

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

20 November 2010

**ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE AAZN**

On 3 November 2010, the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC, hosted the Annual Meeting of the American Association for Zoological Nomenclature (AAZN). The three-fold increase in attendance at the annual meeting and lively discussions regarding the future of nomenclature were interpreted as evidence of an expanded interest in the organization and its potential impact on how the rules of nomenclature will respond to continued developments in systematics such as faster resolution of species boundaries, calls for centralized banking of morphological characters, the continued push-pull between molecular and morphological method-ologies, and issues of electronic publication. In response, the officers and governing council are investigating an increased presence in the organismal community to provide greater access to the large body of nomenclatural and taxonomic expertise within the AAZN and several new means of responding more quickly to nomenclatural issues (see article, EXPANDING THE AAZN WEBSITE).

Treasurer Al Gardner reported that AAZN is storing more than 30 boxes of the fourth edition of *The Code* (26 books per box) and that he has successfully distributed multiple gratis copies to a number of biology professors who include instruction on nomenclature in their courses.

In regards to administrative issues, AAZN has changed its registration as a non-profit organization in the District of Columbia to a non-profit organization in the Commonwealth of Virginia. David Smith's expiring three-year appointment as Councilor was filled by Stuart McKamey.

**EXPANDING THE
AAZN WEBSITE**

To assist the systematics and taxonomic communities with issues related to nomenclature and appropriate interpretation of *The Code*, AAZN is seeking to make its centralized expertise in these matters more available through an expanded and updated website. To this end, President John Brown, with the approval of the governing council, appointed an active committee to investigate the feasibility of producing a more service-oriented website that might include such items as an interactive, searchable version of *The Code*; previous editions of *The Code*; FAQ tabs for common nomenclatural problems with clear examples of usage; a section explaining Greek and Latin roots, their relevance, and their correct usage (written "by taxonomists for taxonomists," not classicists); an interactive means of checking gender agreement between genus and species names; and other tools of potential use for

and educating students and others about the proper use and practice of nomenclature.

At this point, the committee has contacted an interested website developer and is in negotiations to determine what features are practical, or can be made practical, and what expenditures in time and funds will be necessary to make the site a workable reality. Currently, AAZN has a small web presence as a “sponsor” of ICZN (see <http://iczn.org/content/american-association-zoological-nomenclature-aazn>).

BOOK SALE

The AAZN is still in the process of trying to vacate storage space in the National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC, where boxes of books are stored. Hence, we are still offering books at reduced prices.

1. ICZN. 1999. *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*. 4th ed. London: The International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, xxix + 306 pp. [Original price \$48.00 for individuals, \$39.00 for members of AAZN.] **Sale price** \$15.00 plus postage; \$19.00 postpaid in the U.S. (book rate).
2. Towards stability in the names of animals—A history of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature 1895-1995, 104 pp. [Original price \$50.00 for individuals, \$35.00 for members of AAZN.] **Sale price** \$15.00 plus postage; \$19.00 postpaid in the U.S. (book rate).

3. ICZN. 1987. *Official lists and indexes of names and works in zoology*. London: The International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, 4 (unnumbered) + 365 pp. [Original price \$85.00, \$70.00 for members of AAZN.] **Sale price** \$25.00 plus postage; \$29.00 postpaid in the U.S. (book rate).

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. [Original price \$85.00, \$70.00 for members of AAZN.] **Sale price** \$25.00 plus postage; \$29.00 postpaid in the U.S. (book rate).

5. Items 3 and 4 (Official lists) are offered as a unit: [Original price \$140.00, \$120.00 for members of AAZN.] **Sale price** \$40.00 plus postage; \$45.00 postpaid in the U.S. (book rate).

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.

Contact person:
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 Smithsonian Institution, MRC 111
 National Museum of Natural History
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 Washington DC, 20013-7012
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MEMBERSHIP IN AAZN

Membership in AAZN is open to all those interested in supporting the work of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature or in shaping its role as custodian and arbiter of the framework that permits zoological taxonomy to function - a critical aspect of modern biology. For a brief overview of recent activities of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, please visit their website at: <http://iczn.org/>. Current hot topics include the development of *ZooBank*, an authoritative, web server for all available names in zoology; launching web-available trans-lations of the current Code in a number of foreign languages to increase access to the taxonomic community; and soliciting stakeholder input in a potential landmark amendment to the Code that would permit e-only publications for nomenclatural acts.

If you currently are a member of AAZN, please retain your membership and send in your 2011 dues with the attached form. If you are not a member, please consider joining.

CURRENT OFFICERS OF AAZN

President: John Brown (USDA, Systematic Entomology Laboratory)

President-Elect: vacant

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

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

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

Councilor: David Furth, 2009-2012

(National Museum of Natural History)

Councilor: Stuart McKamey 2010-2013
(USDA, Systematic Entomology Laboratory)

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 (US) 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 ICZN.

**AAZN - NOTICE OF DUES 2011
FOR INDIVIDUALS**

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 to 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

**AAZN - NOTICE OF DUES 2011
FOR PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Name of Society: _____ Regular (\$100.00) _____

Contact Person: _____ Gift _____

Address (corrections only)

e-mail: _____

(please provide your most recent e-mail address)

TOTAL enclosed _____

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