EDITION NOTES AND NEWS

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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 impacts on herpetology.

Nominations, including self-nominations, should be submitted by 1 March 2018 for the nominee to be eligible for that year’s award. Nominations will be effective for three years. The nomination should be emailed to the Chair of the 2018 Fitch Award Committee, Dr. Robert Espinoza (robert.e.espinoza@csun.edu).

The winner of the 2018 Fitch award will be announced during the plenary session in Rochester, New York at the 98th Annual Meeting of the ASIH.

In July 2017 at the ASIH meeting in Austin, Texas, the award was presented to Henry Mushinsky.

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

NOMINATIONS are solicited for the Robert K. Johnson Award. In 2018, 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 2018 winner will be announced during the plenary of the 98th Annual Meeting of the ASIH in Rochester, New York.

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 2018 for the nominee to be eligible for that year’s award. Nominations will be effective for three years.

Email nominations to the Chair of the 2018 Johnson Award Committee, Stephen Ross (stross1@unm.edu).

In July 2017 at the ASIH meeting in Austin, Texas, the award was presented to Maureen Donnelly.

JOSEPH S. NELSON LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN Ichthyology—CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

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 body of published work in systematic ichthyology to a citizen of a Western Hemisphere nation who has not received the award previously.

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 $2000). In 2018, the Society will present the award during the plenary session at the Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists in Rochester, New York during the 98th Annual 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 2018 for the nominee to be eligible for the 2018 award. Nominations will be effective for three years.

Nominations for 2018 should be sent to Dr. Kyle Piller, Chair of the 2018 Gibbs Committee (kyle.piller@selu.edu). Electronic submissions in PDF, DOC, or DOCX format are required.

In July 2017 at the ASIH meeting in Austin, Texas, the award was presented to Tyson Roberts.

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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 the Nelson Award Selection Committee, is announced during the plenary session of the ASIH annual meeting and will receive an engraved crystal award to commemorate a prestigious career devoted to the study of fishes.

Nominations (including self-nominations) for the 2018 Nelson Award may be submitted by any ASIH member and must include the nominee’s curriculum vitae and details of the nominee’s qualifications for the award as described above. Nominations will be considered by the selection committee for three years.

The nomination must be submitted via email (cover letter on letterhead, CV, and other supporting letters and materials) to the Chair of the Nelson Award Selection Committee, Dr. Jacqueline Webb (jacqueline_webb@uri.edu) by the deadline of 1 March 2018.

The 2017 award was presented to John Lundberg at the ASIH meeting in Austin, Texas.

SPIRITUS: LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN SUPPORT OF COLLECTIONS—CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

NOMINATIONS are solicited for the Spiritus Award. The Spiritus Award is presented annually by the ASIH to recognize excellence in service and support of natural history collections of fishes, amphibians, and reptiles. In 2018, it will be presented to an ichthyologist.

Nominations may be made by any ichthyologist or herpetologist and should be submitted by 1 March 2018 for the nominee to be eligible for the 2018 award. Nominations will be effective for three award cycles over a five-year period (due to alternation between disciplines). Committee members are not eligible for nomination while serving on the committee and for one year following.

Nominations must include the name, current address, and recent CV of the nominee, and a letter of support expressing the nominee’s qualifications (nominator may solicit and submit additional letters of support).

To qualify, a nominee must not have been a previous recipient of the Spiritus Award and must have an established record of exceptional management, curation, and/or administration of natural history collection(s) of fishes, amphibians, and/or reptiles. Accomplishments worthy of consideration should include one or more of the following: 1) an active career in collection management and stewardship, 2) development of best practices and resources such as institutional and online databases that have significantly advanced the management, curation, and dissemination of data associated with natural history collections, 3) restoration and/or significant growth of existing collections, and 4) successful advocacy for natural history collections in academia, public outreach, conservation, policy-making, and/or funding.

Email nominations to Mark Sabaj, Chair (mhsS8@drexel.edu or sabaj@ansp.org).

In July 2017 at the ASIH meeting in Austin, Texas, the inaugural award was presented to Jens Vindum.

GAIGE FUND AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT—2018

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 unsurpassed 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.

Applicants 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 (email attachments) to the Gaige Award Chairperson, Dr. Melissa Pilgrim (mplgrlm@uscupstate.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, email 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 2018. **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 2018, and the award checks will be issued by the Treasurer. The certificates will be presented during the Annual Business Meeting & Student Award Ceremony in Rochester, New York during the 98th Meeting of the ASIH.

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**RANEY FUND AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT—2018**

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.

Applications 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 mailed (not mailed) to Dr. Brad Erisman (berisman@utexas.edu). The application should consist of no more than two single-spaced pages and must include the following:

- name, address, email 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 2018. **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 2018, and the award checks will be issued by the Treasurer. The certificates will be presented during the Annual Business Meeting & Student Award Ceremony in Rochester, New York during the 98th Meeting of the ASIH.

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**CALL FOR SYMPOSIUM PROPOSALS FOR 2019**

Symposia are important components of the annual Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (JMIH). They allow researchers in a given subfield to come together and present the latest results of research in a given area. They disseminate new and useful scientific information to the membership and contribute to making the meeting a compelling and interesting experience. In turn, society members benefit by interacting with the symposium participants. The most successful symposia also highlight the talent and cutting-edge techniques of the societies’ membership; each symposium as a whole should strive to be progressive and comprehensive but efficient, aiming to synthesize research topics, fill gaps in our knowledge, and move the science forward. We strongly encourage symposia for 2019 that cut across taxonomic boundaries.

We invite the submission of symposium proposals for sponsorship by the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (ASIH) to be presented at the annual Joint
Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. The requirements for a complete proposal can be found at http://www.asih.org/meetings.

GUIDELINES

Applications must contain all requested information and be submitted to the Chair of the ASIH Symposium Committee, by **15 March 2018** for the 2019 JMIH meeting. Organizer(s) of proposed symposia must be society member(s) in good standing at the time of proposal submission and during the subsequent year. All presenters are encouraged to become members of the ASIH. Proposals should be submitted via email to mushinsky@usf.edu.

Henry R. Mushinsky, Department of Integrative Biology, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida 33620; Phone: (813) 892-8167

MERITORIOUS TEACHING AWARD IN HERPETOLOGY

The Herpetology Education Committee is seeking nominations for the Meritorious Teaching Award in Herpetology, which will be presented at each year’s Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (JMIH). This award recognizes superior teaching effectiveness and mentoring of students in the area of herpetology and provides student members of the North American herpetological societies the opportunity to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to herpetological education, in either the classroom or mentoring student research endeavors. Winners of the award will be encouraged to become active in the HEC, which will facilitate continuity of the HEC and maintenance of the standards by which future awards are bestowed.

The award recipient will receive 1) a cash prize of US $500, 2) recognition in the form of an official letter from HEC (a copy of the letter will also be forwarded to the chief academic administrator at the recipient’s host institution), and 3) a plaque identifying the award, year, and recipient’s name. Information can be found at: http://www.asih.org/membership/awards/herpetology-teaching.

Nominations should be sent to Lynn Haugen (Lynn.Haugen@wnmu.edu), Herpetological Education Committee Chair, by **30 April 2018**.

MERITORIOUS TEACHING AWARD IN Ichthyology

The ASIH and AES announce their co-sponsored Meritorious Teaching Award in Ichthyology, which will be awarded at each year’s Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists (JMIH). This award recognizes superior teaching effectiveness and mentoring of students in the area of Ichthyology and provides members of ASIH and AES with the opportunity to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to ichthyological education, in either the classroom or mentoring student research endeavors. Winners of the award will be encouraged to become active members of the ASIH, which will facilitate the continuity and longevity of the ASIH and AES, not to mention the maintenance of the standards by which future awards are bestowed.

The award recipient will receive 1) a cash prize of US $500, 2) recognition in the form of an official letter from ASIH and AES (a copy of the letter will also be forwarded to the chief academic administrator at the recipient’s host institution), and 3) a plaque identifying the award, year, and recipient’s name.

Nominations will be solicited in January of each award year through email, announced in societies’ publications, and posted on the societies’ websites and Facebook pages. The deadline for submission of nominations will be 15 April of the same year.

Nominations should be sent to Dr. Michael J. Pauers (mjpauers@gmail.com), Chair of the Ichthyology Education Committee, by **15 April 2018**.

THE HERPETOLOGISTS’ LEAGUE EE WILLIAMS RESEARCH GRANT

The Herpetologists’ League is pleased to announce competitive grants for graduate student research for 2018. 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/Functional Morphology
   - Diversity/Evolution
2. The application form and rules are also available on the HL web site at http://www.herpetologistsleague.org/dox/eewilliamsgrant.pdf.
3. Entries must be received by 5 PM Central Time on **15 December 2017**.
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 subject line. Check if you do not receive a confirmation email within 24 hours.
5. One letter of support should be sent, preferably by email, directly by the supporter.
6. Proposals will be reviewed by at least two professional scientists, who will provide written feedback by April 2018.
7. Funding dispersed in April 2018 and winners announced at the Herpetologists’ League Business Meeting in Rochester, NY, 2018.

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 (2 pg) 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 pt. 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, email, and mailing addresses.

**HERPETOLOGISTS’ LEAGUE AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO HERPETOLOGY— ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

The HL Award for Distinguished Service to Herpetology recognizes the lifetime contributions of senior herpetologists to both the Herpetologists’ League in particular and to herpetology in general. Contributions include:

- research excellence in the field of herpetology;
- leadership in scientific organizations devoted to herpetology;
- promotion of the science of herpetology through organization of symposia and conferences;
- dedicated participation in herpetological education and outreach;
- encouragement and mentoring of students;
- activities promoting achievements of colleagues or general advancements in the field of herpetology.

With this announcement, we seek nominations for the first HL Award for Distinguished Service to Herpetology, to be awarded in 2018. Nominations of candidates to the society must be made by a third party (i.e., self-nominations will not be accepted). Nominations must be accompanied by at least one letter of support from the nominator(s), addressing the candidate’s suitability for the award in terms of the above criteria, as well as a current curriculum vitae (or equivalent document providing details of the nominee’s career highlights and accomplishments, including their publication record). Nominations should be sent by email to the chair of the HL Distinguished Service to Herpetology committee (Patrick Gregory, viper@uvic.ca) by **31 March 2018**.

Nominations normally will be kept confidential; nominators therefore are asked not to inform nominees of their nomination unless necessary for obtaining the CV or other information. However, unsuccessful nominations will be kept under active consideration for a maximum of three years; after that period, nominators, if they so choose, can submit a new and updated nomination of the candidate. Although nominations are to be kept confidential, winners will be notified of their award in advance of the annual meeting to give them the opportunity to attend the meeting to receive their award; however, we encourage winners to not reveal their award to others ahead of the annual meeting.

The award winner will receive a plaque and $1500. A photograph and short biography of the award winner will be published in *Herpetologica* and posted on the HL website. HL also will cover the awardee’s registration for the meeting at which they will receive the award.