

Newsletter of the
**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR
ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE**

22 October 2009

**VISIT FROM THE ICZN
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

In mid-December 2008, Frank Crandall, Al Gardner, John Brown, and David Smith had an opportunity to discuss the activities and goals of AAZN with Ellinor Michel, the new Executive Secretary of the ICZN during her visit to the National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC. The primary goal of Dr. Michel's visit was to generate enthusiasm for an endowment fund that could help guarantee the future viability of the ICZN. In a subsequent e-mail (21 December 2008) she reiterated that "We should ensure that the AAZN membership is aware of the threat facing the secretariat financially. If we can begin to lay the groundwork for an endowment fund, it would help keep the Commission running smoothly and in business for longer." She offered to assist AAZN expand its page on the ICZN website, and was highly supportive of our goals regarding the dissemination of the AAZN Newsletter and outreach and educational materials via the website. We look forward to comments directly from Ellinor in the form of an article in this newsletter in the near future.

In her most recent correspondence (4 July 2009), Dr. Michel indicated that "In our fundraising, we have succeeded in getting the Smithsonian on board as a major subscriber, along with Paris, but are now working on a few more. We are also starting

a campaign to get mid-level institutions to sign up as lower level subscribers." Stay tuned for more news.

**2009 ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE AAZN**

The 2009 annual meeting of the AAZN was held on 31 July 2009 in the Waldo Schmidt Room, National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC, 10:00 to 11:50 AM. In attendance were Frank Crandall (President), John Brown (President-Elect), Al Gardner (Acting Treasurer), Neal Woodman (Secretary), Daryl Domning (Counselor), Richard Banks, Lou Kornicker, Don Wilson, and Margaret Tarmann. The minutes, provided by Neal, follow. Discussion focused on six primary topics.

1. Al Gardner reviewed the membership and finances of AAZN. There are 128 individuals and 31 institutions or organizations on the membership rolls, of which 86 individuals and 4 institutions or organizations were members in good standing (paid up) for 2008. Expenses were \$199.22. Gross income (mostly from membership dues, a few donations, and sales, but also from royalties from a book published by University of California Press) was \$4020.44, of which \$991.22 is owed to the International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature (ITZN). Unfortunately, Al is not currently authorized to write

checks, so the money has not been sent yet.

Al proposed sending out stamped return envelopes with the joint Newsletter and dues requesting mailing as was done last year.

2. Al brought up the topic of preparing PowerPoint presentations dealing with various topics in taxonomy and nomenclature that could be presented at meetings of various societies in order to educate and drum up interest. He suggested that a call for topics be placed in the Newsletter.

3. This brought up the topic of the AAZN web site. Frank Crandall noted that it would be a good place to post the appendices (Addenda 2-5) to the 3rd edition of the Code that were dropped from the 4th edition, but that have been in demand since. John Brown noted that the AAZN currently has a web presence as a simple, single web page that is part of the ITZN web site (<http://www.iczn.org/AAZN.htm>), and we have been invited to expand upon this.

4. Election of officers: the President and President-elect each serve for two years. The terms of the Secretary and Treasurer are not fixed. Three Councilors serve staggered 3-year terms.

The current Secretary and the acting Treasurer agreed to continue in their positions for the next year. The names of two members not present at the meeting were agreed to as a candidate for President-elect and Councilor; they will be asked if they are in agreement before their names are forwarded for approval. [David Furth subsequently agreed to serve as Councilor.]

Frank Crandall handed the President's gavel (actually a stack of files) to John Brown, who is now the current President of AAZN.

5. Frank noted that Jon Norenburg will no longer be available to serve as AAZN's agent for 501(C3) tax status in the District of Columbia. The organization is registered in DC, and it pays a \$75-fee each year to remain registered as a non-profit here. For this, it needs to have a permanent DC address, which John was supplying. John Brown noted that he thought other non-profit organizations with which he is associated were able to use NMNH as their addresses. He will look into this and discuss using the museum's address with Associate Director for Research and Collections Hans Sues. [Subsequent correspondence between Hans Sues and Al Gardner revealed the museum cannot serve this role. We currently are investigating whether another DC resident member of AAZN is willing to perform in this capacity, or whether to apply for 501(C3) status through the state of Virginia.]

6. John Brown discussed the Newsletter, which will go out soon. It will include the annual solicitation of dues. The Newsletter should include an essay by Ellinor Michel, Executive Director of ITZN [not received yet]. John will look into sending out the Newsletter as a PDF attachment to an e-mail for those members who would prefer to get it in that format.

When you receive the newsletter and the dues notice, please pay promptly.

7. The Council passed a resolution that Frank Crandall draft a letter authorizing Al Gardner (Treasurer) and John Brown (President) to write checks on the AAZN account. [Done.]

DEEP DISCOUNT ON COPIES OF THE CODE FOR INSTRUCTORS

The AAZN is offering a deep discount on the purchase of multiple copies of *The Code* to be used for training and/or teaching. Hence, if you are teaching a course that involves the use of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, we can offer multiple copies at a much reduced rate. Please inquire with Al Gardner (gardnera@si.edu).

REQUEST FOR TOPICS FOR EDUCATIONAL POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS

For several years the Council of the AAZN has been discussing the possibility of making available PowerPoint presentations that address a variety of issues ranging from the formation of names to availability, synonymy, and priority. The presentations would be designed as training modules that could be used by those teaching taxonomy and systematics at the university level, or at workshops at meetings of professional societies.

We currently are soliciting from our members topics that would be appropriate as the subject for such presentations. If you have suggestions for topics, recommendations of who might author such presentations, or would like to volunteer to prepare a presentation, please contact John Brown (john.brown@ars.usda.gov).

BOOKS FOR SALE

1. ICZN. 1999. *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*. 4th ed. London: The International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, xxix + 306 pp. **Sale price** \$15.00 plus postage; \$19.00 postpaid in the U.S.

2. Towards stability in the names of animals—A history of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature 1895-1995, 104 pp. **Sale price** \$15.00 plus postage; \$19.00 postpaid in the U.S.

3. ICZN. 1987. *Official lists and indexes of names and works in zoology*. London: The International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, 4 (unnumbered) + 365 pp. **Sale price** \$25.00 plus postage; \$29.00 postpaid in the U.S.

4. ICZN. 2001. *Official lists and indexes of names and works in zoology. Supplement 1986–2000*. London: The International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, 4 (unnumbered) + 136 pp. **Sale price** \$25.00 plus postage; \$29.00 postpaid in the U.S.

Terms: Cash or check made out to the **American Association for Zoological Nomenclature**. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept money orders or credit cards; do not send cash in the mail. If you are unable to purchase according to these terms and still wish to acquire any of these items, please contact Alfred Gardner (gardnera@si.edu)

MEMBERSHIP IN AAZN

Membership in AAZN is open to all those interested in supporting the work of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature and in shaping its role as custodian and arbiter of the framework that permits zoological taxonomy to function - a critical aspect of modern biology.

If you currently are a member of AAZN, please retain your membership and send in your 2010 dues with the attached form. If you are not a member, please consider joining. Also, please consider attending the annual meetings of the AAZN at the National Museum of Natural History. Organizations such as AAZN are only as strong as their membership.

CURRENT OFFICERS OF AAZN

President: John W. Brown (Systematic Entomology Laboratory, USDA, National Museum of Natural History) – 2009-2011

President-Elect: vacant (open for nominations)

Secretary: Neal Woodman (USGS, Division of Mammals, National Museum of Natural History)

Treasurer: Alfred Gardner (USGS, National Museum of Natural History)

Councilor: David G. Smith (Division of Fishes, National Museum of Natural History) – 2007-2010

Councilor: Daryl Domning (Howard University) – 2008-2011

Councilor: David Furth (Department of Entomology, National Museum of Natural History) – 2009-2012

ABOUT AAZN

The American Association for Zoological Nomenclature (AAZN) was founded in 1983 to facilitate liaison between zoologists in North America and the ICZN, and to provide financial support for the Commission through tax-deductible donations and/or annual membership. There is a category for institutional membership through which zoological societies and other organizations can provide support.

One of the goals of AAZN is to distribute an informal newsletter once a year to inform members of the activities of AAZN, ICZN, and ITZN. AAZN plays an important role in the distribution of the Code to American zoologists and is committed to providing information concerning zoological nomenclature to interested parties. It also sells the Code, the Official Lists and Indexes of Names and Works in Zoology, and the 1995 Centenary History entitled Towards Stability in the Names of Animals, with a discount to members.

Annual membership in AAZN is \$20 (U.S.) for individuals, while institutions can pledge various levels of support. All interested zoologists and zoological institutions and/or societies are invited to join AAZN to acknowledge the need and benefit of the work of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DUES NOTICE

The last page of this Newsletter is the dues notice for 2010 - \$20.00/year for regular membership.

AAZN - NOTICE OF DUES 2010

Name: _____ Regular (\$20.00) _____

Address (corrections only) _____
Sustaining (\$25.00) _____

_____ Gift _____

e-mail: _____
(please provide your most recent e-mail address)

I would like to purchase the following books:

International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, 4th Edition _____
(\$19.00 for AAZN members postpaid in U.S.)

Official Lists and Indexes of Names in Zoology, 1987 _____
(\$25.00 for AAZN members) [\$29.00 postpaid in U.S.]

Official Lists and Indexes of Names in Zoology, Supplement, 2001 _____
(\$25.00 for AAZN members) [\$29.00 postpaid in U.S.]

Towards Stability in the Names of Animals _____
(\$15.00 for AAZN members) [\$19.00 postpaid in U.S.]

TOTAL enclosed _____

Make checks payable to AAZN and mail to:

Dr. Alfred Gardner
Smithsonian Institution
P.O. Box 37012
National Museum of Natural History
MRC-111
Washington, DC 20013-7012