

## **Public Education Committee**

Committee Members: B. Buttler, G. Feldhamer, D. Ginnett, A. Halsall, A. Joachim, D. K. Odell, J O'Neill O. Pergams, K Rowe, B. Sasse, B. Shaw (Chair), S. Sheffield, K. K. Thorington, M Wolf.

### **Mission:**

Established as a standing committee by the Board of Directors in 1993, the Public Education Committee seeks to make education about mammals accessible to grades K-12. Committee members foster outreach projects to raise awareness about mammals for students in their formative years. The committee coordinates its efforts with the assistance of other ASM committees, sister societies as well as elementary and high school science teachers.

### **Responsibilities:**

The Public Education Committee conducts several activities including the Public Education Partnership (PEP) that is an initiative to encourage activity and visibility of ASM members in their local K-12 classrooms. This initiative was launched at the 1995 annual meeting at the University of Vermont with 64 charter members.

### **Information Items:**

(1) The Public Education Committee (PEC) had been relatively inactive for several years. Therefore, the members of PEC have taken this year to assess what directions the committee will take to bring an enriched mammal experience to both formal and informal educational arenas, as well as supporting the ASM membership in their outreach efforts.

(2) PEC would first like to propose a change in the description of the Public Education Committee's Mission Statement to incorporate not only K-12 students, but people of all ages:

(a) Established as a standing committee by the Board of Directors in 1993, the Public Education Committee seeks to make information about mammals accessible to grades K-12 in formal education settings and to everyone in informal settings. Committee members foster outreach projects in the Society to raise awareness of mammals for children and adults. The committee coordinates its efforts with the assistance of other ASM committees, sister societies, informal public educational organizations, as well as elementary and high school science teachers.

(3) To ascertain how the Public Education Committee can best serve the ASM members, PEC has developed a survey. In particular, the committee is interested in outreach being undertaken by ASM membership, and if and how PEC can provide support for the ASM membership in their outreach efforts (survey to be distributed to the membership at the Annual Meeting in Alaska).

**(4)** PEC established a three-year plan. This past year, Year One, PEC efforts have been in the information gathering and idea development phase, especially how to best utilize the ASM website upgrades. Year Two and Year Three, the PEC efforts will be focused on implementing the goals developed this year, including the funding necessary for the website development of public education.

**(a)** Dorothy Ginnett is coordinating the efforts for developing the ASM newly upgraded website to incorporate mammal science educational support for K-12 Formal Education.

**(b)** Katherine K. Thorington is coordinating the efforts for developing the ASM newly upgraded website to incorporate mammal science educational support for Informal Education.

**(c)** Mosheh Wolf is coordinating ideas for recommendations of participating in COPUS (Coalition on the Public Understanding of Science) to the ASM membership (recommendations to be distributed to the membership at the Annual Meeting in Alaska).

**(d)** Barbara J. Shaw is coordinating efforts to develop partnerships with the ASM Conservation Committee and the ASM Human Diversity Committee, utilizing the newly upgraded website.

**(5)** One of the PEC's long-term projects is to provide a State List of Mammals for all 50 states.

**(a)** Members of PEC have completed 25 State Mammal Lists. None have been aligned with Don E. Wilson & DeeAnn M. Reeder editors (2005) *Mammal Species of the World: A Taxonomic and Geographic Reference* (3rd ed.), and therefore, these states need revising to reflect changes from that edition. PEC is asking for volunteers from the ASM membership to review and align the completed state lists with Wilson & Reeder. Of the remaining 25 state lists, 2 lists have been completed and need some minor editing before being posted online, and 3 state lists have been assigned, but not completed. PEC is asking the ASM membership to help us complete the remaining 20 states. The following states have not been completed:

Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia.

**(6)** The Public Education Committee provides recognition to students participating in Science Fairs with a project related to mammals by awarding a Certificate of Achievement. No certificates were requested this year. In response, the PEC will discuss ways to advertise this program to states holding science fairs, and implement that into the

three-year plan.

(7) Clearinghouse for K-12 Teachers is a program to connect classroom teachers with mammalogists. No requests were made this year. In response, the PEC will discuss ways to advertise this program to state educators, and implement that into the three-year plan.

(8) Public Education Partnership (PEP) is a program to increase the visibility of the ASM through outreach of the members to their communities. The program is inactive. In response, the Public Education Committee has developed a survey for the membership to recognize those members who have met the goals of the program and receive acknowledgment of their efforts.

(9) In closing, the Public Education Committee would like to thank Tom Tomasi for his years of service to this committee.

(10) Requested funds from the 2010 annual budget: \$0

**Action Items:** None.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
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