five symposia, eight meeting workshops, and three 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. Like the abstract booklet, the program was freely available online as a PDF and on the mobile meeting app.

2020—Next year's symposia and workshops were solicited and vetted by Kayce Bell, Andrew Hope, Ryan Long, Neal Platt, Drew Ricketts, and Luis Ruedas. Currently, three symposia, including one symposium sponsored by the Society for the Study of Mammalian Evolution, and two meeting workshops are being planned (see details below). In addition, thematic sessions will be solicited and vetted by the Program Committee to add content to the meeting. The continued development of the mobile meeting app will occur to allow the program to be distributed entirely electronically. With only 22% of 2019 meeting attendees purchased the meeting program, the Program Committee's goal is to be completely digital in 2020.

(7) Receptions & Socials

2019—Efforts to control the cost of the picnic and closing and awards ceremony (formerly, the banquet) were continued. Prices for each event are \$50 per ticket.

2020—A location for the picnic has been determined, but the closing social is planned for the University of Colorado-Boulder football stadium.

(8) Special Meeting Events

2019—In 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, Elmer Finck, 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 continued to help the Development Committee with the solicitation of auction items. Solicitation efforts mostly were moved to the Development Committee. However, the Program Committee continues to provide event 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.

REQUEST: \$0

WORKSHOP— Wildlife Insights: A New Platform to Automate and Analyze Camera Trap Big Data for Conservation (organizers: William McShea)

REQUEST: \$0

SYMPOSIUM (partially supported by SSME)— Frontiers in Mammalian Evolution: Integration of Multiple Data Sources to Unravel the History of Mammals (organizers: Timothy Gaudin)

REQUEST: \$3,400

SYMPOSIUM—Human dimensions of Rocky Mountain mammals (organizers: Rhiannon Jakopak and Kevin Monteith)

REQUEST: \$4,025

SYMPOSIUM—Mammal diversity in dynamic landscapes (organizers: Catherine Badgley and Rebecca Terry)

REQUEST: \$5,550

SYMPOSIUM—Mammal Life History in an Era of Global Change: Insights from New Tools and Growing Datasets (organizers: Bryan McLean)

REQUEST: \$4,300

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

REQUEST: \$2,500

(3) The Program Committee requests approval of the budget item to support expenses associated with society administrative activities that take place during the 2020 annual meeting (e.g., Board of Directors meetings, Members Meeting, etc.).

REQUEST: \$5,000

(4) The Program Committee requests approval of the budget item to support expenses associated with the 2020 Annual Meeting, particularly relating to keeping registration and social events affordable. This also includes \$3,500 for the meeting app and ~\$12,000 for the student social.

REQUEST: \$35,000

(5) The Program Committee requests approval of the budget item to use of meeting residual funds (2012-2018 average) to support expenses associated with the 2020 Annual Meeting, particularly relating to supporting meeting activities and speakers submitted after the meeting budget has been finalized.

REQUEST: \$4,800

(6) The Program Committee requests approval of the budget item to support expenses for future meetings occurring prior to the regular budget cycle (e.g., deposits, meeting logos, etc.).

REQUEST: \$5,000

