

ASM Host Resolution 2023

WHEREAS, we celebrate yet another opportunity for us to meet in the State of Alaska (The Great Land, 3rd Alaskan ASM meeting in 34 years), this time jointly with the International Federation of Mammalogists (IFM) for IMC-13, which is a real honor and distinct pleasure; and,

WHEREAS, this year's joint IFM/ASM meeting garnered 764 in-person and 163 virtual attendees, making this the largest ASM meeting ever, we had nearly 700 abstracts, making this the largest ASM program ever, and it truly was international in nature, with attendees from 55 countries and all 6 inhabited continents; and,

WHEREAS, in meeting on the lands of the Athabascan people, whose lives remains intimately tied to the mountains, forests, and water of this region, and the diverse animals they contain, the ASM acknowledges the rich history of Native Cultures in southeastern Alaska; and,

WHEREAS, at this year's diversity social/picnic at the Alaska Native Heritage Center, a juvenile black bear fled for its personal safety as a frenzied mob of mammalogists rabidly pursued it for the opportunity for hair, fecal, and DNA samples; and,

WHEREAS, we acknowledge the multiple decades of attendance and numerous presentations of members like Duane Schlitter, Bob Rose, Dave Huckaby, and Virginia Naples, and propose establishing a new milestone category – The ASM Half-Century Club; and,

WHEREAS, contrary to the name, the social event “cash bars” in the Convention Center were not accepting cash; and,

WHEREAS, we are greatly pleased to recognize Cody Thompson for his exceptional effort on the annual meeting Program, and Paul Stapp for his incredible work on Publications, for their many stellar years of service to the ASM; and,

WHEREAS, following the lead from the Marvel Comics Universe, ASM President Enrique Lessa, ASM's version of Stan Lee, just created the ASM Mammalverse; notable characters in the ASM Mammalverse include Nate Upham as Dr. Stephen Strange, Link Olsen as Thor Marvel the Hero Shrew, Rob Swihart as Rocket Raccoon, Virginia Naples as Sabretooth, and Tom Jung as the Wolverine; and,

WHEREAS, the term “priceless” was raised to new heights during the 1st BOD meeting with that deep shade of red on Kelly Speer's face when her name came up on the list of dropped delinquents (she was hoping that no one would notice!); and,

WHEREAS, rumor has it that the NCAA is entertaining thoughts of an ASM March Mammal Madness takeover, so in 2024, expect to see the UConn Huskies facing off against a herd of Colorado Buffaloes; and,

WHEREAS, in Alaska, the Land of the Midnight Sun, the University of Alaska - Anchorage dorms forgot the requisite dark-out shades; and,

WHEREAS, this year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act, the most successful piece of legislation ever passed for the protection of animals and plants and their habitats from extinction; and,

WHEREAS, Covid-19 and the Program Committee conspired to double-book Link Olson to be scheduled to give an oral presentation on the 3rd floor while simultaneously leading a Symposium on the 2nd floor, resulting in the waiting audience being treated to a dramatic running entrance and a few minutes of heavy breathing; and,

WHEREAS, Annie M. Alexander award winner Kate Bischoff taught us that planting some shrubs keeps away annoying invasive neighbors; and,

WHEREAS, Anna M. Jackson Award winner Rachel Stein discussed the importance of viewsheds for pygmy rabbits and their predators; too bad for intrepid auction coordinator Brad Blood that she hadn't used her skills to analyze the soundshed of the ASM auction space prior to the event; and,

WHEREAS, the Shadle Fellowship winner Matt Snider demonstrated that dressing for success looks like a zebra tuxedo with a distinct east African flair; and,

WHEREAS, A. Brazier Howell Award winner Sean Johnson-Bice showed us that arctic foxes are good at tending tundra gardens to attract diverse visitors; and,

WHEREAS, Elmer C. Birney Award winner Miranda Theriot showed us that lynx skulls shrunk while marten skulls grew larger towards the end of the 20th century; we think Bob Sikes follows the mustelid model, so he will need to buy a bigger hat down the road; and,

WHEREAS, Murie Family Conservation Award winner Monica Engel taught us that listening attentively to the importance of engaging local stakeholders in conservation efforts is critical to dealing with human/wildlife conflict; and,

WHEREAS, we learned from ASM Fellowship Award winner Marissa Dyck that Dracula's legacy is a diverse and abundant carnivore community in the Carpathian Mts.; and,

WHEREAS, when it comes to statistics and probability, Joseph Grinnell Award winner Rob Swihart suggested that we are all dim bulbs, but by using high-power mode, we can increase our wattage; and,

WHEREAS, C. Hart Merriam Award winner Felisa Smith showed us that mean mammalian body mass has decreased precipitously since the Pleistocene; this makes us wonder - does the human population provide contradictory data?; and,

WHEREAS, the IMC-14 meeting will be in Bonito, Brazil in 2027, and we warmly congratulate Alex Percequillo and his committee for winning their bid by acclimation rather than relying on the large contingent of meeting attendees from Brazil to skew the vote totals; and,

WHEREAS, the numbering pattern of posterboards provided attendees an ideal testing ground for random-walk models; and,

WHEREAS, the dorm rooms at University of Alaska - Anchorage allowed mammalogists to experience the body size/space ratio of a *Peromyscus* in an unbaited Sherman trap; and,

WHEREAS, mammalogists at the Alaska Native Heritage Center for the diversity social/picnic who failed to identify mammal pelts and wild sciurids must turn in their mammologist card immediately! And that means you, Noe de la Sancha and Kelly Speer; and,

WHEREAS, one recurring theme which notably pervaded this year's IMC-13 meeting was that of climate change, an insidious global threat for which we ignore at our own peril; and,

WHEREAS, Dr. Sarah James, a Gwich'in elder, gave a powerful presentation regarding the importance of indigenous knowledge and ways of life encouraging us to advocate for conservation of the Porcupine caribou herd and increased protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; and,

WHEREAS, the University of Alaska - Anchorage dorms are top contenders for setting the record for the tightest security ever at an ASM meeting – a keycard was required to enter the building, the elevator, the suite, and the room; and,

WHEREAS, the Resolutions Committee laments the fact that the Host Resolution (and other resolutions) will be decoupled from the Journal of Mammalogy soon; perhaps social media could make the Host Resolution more widely visible if only those of us on the committee knew how to use social media (what's that thing called – instabook?, facegram?); and,

WHEREAS, we are so proud of Barry Fox and the other 3 recipients of ASM's highest honor – honorary membership; and,

WHEREAS, the majestic mountains and beautiful inlets, bays, glaciers, and ocean provided the backdrop for this year's meeting and allowed mammalogists from every inhabited continent to get out in the field in many locations, especially Anchorage's Coastal Trail, and enjoy the abundant mammalian fauna around our meeting site, including moose, black bears, weasels, pikas, and other species, plus a great diversity of those vertebrates with feathers; and,

WHEREAS, the Resolutions Committee disavows any claims that this year's Host Resolution was written by Chat GPT; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the American Society of Mammalogists, meeting at their 103rd annual meeting in Anchorage, Alaska, 14-20 July 2023, hereby sincerely thank Kerrell and Damon Dunsmore and family of The Next Great Event, Kevin Kowalczyk of Giant Steps Consulting, Christi Classi from the ASM Business Office, Daria Cohen and Grant Goldhar of XC-D (our meeting platform), and especially Cody Thompson, John Hanson, and the Program Committee for their dedication and hard work in planning and organizing this successful meeting, which allowed us to see our friends and colleagues in person as well as virtually, and for providing us all with just the most incredibly fun, productive, and memorable experience.