

Public Education Committee

Committee Members: C. N. Cavalieri, S. Chavda G. Feldhamer, D. Ginnett, G. Griffiths, W. Ingle, V. Mathis(Co-Chair), J. Mellett, M. Merrick, V. Naples, D. K. Odell, J. R. O'Neill-Englund, P. Owen, M. Phillips, L. Schlitter, B. J. Shaw (Co-Chair), S. Sheffield, M. Swanson, J. Varner, A. M. Wurth, C. Yahnke.

Mission:

Established as a standing committee by the Board of Directors in 1993, and the mission statement revised in 2009, 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 our 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, middle, 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) Special Recognition:

David Huckabee

We would like to recognize David Huckabee, Chair of Mammal Image Library, for his extraordinary work on behalf of ASM's Public Education Committee. He reviewed every entry on the Mammal Species Database (formerly the State List of Mammals) and sent us the corrections. Thank you, David.

(2) State Lists of Mammals:

The Mammal Species Database went live online on 8 March 2016!

After that, we started collecting the edits, changes, and corrections. The corrections have been compiled, and we need to complete the changes with Sean Maher.

Not all fields in the database are active: Zoonotic Disease and Citizen Scientist Projects are placeholders within the database structure. For Zoonotic Disease, we need someone who works in this area and is willing to populate and maintain this field in the database to volunteer on our Committee. For the Citizen Scientist Projects field, Katherine Thorington is developing a way to

use this as a citizen scientist clearinghouse on mammals. For more information about the Citizen Scientist Clearinghouse, please see Information Item 4.

We are incorporating the mammal species of Canada into the database. We anticipate completion of this phase by 2017. When finalized, we will work with Sean Maher to incorporate the Canadian mammals.

Our long-term goals are to incorporate Mexico's mammal species, and eventually the mammal species of Central and South America. We have begun with the mammals of Mexico, but don't expect this phase to be completed until at least 2020.

(3) Science Fair Certificates:

(B.J. Shaw)

The Public Education Committee provides recognition to students participating in Science Fairs with a project related to mammals by awarding a Certificate of Achievement. Blue Ridge Highlands Regional Science Fair awarded six participants our certificates. We would like to remind the membership to request the Certificate of Achievement if you participate as a judge or an organizer in a science fair, to present to any student who conducts research on mammals. Please email the Chair for the certificate template.

(4) Clearinghouse for K-12 Teachers:

(P. Owen)

9 May 2017 – 3rd grade classes at A. Blair McPherson School, a K-9 public school in Edmonton, Alberta. Owen gave a 45 minute presentation with Q&A about mammal hearing adaptations via Google Hangout. She showed the students several skulls and some skins to demonstrate the anatomy of ear structures. She also talked about how the students could learn more about mammals.

(5) Citizen Scientist Projects:

(J. Varner)

We are currently evaluating this effort.

(6) Teacher/Member Workshop

(G. Feldhamer (lead), V. Mathis, P. Owen, L. Schlitter, B.J. Shaw, J. Varner)

We are not hosting the teacher workshop in Moscow, ID. Instead, this year we developed and delivered a member workshop at the beginning of the Annual Meeting. It is entitled **EXPANDING YOUR BROADER IMPACTS TO THE PREK-12 CLASSROOM: THE DO'S AND DON'T'S FOR PROFESSIONAL MAMMALOGISTS. Presenters include:**

- **Hosted by Barbara J. Shaw, Ph.D., Western Regional K-12 STEM Specialist, Colorado State University**

- **Prosanta Chakrabarty, Ph.D.**, Program Officer NSF, Curator of Ichthyology, Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science, **NSF Broader Impacts Questions and Answers**
- **Laurie Schlitter, Ph.D.**, retired, Emporia State University Emeritus faculty; Working with Elementary Teachers
- **Pamela Owen, Ph.D.**, Associate Director, Research Associate, Texas Memorial Museum, College of Natural Sciences, Vertebrate Paleontology Laboratory, Jackson School of Geosciences, The University of Texas at Austin, Utilizing Specimens with PreK-12th Grade Teachers
- **Verity Mathis, Ph.D.** Collection Manager, Mammalogy, and **Molly Phillips**, iDigBio Education and Outreach Coordinator, Florida Museum of Natural History; Utilizing Virtual Specimens with PreK-12th Grade Teachers
- **Johanna Varner, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, Colorado Mesa University; Incorporating Citizen Scientist Projects with PreK-12th Grade Teachers
- **Ashley Wurth**, School of Environment and Natural Resources, member of Urban Coyote Research Program, Graduate Student, Ohio State University, Incorporating Citizen Scientist Projects with PreK-12th Grade Teachers
- **Bruce McFadden, Ph.D.**, Distinguished Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology, Florida Museum of Natural History, Professor of Biology, Geological Sciences, and Latin American Studies, University of Florida; Successful Broader Impact for K-12 Education

This workshop will focus on ideas and the underlying PreK-12th grade research to support incorporating “Broader Impacts” into these classrooms with relevant, tangible ways to engage youth and their educators in your grant-supported work. In addition, we will examine the best delivery methods for the PreK-12th grade educators to support and enrich their classrooms with your cutting-edge research. We will address how to meet and exceed the academic standards-driven focus currently forced on our public educators as their students face the ineffective but demanded high-stakes standardized testing. Throughout the workshop, we will keep an eye on how to budget for the Broader Impacts in a climate of diminished funding for the necessary future and security of individual students as well as the world.

(7) Conservation Education:

(S. Sheffield (lead), B.J. Shaw)

To help support the work of the Conservation Committee, we are in the process of developing our next series of teacher workshops on conservation. As we move this project forward, we will rely on the Conservation Committee members to help us identify the primary points. In addition, we will provide teachers with ideas and projects that they can incorporate into their classroom on conservation issues of import to mammals. With Sean Maher’s help, we will establish a webpage to post these ideas.

Action Items: None.

Respectfully submitted,

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