

**Executive Committee Meeting of the Florida Association of Benthologists  
May 4, 2009**

**UF Dept. of Entomology and Nematology Bldg., Gainesville, Florida**

Attending:

Gloria Eby: President, Doug Strom: Consultant Representative and Executive Committee Chair, Dana Denson: Immediate Past- President, Laura Line: Secretary, Marianne Pluchino: Treasurer, Rob Mattson: Newsletter Editor, Gary Warren: Other Government Representative, Acting Alternate: Eric Pluchino: Endowment Committee Chair

Doug Strom called the meeting to order at 11:35 am. He distributed the EC member information.

**Approval of the Minutes:** Rob Mattson moved to approve the December 2008 EC Minutes and the December 2008 Business Meeting Minutes. Dana Denson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Rob Mattson will post the Minutes to the 2008 EC and Business Meetings online.

**Treasurer's Report:** Marianne gave the Treasurer's Report: We brought in \$2705 for workshop registration and merchandise sold, and spent \$576.79 on refreshments and speaker fees. The balance in the Wachovia no-interest checking account as of 4/30/09 was \$6,189.42.

We have two Certificates of Deposit, one for \$13,000 and one \$4,000. Marianne is planning to combine these and find a better CD rate. Marianne would like to be informed of better rate CDs and a bank with fewer charges. The earned interest is used for our student scholarships. The Endowment Fund will have earned \$906.97 from early 2008 through September 2009. We spent \$200 each on the 2008 and 2009 student awards leaving a balance of \$506.97.

**Awards Committee:** No Report.

**Bylaws Committee:** There was no report from the Bylaws Committee, but Gloria will e-mail Marc Minno about the proposed changes

**Endowment Committee:** Eric Pluchino gave the report that \$506.97 is currently available for Endowments. We spent \$200 on the 2008 student award. Next year we expect to have about \$500 to \$1,000 to spend. We can give away as much money as we gain in interest from the CDs. Eric is planning to prepare a proposal to give away some of the money, perhaps \$500, as a grant or scholarship. He will contact Mark Wetzel, Manny Pescador and Peggy Morgan for their help.

**Editorial Committee:** Rob Mattson is planning to do an electronic-only newsletter to be phased in over the next year, so this will be the last year for mailed paper copies. The past newsletters are posted online on the website.

**Internet Committee:** Gloria spoke on behalf of Palmer Kinser, Chair of the Internet Committee, who was not present. Photos are beginning to be loaded on the website but

we still needs help downloading photos. A membership list will be posted as a .pdf file and some version of this list may also be mailed to active members.

**Literature Review Committee:** Julie Bortles, Chair, was not at the meeting, but Rob will ask her if Mark Wetzel sent her the fauna list.

**Membership Committee:** Marianne related that there were no complaints about raising the dues to \$30. She will make a .pdf of the detailed membership list, including those who are remiss in their membership dues, to post on the website, and e-mail the link to the list to all of the members on the list. We have about 150 active members and 260 in the entire database. She plans to send a more limited list to current members.

**Nomination Committee:** Palmer was not present, but he needs to be contacted with nominations. Dana suggested asking Andy Rasmussen if he would consider running for the next President Elect.

**Workshop and Certification Committee:** We need to hear from Dave Karlen about the Fall Workshop. The Annual Meeting will be held in December, possibly in Cedar Key. Gary Warren may give the next Spring Workshop on Mussels in May 2010.

**Unfinished Business:**

Rob Mattson dropped the idea of a template for the Newsletter and will continue to use the same format. He will post a .pdf of the new Newsletter (not on archive) online and will e-mail a link to members with a password for access to it. This will be the last year for paper copies of the newsletter. The following will be in digital format only. Marianne will send e-mails and postcard reminders for FAB members to update their membership.

**New Business:**

Because of budget cuts we may need to have some incentive to get leave and funding for members to attend the Annual Meeting, which will be held again in December. Andy had suggested a Taxonomy Fair like the ones at the NABS Meetings. John Epler, Johnny Richardson, Andy, Manny Pescador and Dana Denson are possible taxonomists for the fair, where members could bring problem specimens to the experts for help. The idea was well-received and the location of Cedar Key is being considered. The Silent Auction was a success last year and will be held again this year. This time, a minimum bid will be suggested.

**Adjournment:** Rob moved to adjourn the meeting, Dana seconded and the vote was unanimous. Doug adjourned the meeting at 1:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Laura Line, Secretary

**Executive Committee Meeting of the Florida Association of Benthologists  
November 30, 2009  
Cedar Key Community Center, Cedar Key, Florida**

Attending:

Gloria Eby: President, Doug Strom: Consultant Representative and Executive Committee Chair, Dana Denson: Immediate Past- President, Peggy Morgan: President Elect, Marianne Pluchino: Treasurer, Rob Mattson: Newsletter Editor, Gary Warren: Other Government Representative, Acting Alternate: Eric Pluchino: Endowment Committee Chair, Manuel Pescador, Andrew Rasmussen

Doug Strom called the meeting to order at 11:00 am.

**Approval of the Minutes:** Gloria moved to approve the May 2009 EC Minutes and the. Marianne seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Doug requested that the members check the names and addresses of the Executive Committee. Committee Chairs are requested to contact your members and see if they still want to be active and contribute. Doug agreed to revise the Committee lists to reflect current changes.

**Treasurer's Report:** Marianne gave the Treasurer's Report:

The Spring and Fall Workshops were successful and we had a positive balance. Our income came from registration fees, memberships, merchandise, donations, and the auction.

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Total Income  | \$ 6,385.00 |
| Expenses included the Annual Not-For-Profit Payment, Wave Internet fees, Spring and Fall Workshops, and the Annual Meeting. |             |
| Total Expenses  | \$ 3,641.57 |
| Balance   | \$ 2,743.43 |

Our present Account balances:

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Wachovia no-interest checking:          | \$ 8,479.42 |
| Savings                                 | \$ 4,000.00 |
| Endowment Fund Balance                  | \$17,000.00 |
| Total Interest Earned from all accounts | \$ 754.68   |

**Endowment Committee:** Eric Pluchino gave the report that \$1,164.83 is currently available for Endowments. We will spend \$200 on the 2009 student award and give a free membership (for a \$50 value). Interest rates are so low we cannot make much money to replenish the fund. We could perhaps use money from the General Fund in addition to the Endowment Fund to give more or larger awards, travel grants, etc. We could use the FAB website to ask interested students to submit a proposal and send in abstracts.

Eric, having served as Chair of the Endowment Committee for numerous years, has asked for someone else to take over. Peggy offered to become Chair. Eric moved that we accept Peggy's offer, and Dana seconded. The motion passed unanimously, with Eric's promise to buy Peggy a six-pack. Eric suggested that the Endowment Committee Report immediately follow the Treasurer's Report.

**Awards Committee:** To be addressed at the Business Meeting.

**Bylaws Committee:** Marc Minno distributed the proposed changes briefly summarized below:

Page 3, Article 8, section 4: President and President Elect may decide where meeting and workshops take place.

Page 4, Meeting and workshops must be advertised in local and state publications and on our website. Florida Specifier and Gainesville Sun have been used.

Page 5, Date changed to Nov. 30 for deadline for annual dues for that year.

Page 7, Rules of order: Doug will e-mail the correct citation for Roberts Rules of Order to Marc.

Rob moved to approve the Bylaws as amended and Dana seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

**Editorial Committee:** Rob Mattson reported that the new Membership List will be published early in 2010. Newsletters up to the current edition (2008) are posted on the website. We need content for a newsletter.

**Literature Review Committee:** Julie Bortles, Chair, was not at the meeting. A list of recent literature is on the Website in the newsletter. We can have links to publications if they are in pdf format. Recent publications may be categorized by taxonomic group and author.

**Internet Committee:** Gloria spoke on behalf of Palmer Kinser, Chair of the Internet Committee, who was not present. Photos have been loaded on the website but we are having trouble downloading photos as the many files are too large and may freeze a computer. They will be arranged in small groups so that only a few may be downloaded at one time. The website costs \$179 per quarter to maintain.

As an aside, the NABS website is being redone and issues with that may be sent to Mark Wetzel.

**Membership Committee:** Marianne reported that we now have 153 active members and about 260 in the entire database. Members who don't attend meetings will receive postcard reminders after the newsletter becomes electronic.

**Nomination Committee:** Palmer was not present. Andy Rasmussen will be running for President Elect, and Marianne and Laura agreed to continue to run for Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

**Workshop and Certification Committee:** Andy will take over the Workshop Committee (we may drop "Certification"). Gloria and Dana have been planning the Spring workshop and Dave Karlen, the Fall workshop. The Certification refers to what the NABS Certifications program does, to enhance our status as taxonomists.

Our Registered Agent, David Evans will be at the Workshop tomorrow.

**Unfinished Business:**

**New Business:** We are booked for the Spring Workshop at UF's Entomology and Nematology Building for the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of May. We are looking for ideas as Gary Warren will not be conducting it. Some ideas are: Aquatic Lepidoptera, Megaloptera and Neuroptera, an EPT refresher, Snails, or the Crustacea: Crayfish, Amphipods and Isopods. For the Fall workshop Dave is planning a session on Crabs and then Shrimp. Ideas for the Annual Meeting – at a more student-friendly time of year, are: Tarpon Springs, or the Tampa area, St. Leo, Jonathan Dickenson, Brooker Creek, among others.

**Adjournment:** Peggy moved to adjourn the meeting, Marc seconded and the vote was unanimous. Doug adjourned the meeting at 4:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Laura Line, Secretary

**FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF BENTHOLOGISTS  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING  
3 DECEMBER 2009  
Cedar Key, Florida**

18 Members were present, constituting a quorum.

The Annual Meeting of FAB was opened at 10:30 AM by Gloria Eby. Rob Mattson was acting as Secretary for this meeting.

**REPORTS**

Marianne Pluchino presented the Treasurer's Report.

Eric Pluchino presented the report for the Endowment Fund. He also discussed potential new ideas for using the interest from the fund to provide student travel grants, as well as student poster and paper awards. Eric has turned the Chair of the Committee over to Peggy Morgan.

Gloria presented proposed revisions to the Bylaws. Motion was made and seconded to adopt the proposed revisions. The motion carried.

Committee reports were presented: Internet, Editorial, Literature Review, Nominating, and Workshop and Certification. No report was received from the Registered Agent.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Peggy presented ideas for the Spring 2010 Workshop. Possibilities being looked at include crayfish/freshwater shrimp, and some other ideas. The workshop will likely be in the Gainesville area again. Dave Karlen is planning on covering marine decapods in the Fall 2010 Workshop. This year will probably be marine/estuarine shrimp, and next year (2011) will be crabs. These will be in the Tampa area, as usual.

Gloria turned the meeting over to Doug Strom, Executive Committee Chair, who presented his Annual Report to the membership.

Ballots for President Elect, Treasurer, and Secretary were passed out. The minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting in Crystal River were reviewed and approved as submitted.

Election results were announced:

President Elect – Andy Rasmussen  
Treasurer – Marianne Pluchino  
Secretary – Laura Line

Gloria concluded with some remarks about her last 2 years as President and passed on the Presidency to Peggy Morgan, who made a few comments on her ideas for new directions and working more with students. Andy also made a few remarks.

There being no further business, motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert A. Mattson, Acting Secretary