

President's Newsletter

March 2026



Introduction



Although George R. R. Martin never finished the seventh and final book from his hit series *A Song of Ice and Fire*, it is clear that *A Dream of Spring* is starting to become a reality for those of us in states with real winters. I went fishing for the first time this year on the 27th of February, which means shorts until next December, regardless of future weather conditions. Fortunately for everyone in the northeast, "America's Favorite Groundhog" [Buckeye](#)

[Chuck](#) saw no shadow and winter should be ending up there soon, as well. Along with catching my first freshwater fish of the year, I also observed my first Herp/Fish interaction that made me reflect on how connected we all are as members of ASIH: upon removing a small circle hook from the upper lip of a 13 inch Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus nigricans*), I noticed frog feet extending from its esophagus. I contemplated trying to remove the frog to see if it was still alive and to get a positive species identification but I decided that the fish must have been very hungry to have tried to consume a rubber worm while having their gastrointestinal tract filled

with a frog. I assume that in another couple months I will witness the revenge of the herps in the form of a watersnake eating some type of ichthyoid.

But on a more serious note, with every spring comes abstract submission and meeting registration time for JMIH in July!! Our new [meeting website](#) has been completed and everything seems to be working. Through the website you will be able to register for JMIH in New Orleans and submit abstracts if you want to present (links below). Here, I wanted to highlight some other aspects of the site that are especially important to students and junior colleagues:

- [STUDENT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM](#): By volunteering four hours of your time, undergraduate and graduate students can get free meeting registration!!!!
- [ROOMATE FINDER](#): One of the most expensive aspects of conferences is lodging! I don't think I ever went to a conference as a student where 6+ of us weren't jammed in one little hotel room. It doesn't have to be that bad, but help cut your lodging cost in half by finding a roommate. I also just noticed that on the website it says "Roomate," yet Google keeps autocorrecting this to "Roommate." A quick check says Google is right. Maybe this will be fixed by the time you read this Newsletter.
- [CHILDCARE](#): If bringing children to the meeting and want Taming Toddlers to look after them for a bit while you do professional things (or non-professional things...I'm not judging), it's \$50 to register and is available from 8:00am to 6:00pm July 09 to July 12, and until 7pm on July 08. There are no other costs associated with this service thanks to the work of the Childcare Committee led by former ASIH president [Dr. Emily Taylor](#).

Important information and dates

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION/REGISTRATION SITE OPEN!!!

If you are planning on going to JMIH in New Orleans (and I know that you are), the new [JMIH website](#) is up and running! Click this link to go right to registration: [REGISTRATION](#). Click this link to go right to abstract submission if you want to present: [ABSTRACT SUBMISSION](#). I already submitted an abstract (#10) and the process didn't seem too difficult. Keep in mind, you can submit an abstract and register later; e.g., I haven't registered yet. Also keep in mind, you can submit an abstract if you really don't have any data; e.g., I don't really have any data yet...I'm just guessing and being vague at this point 😊. The cool thing is that you have a month or so to go back and edit your abstract if/when you do get some data.

A message from Dr. Maureen (Mo) Donnelly and Dr. Brian (Bro) Crother)

Jay M. Savage passed away November 3, 2025 and we plan on honoring him at the 2026 meeting with a "pirate" Savage session and an open-mike event (with snacks and beverages) in New Orleans. If your research program was influenced by Jay, your presentation would be a great way to honor his impact on herpetology and ichthyology. If you would like to contribute to the paper session, please add SAVAGE to your abstract title and the meeting planners will know to put you in a special paper session. Please let us know (send an email to [Mo](#)) of your interest in attending the open mike, and send Mo the title of your talk if you want to participate in the

pirate session so we can work with the meeting planners to schedule the papers. Jay influenced many herpetologists and ichthyologists during his long career and we look forward to honoring Jay with this pirate Savage paper session and the open-mike event. We look forward to hearing from you.

Joint ASIH-AFS Committee on Common and Scientific Names of Fishes introduces the “Quarantine List”

The Joint ASIH-AFS Committee on Common and Scientific Names of Fishes prepares a list for publication of the names of fishes in Canada, Mexico, and the United States. The basic goal is to promote uniformity in use of common names by selecting, in general, the most widely accepted names and present the list in a currently accepted classification of fishes including the scientific species name, family, order, and class.

The Committee is now maintaining a “Quarantine List” of potential addenda and corrigenda for the next (9th) edition of Common and Scientific Names of Fishes from the United States, Canada, and Mexico. These are changes for which the Committee has not yet reached a consensus, or might be controversial because of conflicting evidence.

The Committee asks that interested ASIH members review the list and to please forward comments or additional information for consideration in their review process.

The “Quarantine List” is available here: [QUARANTINE LIST](#). Please send password requests to [Juan Schmitter-Soto](#) or [Thomas Dowling](#).

REPEAT: Student/post-doc travel awards

Traveling to conferences can be expensive. Consider applying for a travel award to help defray the cost of your travel if planning to attend JMIH in New Orleans: The [Clark Hubbs’ student travel award](#) applications for fish and herp students are due by 15 May 2026; [The Cashner Award](#) provides travel funds for ASIH student members (ichs or herps) from historically and currently excluded groups in science, and is due by 20 March 2026.

REPEAT: ASIH leadership positions

The ASIH Nominating Committee is constantly looking for people willing to take leadership roles in ASIH. If you are interested in a leadership role in ASIH, please contact the current Nominating Committee chair, [Dr. Lisa Barrow](#).

REPEAT: Award nominations

[Nominate](#) your deserving colleagues for recognition! The majority of award nominations are due in March or April of 2026 and will be presented at JMIH in New Orleans.

REPEAT: Renew your membership

Please [renew](#) your membership for 2026 as soon as possible. You don't want to miss out on all these awesome newsletters, free publication cost, discounted JMIH in New Orleans, student/professional awards, etc... If your membership has lapsed, please [rejoin](#) by going to the new member application page.

Community news

New ASIH appointments!

The last committee assignment of the year! Thanks everyone! If you would like to be considered for service on a committee in the future, let me know by sending a message through [Google Forms](#) or by sending me an [email](#). Please join me in welcoming our new ASIH committee members:

- ASIH representatives to the [Societies Consortium on Sexual Harassment](#)
 - Dr. Allison Bronson, Cal Poly Humboldt

Year 1 in the books!



Congratulations to [Dr. Terry Grande](#) on completion of her first year as editor of *Ichthyology and Herpetology*, the society journal of the American Society of Ichthyology and Herpetology! By far one of the most difficult positions of any society is lead editor of a journal, especially when the taxonomic focus and types of research are as broad as those published in *Ichthyology and Herpetology*. But, just like anything in academia, the work must go on, and Dr. Grande and her crew of editors are working hard on getting the [first issue up for 2026](#). I would also like to express gratitude to long-time editors Katie Smith and [Dr. Matthew Girard](#) for making every paper as mechanically and visually sound as possible.

Your community news HERE!!!

If you have community news that you want featured in this newsletter, please click [here!](#)

If you have any queries or questions, comments or concerns, or just want to chat, please do not hesitate to contact me: [Dustin Siegel](#)

*Also, if you ever get an email from someone claiming to be me that asks you to send money somewhere, that isn't me.

Check out the [ASIH threadless store](#) if looking for new ich/herp related clothing.

