EDITORIAL NOTES AND NEWS

HENRY S. FITCH AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN HERPETOLOGY—CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

NOMINATIONS are solicited for the Henry S. Fitch Award for Excellence in Herpetology from the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH). The prize is awarded to an individual for long-term excellence in the study of amphibian and/or reptile biology, based principally on the quality of the awardee’s research; consideration is also given to educational and service impacts of the individual’s career. The award is presented at the plenary session held in conjunction with the annual meeting of ASIH and includes a cash prize and certificate. The list of previous winners can be found at http://www.asih.org/membership/awards/fitch. Nominations are encouraged for any herpetologist and should include the nominee’s curriculum vitae and details of the nominee’s specific contributions and their impacts on herpetology.

Nominations, including self-nominations, should be submitted by 1 March 2016 for the nominee to be eligible for that year’s award. Nominations will be effective for three years. The nomination should be e-mailed to the Chair of the 2016 Fitch Award Committee, Dr. Rich Seigel (rseigel@towson.edu) or to the ASIH Secretary (as of 1 January 2016), Prosanta Chakrabarty (ASIHsec@outlook.com). The winner of the 2016 Fitch award will be announced during the plenary session in Reno, Nevada at the Centennial Meeting of the ASIH.

In July 2015 at the ASIH meeting in Reno, Nevada, the award was presented to Patrick T. Gregory.

ROBERT H. GIBBS, JR. MEMORIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SYSTEMATIC ICHTHYOLOGY—CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

THE American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH) solicits nominations for the Robert H. Gibbs, Jr. Memorial Award for Excellence in Systematic Ichthyology. The prize is awarded for “an outstanding body of published work in systematic ichthyology” to a citizen of a Western Hemisphere nation who has not received the award previously. The list of previous winners can be found at http://www.asih.org/membership/awards/gibbs. The award is offered annually and consists of a plaque and a cash award (approximately $5000). In 2016, the Society will present the award during the plenary session at the Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists in New Orleans, Louisiana during the Centennial Meeting of the ASIH. Nominations may be made by any ichthyologist, including self-nominations, and should include the nominee’s curriculum vitae as well as a cover letter from the nominator detailing the nominee’s specific contributions to and impacts on systematic ichthyology. Up to three supporting letters may also be included in the nomination packet.

Nominations should be submitted by 1 March 2016 for the nominee to be eligible for the 2016 award. Nominations will be effective for three years.

Nominations for 2016 should be sent to: Dr. G. David Johnson, Chair of the 2016 Gibbs Committee (johnsondr@si.edu), or to Secretary (as of 1 January 2016) Prosanta Chakrabarty (ASIHsec@outlook.com). Electronic submissions in PDF, DOC, or DOCX format are required.

In July 2015 at the ASIH meeting in Reno, Nevada, the award was presented to Jeffrey Leis.

ROBERT K. JOHNSON AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE—CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

NOMINATIONS are solicited for the Robert K. Johnson Award. In 2016, the award will be presented to an ichthyologist. The ASIH created the award to recognize members that perform exceptional service for the ASIH in memory of Bob Johnson whose service was exemplary. Bob served on many ASIH committees, four terms as a member of the Board of Governors, as managing editor of Copeia, Secretary, and Chair of the Long Range Planning and Policy Committee. As chair of the Long Range Planning and Policy Committee, he developed a policy and procedures manual for the ASIH that has proved to be an exceptionally useful document. Bob’s committee was inspired by his commitment to this task, which codified the activities of ASIH. The list of previous winners can be found at http://www.asih.org/membership/awards/johnson.

The award is presented at the opening plenary session of the annual meeting of the ASIH and includes a plaque. The 2016 winner will be announced during the plenary of the Centennial Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Nominations may be made by any ichthyologist or herpetologist and should include the nominee’s curriculum vitae and details of the nominee’s specific service contributions to the ASIH. Nominations, including self-nominations, should be submitted by 1 March 2016 for the nominee to be eligible for that year’s award. Nominations will be effective for three years.

E-mail nominations to the Chair of the 2016 Johnson Award Committee, Kathleen S. Cole (colek@hawaii.edu) or to the ASIH Secretary (as of 1 January 2016), Prosanta Chakrabarty (ASIHsec@outlook.com).

In July 2015 at the ASIH meeting in Reno, Nevada, the award was presented to Michael E. Douglas.
NOMINATIONS are solicited for the Joseph S. Nelson Lifetime Achievement Award in Ichthyology from the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH). The award recognizes a member of ASIH for an outstanding body of work in any area of ichthyology, including, but not limited to: ecology, behavior, life history, genetics, conservation, and systematics. The award is granted principally on the basis of the quality of the awardee’s research; consideration is also given to educational and service impacts of the individual’s career. The list of previous winners can be found at http://www.asih.org/membership/awards/nelson.

The recipient, selected by an award committee, will be announced during the plenary session of the ASIH annual meeting. An engraved crystal obelisk will be presented to the winner of the award to commemorate a prestigious career devoted to the study of fishes. Nominations are encouraged from any ASIH member and must include the nominee’s curriculum vitae and details of the nominee’s specific contributions and their impacts on the field of ichthyology.

Nominations, including self-nominations, should be submitted by 1 March 2016 for the nominee to be eligible for that year’s award. Nominations will be effective for three years. The nomination should be submitted electronically via e-mail to Dr. Lynne Parenti (parentil@si.edu) or to the ASIH Secretary (as of 1 January 2016), Prosanta Chakrabarty (ASIHsec@outlook.com).

In July 2015 at the ASIH meeting in Reno, Nevada, the award was presented to William J. Matthews.

GAIGE FUND AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT—2016

GAIGE Awards are presented annually in honor of Frederick (Dick) and Helen Gaige, both of whom lived during the years 1890–1976. Dick Gaige, an entomologist, was also an avid herpetological collector and was director of the Museum of Zoology at the University of Michigan from 1928–1945. Helen Gaige was a herpetologist with an interest in Neotropical frogs. She served as herpetological editor of Copeia from 1930–1937 and as editor-in-chief from 1937–1950. This unsung editorial service earned Helen the title of Honorary ASIH President for Herpetology in 1946. The Gaiges showed a lively interest in colleagues and students and, through their helpfulness to others, were a major influence in biology in the United States and on herpetology in particular.

Applications are solicited for grants to be awarded from the Gaige Fund. These funds are used to provide support to young herpetologists for museum or laboratory study, travel, fieldwork, or any other activity that will effectively enhance their professional careers by contributing to the science of herpetology.

Applications must be members of ASIH and should be enrolled in an advanced degree program. Individual awards are typically in the range of $400–1000, and will be awarded on the basis of both merit and need.

Applications for the Gaige Award and letters of recommendation should be sent as PDFs (e-mail attachments) to the Gaige Award Chairperson, Dr. Cari-Ann Hickerson (chickerson@jcu.edu). The application should consist of no more than two single-spaced, typewritten pages (12-point font, reasonable margins) and must include the following:

• name, address, e-mail address, and telephone numbers of the applicant;
• institutional affiliation;
• academic degree being sought and the year of its expected completion, or highest degree and its date of award;
• name of the applicant’s current or most recent major professor;
• names, addresses, and telephone numbers of two persons who have agreed to recommend the applicant and proposal (see below);
• title of the proposed research;
• a concise description of the proposed investigation including the general research objectives, hypothesis/question, and methods of study (see below);
• sources and amounts of partial support for the research and pending applications for support and amounts from other sources;
• a prioritized budget outline not exceeding the range of typical awards;
• a short statement of the way in which the award would be used to enhance research.

A Literature Cited section should be appended (this section does not count as part of the two-page limit). In recent years, successful proposals were carefully prepared, well written, and complete with two letters of recommendation. Award-winning proposals had one or more clearly described central hypotheses/questions that were likely to be answered, at least in part, by completing the proposed research. Importantly, proposals that framed their specific questions within a broader biological context were consistently highly ranked.

Two letters of recommendation from persons familiar with the applicant and his or her research must be solicited by the applicant. One of these letters should be from the current major professor. Both letters should be from reputable scientists, preferably herpetologists, and should include statements concerning the following:

• the competence of the applicant;
• the significance of the applicant’s research;
• the desirability of and need for the funds being requested by the applicant.

The applicant should request that each letter be sent directly to the Gaige Award Chairperson in electronic form (PDF). Because of limited funds, previous awardees requesting additional funding for the same or a similar project will be given lower priority than students who have not received Gaige funds.

The application and letters of recommendation must be received by the committee chairperson by midnight of 1 March 2016. Incomplete applications or lack of ASIH dues payment by this date disqualifies the application.

Students will be notified of the status of their application by 1 May 2016 and the award checks will be issued by the Treasurer. The certificates will be presented during the Annual Business Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana during the Centennial Meeting of the ASIH.

Raney Fund Award Announcement—2016

The Raney Award is presented annually in honor of Edward C. Raney (1909–1984). Raney was a leader among ichthyologists. He possessed a broad
knowledge of the fishes of the world; his particular area of expertise was the fishes of the eastern United States. A member of the faculty at Cornell University, Dr. Raney authored over 75 papers dealing with the systematics, behavior, and ecology of fishes. He was an expert on aquatic environmental problems and served on numerous environmental advisory committees. He was a member of over 30 professional societies, and he served as secretary (1948–1951) and president (1955–1956) of ASIH. The students of Ed Raney are among the leaders in ichthyology today in no small part because of his mentorship and enthusiasm in the study of fishes.

Applications are solicited for grants to be awarded from the Raney Fund for Ichthyology. These funds are used to provide support for young ichthyologists for museums or laboratory study, travel, fieldwork, or any other activity that will effectively enhance their professional careers and their contributions to the science of ichthyology.

Applicants must be members of ASIH and should be enrolled for an advanced degree. Applicants who do not meet these basic requirements may be considered for the award under exceptional circumstances if their careers are judged to be in a developmental stage. Individual awards are typically in the $400–1000 range and will be awarded on basis of both merit and need.

Applications for the Raney Award and a letter of recommendation should be e-mailed (not mailed) to Dr. Kevin Conway (kevin.conway@tamu.edu). The application should consist of no more than two single-spaced pages and must include the following:

- name, address, e-mail address, and telephone numbers of the applicant;
- institutional affiliation;
- academic degree being sought and the year of its expected completion, or highest degree and its date of award;
- name of the applicant’s current or most recent major professor;
- title of the proposed research;
- justification for the research;
- concise description of research objectives and methods;
- sources of partial support for the research and pending applications for support from other funds;
- budget outline;
- short statement of the way in which the award would be used.

A Literature Cited section should be appended and is not included in the two-page limit. Budget items should be listed as nearly as possible in order of priority. Applicants should attempt to keep the budget within the amount of available funds. In case the award must be less than the requested budget, the impact of eliminating part or all of any items should be clearly given.

The letter of recommendation from the applicant’s current major professor should include statements concerning:

- the competence of the applicant;
- the significance of the applicant’s research;
- the desirability of and need for the funds.

The applicant should request that the letter be sent directly to the Raney Award Committee Chair. The application and letter of recommendation should reach the Committee chair no later than 1 March 2016. Incomplete applications or lack of ASIH dues payment by this date disqualifies the application.

Students will be notified of the status of their application by 1 May 2016 and the award checks will be issued by the Treasurer. The certificates will be presented during the Annual Business Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana during the Centennial Meeting of the ASIH.

THE HERPETOLOGISTS’ LEAGUE EE WILLIAMS RESEARCH GRANT

The Herpetologists’ League is pleased to announce competitive grants for graduate student research for 2016. These awards are named in honor of the late Ernest E. Williams, the first Distinguished Herpetologist of The Herpetologists’ League.

OVERVIEW

1. An award ($1000.00 maximum amount) will be presented to one winner in each category:
   - Behavior
   - Conservation
   - Ecology
   - Physiology
   - Morphology/Systematics

2. The application form and rules are also available on the HL website at http://www.herpetologistsleague.org/dox/eewilliamsgrant.pdf.

3. Entries must be received by 5:00 PM central time on 15 December 2015.

4. Send complete application (cover page, proposal, budget, CV) as a single PDF electronically to: Ann Paterson at apaterson@wbcoll.edu. Please put “EE Williams Research Grant” in the subject line. Check if you do not receive a confirmation e-mail within 24 hours.

5. One letter of support should be sent, preferably by e-mail, directly by the supporter.

6. Proposals will be reviewed by at least two professional scientists, who will provide written feedback by April 2016.

7. Funding will be dispersed in April 2016 and winners announced at The Herpetologists’ League Business Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, 2016.

RULES

Please read carefully.

1. The applicant must be a member in good standing of The Herpetologists’ League.

2. The applicant must be registered and in good standing in a degree-granting program (M.S. and Ph.D. students are eligible).

3. One proposal per applicant per year.

4. Project must be original work, authored and conducted by the applicant.

5. Projects that are already fully supported by other sources are not eligible.

6. The proposal category must be clearly designated. However, HL reserves the right to judge proposals under a category different from that requested based on evaluation of the subject matter and the number of proposals received in each category.
7. Previous winners are not eligible for the award in subsequent years.
8. A short report (two-page) summarizing the results of the project and a reprint or PDF of any publication arising from the project is due to secretary of HL when available.

PREPARATION GUIDELINES
See website for more details.
1. Word limit: 1200 words not including citations, budget, cover page, or CV.
2. Double spaced, 12-point font.
3. Margins: 1 inch.
4. Name the file with your name and category (e.g., “Jane Smith Ecology”).
5. Include the cover page provided at the HL website.
6. Include a detailed budget, as well as sources and amounts of current and pending support.
7. Clearly designate the proposal category on the cover page (one category only).
8. Arrange in advance for one letter of support to be sent separately by the supporter.
9. Include a two-page CV that includes telephone, e-mail, and mailing addresses.