

American Society of Naturalists

To advance understanding of evolution, ecology, behavior, and other broad biological disciplines toward the conceptual unification of the biological sciences

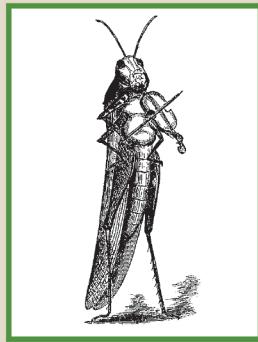
What Is a Naturalist?

“A naturalist can draw on a deep and broad familiarity with one or more groups of organisms or ecological communities in order to inspire ideas, evaluate hypotheses, and intelligently design research with an awareness of organisms’ special peculiarities. Even more, perhaps, a naturalist is inexhaustibly fascinated by biological diversity and does not view organisms merely as models or vehicles for theory but rather as the *raison d'être* for biological investigation.”

—Based on Douglas Futuyama, “Wherfore and Whither the Naturalist?” *American Naturalist* (1998) 151:2

The American Naturalist

In 1867, four men, veterans of the American Civil War and former students of Louis Agassiz at Harvard’s Museum of Comparative Zoology, created a journal that would unite the serious scientific study of organisms in their environments with the development of theory, especially Charles Darwin’s ideas about evolution. They wanted to foster a forum where experts could share insights across many fields. The first issue of *The American Naturalist* was published in March 1867.



The American Society of Naturalists

In 1883, two of the editors of *The American Naturalist* joined with others to form the American Society of Naturalists, a society devoted to cultivating conversation across disciplines. Later, as science became more specialized and professionalized and as more narrowly focused societies broke off from the ASN, members of the ASN reaffirmed the importance of a society whose mission was to promote unification through integration across disciplines. In 1908, both the ASN and *The American Naturalist* recognized evolution as the theory most able to promote the conceptual unification of the biological sciences and embraced its study as central to the mission of the society and the journal. In 1950, the ASN assumed full editorial control of *The American Naturalist*.

An American Society with an International Scope

A third of the membership of the ASN lives outside the United States, and more than half of the submissions to the *The American Naturalist* come from authors in 45 other countries. Institutions in 42 countries around the globe subscribe to the journal, and more than 5,000 libraries in more than 100 developing nations receive access to *The American Naturalist* at no cost or at a deep discount.

Promoting the Conversation in the ASN

- **Stand-alone meetings** on themes of interest across ecology, evolution, and behavioral biology.
- **Graduate student workshops** focused especially on methods integrating data and theory.
- **Graduate student travel awards** supporting travel to annual meetings.
- **Student research grants** supporting research incorporating the conceptual integration for which the ASN stands.
- **Vice-Presidential symposia** publishing themed issues across ecology, evolution, and behavioral biology.
- **ASN symposia** presenting synthetic issues in evolution, ecology, and behavior at the annual meetings.

ASN Awards Honor Those Who Advance the Goals of the Society

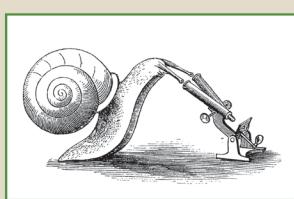
- **Honorary Lifetime Membership**, honoring scientists whose research careers epitomize the goals of the society.
- **Sewall Wright Award**, honoring a senior but still active investigator making fundamental contributions to the society's goals.
- **Edward O. Wilson Naturalist Award**, honoring an active investigator in mid-career who has made significant contributions to the knowledge of a particular ecosystem or group of organisms.
- **Jasper Loftus-Hills Young Investigators Award**, recognizing outstanding and promising work by investigators who received their doctorate degrees within the three years preceding the application deadline.
- **Ruth Patrick Student Poster Award**, recognizing an outstanding poster presented by a student member at the meetings of the ASN.
- **President's Award**, honoring an outstanding article published in *The American Naturalist* in the previous year.
- **The American Naturalist Student Paper Award**, honoring student work published in *The American Naturalist* that best represents the goals of the ASN.

Promoting the Conversation in *The American Naturalist*

The journal welcomes the submission of manuscripts that develop new conceptual syntheses, pose new and significant problems, introduce novel subjects to the readership, or change the way people think about topics of interest to a broad readership.

In addition to articles and notes, *The American Naturalist* publishes

- **Syntheses**, which analyze and synthesize recent findings in the biological sciences and present new perspectives on those results.
- **Historical Syntheses**, which examine the role of earlier articles that have influenced the development and integration of the natural sciences.
- **Natural History Miscellany Notes**, which enlighten our understanding of the natural history of a species and of biological diversity.
- **E-Articles**, which offer color publishing at no additional cost to contributors.



The Logo of the American Society of Naturalists

The snail looking into a microscope appeared at the end of the introductory essay featured in the very first issue of *The American Naturalist*, in March 1867. It was drawn by E. S. Morse, one of the journal's founders; Morse's amply illustrated "The Land Snails of New England" was the first article to be published in the journal. The image of the grasshopper playing a violin (seen on the reverse) was also drawn by Morse and appeared in the article "The Songs of the Grasshopper," published in the May 1868 issue.

Forthcoming Meetings of the American Society of Naturalists

- Evolution 2014, Annual Joint Meeting of the ASN, SSB, and SSE—June 19–25, Raleigh, North Carolina
- Evolution 2015, Annual Joint Meeting of the ASN, SSB, and SSE—June 26–30, Guarujá, São Paulo, Brazil
- Evolution 2016, TBD
- Evolution 2017, TBD
- Evolution 2018, Joint Meeting of the ASN, SSB, SSE, and European Society for Evolutionary Biology—August 15–20, Montpellier, France