

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

20 November 2012

**ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION
OF ANIMAL NAMES**

As most of you know, after a long and sometimes contentious discussion/debate, on 4 September 2012, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature announced that an amendment to the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature had been adopted accommodating the electronic publication of new scientific names of animals. Botanists had adopted a similar amendment nearly a year before (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3261036/>). To be considered available, new names of animals proposed in an electronic publication have to fulfil the following (in addition to the “traditional” requirements): The date of publication must be stated in the work itself; the work must be registered in ZooBank and contain evidence that such registration has occurred; the registration entry must give the name and internet address of an organization other than the publisher that is intended to permanently archive the work in a manner that preserves the content and layout, and is capable of doing so; and the registration entry must contain the ISBN or ISSN of the registered work. For details regarding these and other issues, check out the editorial by Frank Krell in BMC Evolutionary Biology: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2148/12/184>.

**2012 ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE AAZN**

The combined Annual Meeting and Business Meeting of the American Association for Zoological Nomenclature (AAZN) was held 1 November 2012, at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC. The meeting was attended by 10 members, plus Ellinor Michel via speaker phone.

Treasurer Al Gardner reported that finances of the organization are in good shape. AAZN received \$1,490.00 in dues and \$1,010.00 in donations, for a total of \$2,500.00 in 2012. The money was received from 81 current members (about the same as last year) and 3 institutional members (down from 5 last year). A check for \$10,000 was mailed to the ITZN on 28 November 2011. A large number of boxes of the *Code* are still in storage and available at a much reduced rate to students and those teaching courses on nomenclature.

Although absent, Matt Buffington of the web site committee submitted a brief written report. The website is currently scheduled to go live sometime in December when Chris Thompson, who acquired the domain name (AAZN.org), links up with Gino Nearn, our website designer. You can view the nearly completed website at <http://cerambycids.com/aazn/default.asp?action=membership>. Please provide comments, suggestions and corrections to john.brown@ars.usda.gov.

Ellinor Michel provided a broad overview of the recent activities of ITZN: (1) Electronic Publication; (2) ZooBank; (3) Website Development; (4) Education/Outreach; and (5) Finances.

She reported that an amendment to the *Code* allowing e-publication was accepted this year. Electronic publication of nomenclatural acts (including the descriptions of new taxa) is now valid as long as the works in which the acts appear are registered with ZooBank. Gary Rosenberg, who had played a major role in facilitating the discussions regarding the amendment, provided some insight into the process. The discussion then turned to ZooBank and the registration of names. Ellinor reported that responses to ZooBank were “overwhelmingly positive,” and that use of the site has increased 10 fold since the acceptance of the amendment (data can be found at zoobank.org/statistics). There is still some question regarding who is responsible for registration, the author or the journal, and discussion revealed that occasionally there is some duplication in registration (but less than 1%).

Ellinor commented that the ITZN website is in the process of being remodeled and transferred to a “ScratchPad-2” platform. She further commented that the web site is in need of education/outreach materials, such as PowerPoint presentations, that can be used by a wide array of folks teaching classes that involve nomenclature, taxonomy, and systematics.

Finally, Ellinor discussed the finances of ITZN. It takes about £10,000 (ca. \$16,000 US) per month to meet the financial needs of the Trust. Currently the Trust has funds to operate through June 2013 with the hope of

generating new funds. Ellinor provided several examples of potential sources of funding currently being explored. She strongly urged us to focus our efforts on reaching out to U.S. taxonomic institutions and organizations to encourage support for the ICZN.

Ellinor concluded with 4 main Action Points for AAZN to consider:

1. Focus on outreach to U.S. groups and organizations for fund raising.
2. Develop outreach resources (presentations, etc.).
3. Actively contribute to ZooBank and encourage others to do so.
4. Establish communication between the ITZN and AAZN websites.

There were no nominations from the floor for the four open positions as officers of AAZN, i.e., President, President-Elect, and two Councilors. Hence, John Brown proposed that we search outside the Washington, DC area for potential new officers. Although this was met with some resistance, there appears to be no viable alternative. Brown will appoint a new nominating committee and once they have identified a slate of candidates, he will conduct an election electronically via e-mail. If you would like to nominate someone, including yourself, please contact John at john.brown@ars.usda.gov.

CONTINUING BOOK SALE

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. 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).

3. 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).

Items 2 and 3 (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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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/>.

If you currently are a member of AAZN, please retain your membership and send in your 2013 dues with the attached form. If you are not a member, please consider joining.

CURRENT OFFICERS OF AAZN

President: John Brown, 2009-2011 (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 Lab)

THE ROLE OF AAZN: THE MESSAGE WE NEED TO CONVEY

The Latinized scientific names of plants and animals are the “handles” that allow us to communicate about them, to compile information about them, and to show relationships among them. Scientific binomials are the portals to discovering and assembling the body of biological, geographical, morphological, ecological, and genetic information about organisms. As computer search engines become more robust and a broader range of sources (literature, images, etc.) become available via the internet, the binomial becomes more and more valuable as the key to gathering and compiling information on specific organisms that may function as model systems, indicator species of environmental change, or the source of pharmaceutical products. Without a scientific name, there is no way to link DNA sequence data with the tremendous body of information already documented for any organism or with the huge body of untapped information represented by large numbers of specimens and other artifacts deposited in natural history museums and other collections worldwide.

The *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature* [*The Code*], published in 1961, was the first effort to standardize the rules that govern the naming of animals in an attempt to provide stability in the usage and practice of scientific nomenclature at a global level. Currently in its fourth edition, *The Code* has continued to evolve to meet the needs of an international audience and a changing biological landscape. *The Code* is

published by the International Trust for Zoological Nomenclature (ITZN), the Commission of which reviews proposed changes in animal nomenclature and major changes to the Code. Cases are published in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*.

The American Association for Zoological Nomenclature (AAZN) was founded in 1983 to facilitate liaison between zoologists in North America and the International Commission for Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN), to provide financial support for the Commission through tax-deductible donations and/or annual membership, and to provide outreach and education regarding *The Code* and scientific nomenclature in general.

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 North American zoologists and is committed to providing information concerning zoological nomenclature to interested parties. It 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.

To enhance the commitment to our education/outreach component, AAZN is soliciting lectures and/or presentations on all aspects of nomenclature. The goal is to post these on our website and make them available to science educators everywhere. If you have presentations on nomenclature and/or related topics, please consider sharing them with AAZN. Thanks much.

**AAZN - NOTICE OF DUES 2013
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.]

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 2013
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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