

Legacy Committee Report for SSB Council Meeting, 24 June 2022.

Committee (in alphabetical order): Tracy Heath, Michael Landis, Jim Rohlf, Gary Schnell, Chris Simon (head), Stacey Smith, Rosana Zenil-Ferguson.

1) Ideas for the 75th Anniversary or the journal Systematic Biology/Systematic Zoology in 2026. Subject to approval by the Council and the Editor. [Note that the 75th anniversary of the Society is in 2023.]

- a) We suggest that the Communications Director post in a prominent place on the SSB website, and on SSB Social Media, a call for suggestions for “Evolving View/Timeline” articles (for the 75th anniversary issue as described in the ad below) and a call for notable papers in SB/SZ.
- b) We suggest that in addition, the President announce the same call during the announcement period just before the Past Presidential Address by Laura Kubatko) and/or at the members business meeting.
- c) The committee also suggests some additional articles for the Anniversary volume 75 of the journal (pending council discussion and approval):
 - a. Gary Schnell and David Hillis would be willing to write a follow-up to Hull’s “31 years of SZ”, to highlight how the subjects have changed, how the journal has changed, how various editors have influenced the journal, how the landscape of academic publishing has changed. They will highlight the importance of the new journal Bulletin of SSB, etc.
 - b. Michael Landis is willing to contact Mike Donoghue to ask about co-authoring a “Look back and look forward” follow-up to his 50th anniversary essay.
 - c. Rosana Zenil-Fergusson would be willing to write an opinion piece focusing on the first three women winners of the Mayr Award.
 - d. Rosana would also be willing to contact Aleta Quinn, historian of Systematic Biology, to propose an historical article about an SSB subject.
 - e. Jim Rohlf would be willing to write an historical essay on the history of numerical papers in our journal (I suggested the title, “Too many numbers” after Jim showed me a letter to him from SZ Editor Libby Hyman complaining that his papers contained “too many numbers.”)

Advertisement to be posted: Call for Ideas. 75th Anniversary of the journal Systematic Biology in 2026

75th Anniversary of the journal Systematic Biology/Systematic Zoology in 2026

The Legacy Committee of the Society of Systematic Biologists is preparing for the celebration of the 75th anniversary of its premier journal in 2026. We are calling for nominations related to that celebration in two categories: (1) for Notable Papers that have been published in Systematic Biology/Systematic Zoology; and (2) for a topic that would be most appropriate to cover in one of a series of “Evolving View/Timeline” papers to be published in the 75th volume of the journal.

Nominations for “Notable Papers” should include the full citation, the abstract of the paper or a summary, and a one-paragraph explanation of the paper’s importance. Papers selected will be compiled and posted in a dedicated place on the publisher’s website.

A nomination for a topic to be covered in a proposed “Evolving View/Timeline” paper should include suggested authors (including a designated coordinator), plus a one-paragraph description. An example of such a paper (that originated as a symposium introduction in 2019) can be found at:

<https://academic.oup.com/sysbio/article-abstract/71/4/921/5904279>

If selected, the Editor will contact the authors and commission the review. Please send nominations by email to legacy@systematicbiologists.org, with the subject line reading “Notable Papers” or “Evolving View/Timeline,” as appropriate. Nominations should be received by 1 October 2022. The Legacy Committee will review the nominations and make recommendations to the Council and to the Editor of Systematic Biology for approval.

2) SSB Knowledge Base Suggestions (See below for updates to github docs and presidential bios added since the following info was passed to the communications director via email on 18Feb2022)

- a) Create a list of important SSB documents that are archived. Make our historical documents accessible from our website (in addition to on GitHub) including a link to the SSB and SSZ past meeting locations, past presidential addresses, past meetings, etc.
- b) Make sure that the following documents are on the SSB git-Hub page:
 - 1) From our long-time CPA Rob Clayton: Connecticut Annual Report.SSB 03.03.2020.pdf [**needed to retain tax-exempt status**]; Constitution of the Society of Systematic Biologists, IRS Exemption Letter to SSB.pdf, Society of Systematic Biologists Inc.-CT-Cert Copy of Articles of Inc_.pdf.
 - 2) C. Simon has: D&O insurance paperwork for reinstatement of incorporation for SSB; SSB tax exempt status; SSB incorporation 1991; SSZ Incorporation 1971 RU7226 box 20 folder 1 (probably a box in the Smithsonian Archives).
- c) Other possible items for the GitHub page
 - 1) A list of past and future SSB meetings (including stand-alone).
 - 2) Scans of past SSB meeting programs? (CS has a large collection).
- d) SSB should decide which documents need to be kept confidential for use by the executives only.
- e) CS Wrote to Scott Miller about the Smithsonian Archives. He provided the “finding record” -- https://siarchives.si.edu/collections/siris_arc_229130
The archivist is Jennifer Wright WrightJM@si.edu. She said that SSB could deposit more material as needed or retrieve any material.
- f) Changes needed on the SSB website:
 - 1) Add a list of current trustees and past trustees under the “About” tab where all the other execs are listed. This should include Bio-blurbs and photographs

- 2) Fix President's Award Bios (CS has contacted all the winners.) [Perhaps it would be better to have a standard format for the short bios similar to those of the people who run for SSB office so they are not lopsided.]
- i. Corrected paragraph for Hillis: "The fourth award was presented to David Hillis in 2012. David Hillis has contributed greatly to SSB and to the field of systematics in many ways. In 1990, as Editor of Systematic Zoology, he spearheaded the replacement of "Zoology" with "Biology" in the name of both the society and the journal. The 1990 book he co-edited with Craig Moritz and the 1996 second edition that added Barbara Mable as an editor, [Molecular Systematics](#), served for more than a decade as the primary textbook for modern systematics and phylogenetics. David served as President elect, President and Past President of SSB from 1993-1995. Many of leaders in the Society and in the field of systematics have been trained in the Hillis lab, including 4 Mayr Award winners (McGuire, Poe, Messenger, and Huelsenbeck) and 1 past president (Huelsenbeck). (Image from [University of Texas College of Natural Sciences](#) website.)"
 - ii. Corrected paragraph for Simon: "The seventh award was made to Chris Simon in 2020 and presented at the Virtual Evolution meetings in 2021. Chris is widely recognized as a world expert on cicada phylogenomics and evolution with a special interest in periodical cicadas and New Zealand cicadas. She has a distinguished record of contributions at the interface of systematics theory and applications, and her work, has been influential in guiding methodological development of techniques for molecular phylogenetics. Chris also had an early and ongoing role in promoting citizen science and science outreach. She has been a tireless advocate and promoter of the activities of SSB, with continuous involvement in society activities from 1993 onward, including service as a member of various committees including Nominations (1993, 2009, 2016-2019), SSB/SSE joint council (1998-2001), Mayr Award (1994) and Legacy (2022). She served as Program Director (1995-1998), Secretary/EVP (1998-2001), Editor Elect then Editor of Systematic Biology from 2000-2004, and as President-Elect, President, and Past-President from 2006-2008. One of her PhD students was a past SSB President and Editor (Sullivan) and one of her grandstudents was past Editor (Carstens) and another a council member (Marske)."
 - iii. Corrected paragraph from David and Wayne Maddison: The fifth and sixth awards were presented jointly to Wayne and David Maddison in 2016. As collaborators or individually they have been the creators of many of the core methods and software at the heart of modern systematics, investigating everything from character coevolution to diversification processes to estimates of gene flow. Their software includes Mesquite, MacClade, and the Tree of Life Web project (TOLWeb). They also co-developed (with David Swofford) the NEXUS file format, widely used for storing data and other information for systematics. David served as President of SSB in the year 2000. They are also noteworthy for their long term focus and care for their research organisms. Their passion began

through encounters with salamanders and mayflies, sidewalk beetles and cecropia moths, unexpected jumping spiders and dashing tiger beetles, inspiring a life-long research program on species discovery and phylogeny of jumping spiders (Wayne) and ground beetles (David).

- iv. Ziheng Yang does not have any corrections to suggest.
- v. Did not hear back from Joe Felsenstein or Dave Swofford yet.

- 3) Vicki Funk's Service Award is not listed on the website; please add it. I think it was given at the Bloomington (2000) or Urbana (2002) Meetings (but someone should check the minutes). Here is a suggested blurb... "Vicki Funk has been an enthusiastic contributor to the Society in many ways. Even though a botanist, she was active in SSZ and served as treasurer from 1995-1998; while treasurer, she worked to build up the endowment begun by Ernst Mayr. She was a council member in 1989 and 1996. When Vicki became President elect of SSB in 1998 and president in 1999, she created the idea of Trustees who would invest and grow the endowment and this was written into the Constitution. Vicki appointed Terry Yates as Chair, along with herself and Joel Cracraft as trustees [link to past and present trustees under the History tab of this website]. Vicki was again Treasurer of SSB from 2005-2006. Vicki continued as trustee for many years until health considerations forced her to step down. As SSB president, Vicki created the idea that all presidents should choose a "mission" to help improve SSB. Her mission was to extend the reach of SSB internationally and she worked with systematics societies in South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand to get this started. Her SSB Presidential lecture focused on the importance of training and supporting young systematists with an emphasis on field work."

- g) Consider changing the SSB Constitution to add the Legacy committee in Article VII. Section 1.

- 3) Committee contacted Jeremy Brown, Communications Director about hiring his grad student to help improve the website. Emily Jane is working with Jeremy to accomplish the hire. Perhaps this student or another could look through the Smithsonian Archives for other documents that would be useful to place in the document repository on the SSB github page.

Questions for the council:

Q. Question for the council: Who is authorized to create a Legacy Committee email address Legacy@systematicbiologists.org? And, how can we access it?

Q. Should Presidential Award recipient blurbs be standardized? At present, each is very different.

Q. Should we archive all Editors's records? (Some are discarded already.) Should confidential reviews be available after 60 (75?) years? We suspect that "permission to share" would need to be obtained from the reviewers as well as the author; this would be impractical for past Editor's records but could be implemented as part of the review process in the future.