

# BEHAVIORAL ECOLOGY SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

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### REPORT ON THE ALBANY MEETING

On 16-19 October 1986 an International Meeting for Behavioral Ecology was held at the New York State Museum in Albany, NY, USA, organized by Jerram Brown, Thomas Caraco and Christopher Barkan of the State University of New York at Albany, and David Steadman of the New York State Museum. The scientific sessions, including 22 invited papers and 113 poster papers, attracted 367 registered participants. In addition to the scientific sessions, committees were designated to consider and hold open meetings concerning the desirability of 2) founding a new, international society, 3) establishing a new journal and 1) holding additional meetings devoted to behavioral ecology. In a general assembly, attended by 210 participants, these issues were brought to a vote which revealed that 202 (96%) were interested in attending another meeting devoted to behavioral ecology, 171 (81%) would support the formation of an international behavioral ecology society and 138 (66%) would support the formation of a new journal in behavioral ecology.

In order to facilitate the founding of a society, it was agreed that a six-member council would be established. The purpose of this council would be to consider alternatives with regard to goals and structures of a new society, to develop specific proposals, to establish a membership list and to poll the members regarding decisions to be made. The council was to be established from nominations made by those present at the meeting. Each attendee could nominate up to three candidates (including persons not present at the meeting). A group headed by the Albany meeting hosts would count the nominations and designate the six most frequent names as the Council, with the proviso that at least one member be from Europe and one from Canada to maintain an international perspective. A total of 267 nominations were cast for 72 names. The most frequent nominees all agreed to serve. They are Malte Andersson, Jerram Brown, Mart Gross, Donald Kramer, Geoffrey Parker and Larry Wolf. In order to establish an initial list of Society members, those interested were requested to leave their names, addresses and US \$3.00 to cover mailing costs. Other interested potential members were to be solicited by word of mouth and notices in related society bulletins and meetings. A total of 185 individuals responded at and shortly after the meeting.

There was a sense of exhilaration at the size and diversity of the field of behavioral ecology and its coming of age. All of us owe a vote of thanks to the Albany organizing committee and all who assisted them for bringing together the varied practitioners of behavioral ecology at such an opportune moment. Timely financial help from the U.S. National Science Foundation and the State University of New York at Albany helped make the meeting possible.

## PLANS FOR THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL MEETING FOR BEHAVIORAL ECOLOGY

The Behavioral Ecology Research group from Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada has agreed to host the second meeting in 1988 in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. Their planning is well underway as indicated by the following announcement:

"The Second International Behavioral Ecology Conference will take place in Vancouver, B.C., Canada, beginning on Thursday evening October 6, 1988 and continuing through Sunday, October 9. Following the wishes of the attendees at the First Conference in Albany, New York, to hold the second meeting during a weekend in the autumn, the Local Organizing Committee felt that this weekend would convenience the greatest number of potential delegates. The 10th is a long weekend in both Canada and the U.S.A. and therefore permits us to utilize the entire weekend, while still allowing for the full day required by eastern travellers to return home. The timing of the conference will also make it possible for those with teaching duties to miss lectures in only one week of classes.

We are acutely aware that it will be considerably more difficult for many of our European colleagues to attend a conference at this time of the year. However, we chose this weekend as the earliest suitable date within the guidelines set by the delegate vote at the Albany conference, and we hope that it is in advance of the onset of teaching at most European institutions. We pledge to do all we can to make it possible for European researchers to attend, and we urge our colleagues in Europe to write and let us know about any extra problems they may face.

The conference itself will be held in the historic Vancouver Hotel, the city's oldest and (many claim) also its finest conference hotel. Room costs are reasonable--approximately \$CAN 80 for a double room, per night, with the option to add a cot for an additional \$CAN 20 (bringing the average to a very reasonable \$CAN 33 per night). Our current estimate for the registration fee is \$CAN 85, students \$CAN 45. The hotel is located in the downtown core, and there is a very large choice of restaurants and other conveniences nearby. Access to and from the airport is quick and inexpensive.

Advertisement posters will be distributed during summer 1987 and all pertinent details will be included in the next Newsletter. There is no limit to the number of delegates we can accommodate, but there will be an upper limit to the number of oral presentations and posters, and the submission deadline will be April, 1988. A keynote address and four theme sessions are planned on Survival Strategies, Reproductive Strategies, Genetics of Behavioral Ecology and Applied Behavioral Ecology. If you have comments or suggestions, or know of persons who would like to receive the circular but might not be on the mailing list, please contact any one of us."

Ron Ydenberg (Conference Chairman)  
 Mart Gross (Program Chairman)  
 Bernie Roitberg (Attendance Chairman)

Local Organizing Committee  
 Second International Behavioral Ecology Conference  
 Department of Biological Sciences  
 Simon Fraser University  
 Burnaby, B.C. Canada V5A 1S6      Tel. (604-291-4475)

## PLANS FOR A 1990 MEETING

We have accepted the offer of Professor Staffan Ulfstrand of Uppsala University, Sweden, to host a meeting of the Society in 1990, probably during the month of August. Due to the enthusiasm of our colleagues in Burnaby and Uppsala, we have prospects for exciting meetings well into the future.

## SCHEDULE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A SOCIETY FOR BEHAVIORAL ECOLOGY

The Council proposes to publish a second Newsletter in November 1987 which will present a tentative constitution and name for the society, call for nominations for officers of the society and discuss the major issues involved in the formation of a new journal. There will be a call for feedback and suggestions on all topics.

A third Newsletter will be published in March 1988. Taking account of feedback received, this will include ballots for voting on the officers, constitution and name of the society. A fourth Newsletter in July 1988 will announce the results of the voting including the new officers who will take office at the Vancouver meeting.

## CALL FOR MEMBERS

Important decisions concerning the future of our society for behavioral ecology will take place in the next year and a half. It is important that our constituency is as large and representative as possible. The Council therefore urges all interested in the field of behavioral ecology to disseminate the following notice (or translation as appropriate) through both informal contact and publication in relevant Bulletins and Newsletters of other societies:

"Following an International Meeting for Behavioral Ecology held in Albany, USA in October 1986, a new society for behavioral ecology is being formed. The next meeting of the fledgling society will take place in Vancouver, Canada in October 1988, and the following meeting in Uppsala, Sweden in 1990. Preceding the Vancouver meeting, members will vote by mail on a constitution, name and officers of the new society. In the meantime the society is being directed by a Council consisting of Jerram Brown (State University of New York at Albany), Mart Gross (Simon Fraser University), Donald Kramer (McGill University), Geoffrey Parker (University of Liverpool), and Larry Wolf (Syracuse University). To become a member of the Society send US \$3.00 (International Money Order or checks drawn on a US bank only, please; payable to the Behavioral Ecology Society) to Donald L. Kramer, Department of Biology, McGill University, 1205 Avenue Docteur Penfield, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3A 1B1. (Potential members from countries with severe currency restrictions may waive the \$3.00 fee.)"

## MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Members of society are invited to make known to any Council member suggestions with regard to formation of the society, journal, meetings and other relevant issues. The names and addresses of members of the council, [with special responsibilities indicated in brackets], are as follows:

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Dr. Malte Andersson  
Department of Zoology  
University of Göteborg  
Box 25059  
S-400 31 Göteborg, SWEDEN  
(Tel. 31 853652)

Dr. Donald L. Kramer  
[Present chairman of council,  
coordinator of newsletter]  
Department of Biology  
McGill University  
1205 Avenue Docteur Penfield  
Montreal, Quebec H3A 1B1, CANADA  
(Tel. 514-398-6466 office  
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Dr. Jerram L. Brown  
[Past meeting coordinator;  
acting treasurer]  
Department of Biological Sciences  
SUNY Albany  
Albany, N.Y. 12222, U.S.A.  
(Tel. 518-442-4349 office  
518-442-4300 messages)

Dr. Geoffrey A. Parker  
Department of Zoology  
University of Liverpool  
Brownlow Street, P.O. Box 147  
Liverpool, England L69 3BX, U.K.  
(Tel. 51-709-6022)

Dr. Mart R. Gross  
[Next meeting coordinator]  
Department of Biological Sciences  
Simon Fraser University  
Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6, CANADA  
(Tel. 604-291-4627 office  
604-291-4475 messages)

Dr. Larry L. Wolf  
[Issues related to new journal]  
Department of Biology  
Syracuse University  
Syracuse, N.Y. 13244, USA  
(Tel. 315-423-3956)

after 1 August 1987  
Department of Zoology  
University of Toronto  
25 Harbord Street  
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A1, CANADA  
(Tel. 416-978-3470)

#### OTHER NOTES

Announcements are solicited for future editions of the Newsletter. Notices regarding jobs, other meetings, etc. may be sent to D. Kramer at the above address. To date, there is just one notice:

#### SOCIAL BEHAVIOR IN SPIDERS

Limited quantities of a special symposium volume of the Journal of Arachnology are available. This volume contains research and review papers by most of the researchers currently working on social behavior in spiders, and covers a wide variety of topics. Copies are \$10.00 (U.S.) each. Send check or money order payable to American Arachnological Society to Dr. George Uetz, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Mail Location #6, Univ. of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH 45221-006