

President's Newsletter

January 2026



Introduction



Greetings, I'm [Dustin Siegel](#), your new ASIH president as of 01 January 2026. I want to start out by saying thank you for being a member of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. Your membership keeps this society operational, funds the publication of *Ichthyology & Herpetology*, and contributes to the success of the Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. While bored in my office one day I decided that I would start a monthly newsletter for ASIH members as an outlet to promote society news, remind you of important dates, celebrate our achievements, and to remind you that this society exists because of YOU. I want to hear from you.

I want to know what you like about being an ASIH member and what you don't like about being an ASIH member. I want to know if you want to be involved with one of the many society committees. I want to know if you are proud of a recent publication. I want to know if you need help with a project. By joining ASIH you have joined a community of people that want to celebrate your successes with you and help you succeed in your future endeavors, all while we work collectively to better understand the fishes and herps of our world. Send me a [message](#)!!

Save the date

Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists

From July 8 to July 12, the [Joint Meeting of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists](#) will be returning to [New Orleans](#) in 2026. I visited with a handful of the local committee planners in October in Louisiana and they promised me that they are working hard to make this the best JMIH ever! Note that the [Clark Hubbs' student travel award](#) applications for fish students are due by 15 May 2026 (follow the previous link for instructions), and applications for the [Carl Gans Traveling Fellowship Endowment](#) that funds herp student/post-doc travel are due 01 February 2026.

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.

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 president-elect!

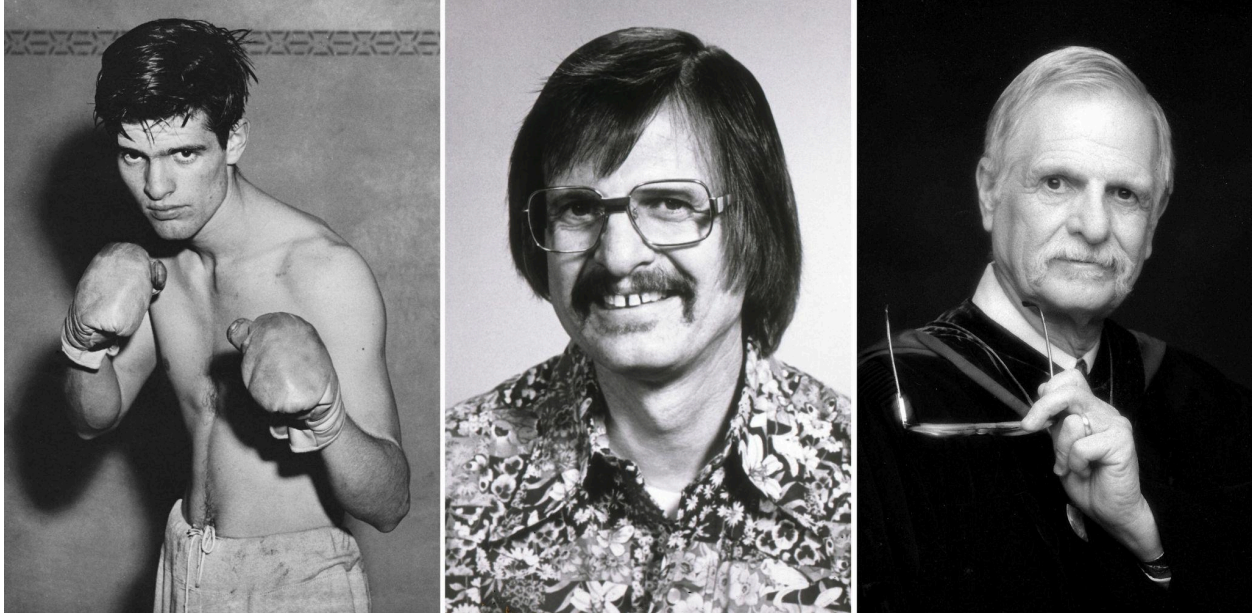
Congratulations to [Dr. Kyle Piller](#) for being elected the 2027 President of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists! Kyle will serve as President-elect for the 2026 calendar year and chair the student oral and poster competitions at this year's JMIH in New Orleans as part of his President-elect duties. Kyle is a Professor at Southeastern Louisiana University and has been an ASIH member since he had hair like Tommy Lee. Kyle is renowned in the ichthyological community for his contributions on phylogeography and systematics of fishes, especially from southeastern United States, Mexico, and Central America. Kyle has served in a variety of roles for ASIH, including chairing the meeting management and planning committee for JMIH. Kyle also likes [AC/DC](#).



The passing of a legend

I am sad to report the recent passing of a long-time ASIH member, Dr. Jay M. Savage (03 November 2025). We will forever miss his jovial personality, his delightful choice of socks, and his keen intellect on all things herpetological and beyond. Something special is being planned at JMIH 2026 in New Orleans to honor our departed friend. Stay tuned for more information. If you

would like to learn more about Jay's incredible life and career, check out Dr. Maureen (Mo) Donnelly's Historical Perspective on Jay in *Copeia* [now *Ichthyology and Herpetology*] ([2013, No. 4, 757-767](#)). Images of Jay Savage acquired from Mark Sabaj, and originated from Mo's Historical Perspective.



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.

