

# Texas Herpetological Society

Minutes of the General Business Meeting held in conjunction with the  
Fall Symposium at Texas State University, San Marcos, 21 October 2006

The business meeting was called to order at 1632 by President Mike Forstner. He first thanked David Lintz and Tom Vermersch for their efforts in gathering and assembling the photos and tapes to document the history of the Society. He then led a short discussion on the possibility of solving our chronic communication problems by making much greater use of e-mail. This led to a suggestion that the Society might be able to increase student involvement by asking them to help with setting up and maintaining our e-mail system and address database.

President Forstner then reported that the nomination committee, under the chairmanship of Past President Christel Snelson (who could not attend the meeting), recommended that the following members be elected to the respective offices: Toby Hibbitts, Vice President; Charles Swift, Board Member; and David Haynes, Secretary/Treasurer. As there were no nominations from the floor, nominations were closed; and the election of the suggested slate was moved, seconded, and affirmed unanimously by the members present.

## New Business

Jim Dixon pointed out that years ago the Society had taken the position that voucher specimens would not normally be taken during Society field trips and that members should refrain from taking vouchers unless absolutely necessary. He suggested that the Society re-visit this position, and there was a lively discussion over the proposal, which ended with incoming president LaDuc saying he would form a committee to determine the origin and status of the Society's position on vouchers and to propose possible changes to that position for the membership to consider. The possibility that an e-mail canvass could prove a useful tool to help express the sense of the membership on this subject was suggested by President Forstner and Louise Hayes-Odum. Duane Schlitter of Texas Parks and Wildlife asked if the Society could provide the Department with a list of all specimens encountered at our annual field meetings, whether vouchers were taken or not. Mike Forstner suggested that these data and Troy Hibbitts suggested that the location and museum number of retained vouchers might be put in a database that could be made available on the Society's Web site.

Some members, responding to the talk given by Duane Schlitter earlier in the day, proposed that a committee to review Texas Parks and Wildlife Department actions regarding non-game permits be appointed. President Forstner pointed out that it would probably be more appropriate to wait until after Parks and Wildlife staff actually proposes a change from the current practice. Schlitter agreed and said the Department staff should have some concrete proposals around the beginning of 2007. It was moved, seconded, and approved that Troy Hibbitts be appointed the THS representative to contact other societies that are interested in the non-game permit system to see if we could all agree on a common position to support before Parks and Wildlife.

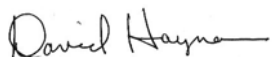
Secretary/Treasurer David Haynes asked the membership to approve moving the Society records in his care created during the 1990s to the Texas Collection at Baylor University to augment the collection of our records already housed there. The proposal was moved, seconded, and approved by the membership.

There being no additional new business, President Forstner turned the meeting over to incoming President Travis LaDuc. LaDuc asked interested members to volunteer to serve on Society committees, and Terry Hibbitts moved that the new president appoint a committee to study and report back on the use of volunteers and the Society committee structure in general. After a general discussion that focused on recruiting high school students for committee and Web site work, the motion was seconded and approved.

LaDuc announced that the Spring field trip would be held on the Clay Miller Ranch in Presidio County and that it would take place either the last weekend of April or the first weekend of May. After considerable discussion, an informal vote decided that the meeting will be 6-7 May. President LaDuc then announced that members Corey Roelke and Matt Watson had volunteered to manage the Society's Web site. Finally LaDuc announced that the Fall symposium would be held in Austin and that salamander researchers would be encouraged to report on their projects.

There being no additional business or announcements, on an approved motion President LaDuc adjourned the meeting at 1726.

Respectively submitted,



David Haynes  
Secretary/Treasurer