

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF MARINE INVERTEBRATE TAXONOMISTS



November–December, 2017

SCAMIT Newsletter

Vol. 36 No. 4



Back Row from left to right: Larry Lovell, Tony Phillips, Dean Pentcheff, Gabe Rodriguez, Brent Haggin, Mike McCarthy, Cody Larsen, Craig Campbell, Rob Gamber, Ernest Ruckman, Danny Tang, Ben Ferraro
Front Row from left to right: Kelvin Barwick, Don Cadien, Joanne Linnenbrink, Megan Lilly, Norbert Lee, Wendy Enright, Leslie Harris, Erin Oderlin, Jennifer Smolenski, Terra Petry, Greg Lyon

This Issue

14 NOVEMBER 2017, POLYCHAETE TOOLBOX REVIEW, OCSD, K. BARWICK	2
11 DECEMBER 2017, SCAMIT ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, SCCWRP	3
SCAMIT OFFICERS.....	7

The SCAMIT newsletter is not deemed to be a valid publication for formal taxonomic purposes.

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14 NOVEMBER 2017, POLYCHAETE TOOLBOX REVIEW, OCSD, K. BARWICK

Attendance: Kelvin Barwick, Rob Gamber, Ernest Ruckman, OCSD; Jennifer Smolenski, CLAEMD; Larry Lovell, Tony Phillips, DCE; Matt Nelson, Gabriel Rodriguez, Ron Velarde, CSD; Bill Furlong, Brent Haggin, LACSD. **Remote attendees:** Ricardo Martinez-Lara, Veronica Rodriguez-Villanueva, CSD; Dot Norris, Retired.

The day began with a discussion of the upcoming Annual Membership meeting scheduled for December 11th at SCCWRP. A few agenda items are:

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Visit the SCAMIT website at: www.scamit.org for the latest upcoming meetings announcements.

- Major and minor changes to the constitution will be presented and voted upon by attendant members
- Officers will present reports on the current standing of SCAMIT
- The Species Review Committee Chair will present an update on the new and upcoming Species List
- Future meetings will be scheduled

Other items of interest were:

- SCCWRP, in conjunction with the Smithsonian, *may* present a barcoding project that could be of interest to SCAMIT
- Members can now request receipts from SCAMIT through PayPal
- SCAMIT has authorized the Biodiversity Heritage Library to upload the newsletters

The main subject of the meeting was a review of the polychaete portion of the SCAMIT Toolbox. Kelvin reminded everyone that the eventual goal is to have a SCAMIT Taxonomic Database with links to all taxa. But for the present we continue to use the Toolbox and must strive to keep it as current and useful as possible.

Kelvin's first question was - How should the organization of hierarchies be handled? Should we eliminate all higher phyla and just stick to phylum and families? This line of speculation caused Brent Haggin to ask, how will we handle in-house provisionals? Maybe there should be a separate tab underneath each taxon?

The majority of the meeting was spent going through individual species of polychaetes, one by one, reviewing each document attached to each taxon link. Documents were appraised for quality of information, scan quality, and relevance. To help with this process, taxonomists brought their personal and lab notebooks (filled with voucher sheets, character tables, diagrams, images, etc.), offering up new documents if they were helpful and revisions to existing documents if they were out of date. The taxon documents were either left as is, flagged to be updated/revised, noted to be switched out with a better scanned copy, marked if the taxonomic hierarchy needed to be changed, or identified for removal. The taxonomists used a working excel spreadsheet, created by Kelvin from a down load readily available on the web site as a link at the bottom of the list, to track changes (or non-changes) to be made to each document, the responsible party assigned to handle that change, and the details as to what that change will be. The taxonomists also reviewed some of the 'remainder files' (at the bottom of the Toolbox page), and decided to delete some



files and upgrade some to the actual Toolbox. Out of 497 documents in the Toolbox 108 were reviewed. Kelvin will collect all promised material along with the list of changes which will eventually be given to our webmaster to update the Toolbox. Another meeting will be scheduled to continue the review process.

11 DECEMBER 2017, SCAMIT ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, SCCWRP

Attendance: Kelvin Barwick, Mike McCarthy, Danny Tang, Ben Ferraro, Rob Gamber, Ernest Ruckman, OCSO; Megan Lilly, Wendy Enright, Katie Beauchamp, CSD; Dean Pentcheff, Leslie Harris, NHMLAC; Larry Lovell, Tony Phillips, DCE; Brent Haggin, Norbert Lee, Terra Petry, Don Cadien, LACSD; JoAnne Linnenbrink, Cody Larsen, Craig Campbell, Jennifer Smolenksi, Greg Lyon, Erin Oderlin, CLAEMD;

Kelvin started the day by talking about SCAMIT's new relationship with the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL). The BHL will now have SCAMIT newsletters available in its collections.

As for upcoming meetings, SCUM XXII will be held 27 Jan 2018 at the Scripps Benthic Invertebrates Collections hosted by Greg Rouse and Charlotte Seid. As of this moment during opening remarks, no SCAMIT meetings are scheduled after this one but we are hoping to change that during today's meeting.

Larry Lovell then had the floor and mentioned that he brought a few boxes of polychaete reprints, some of which were donations from Beth Horvath, and people could peruse and help themselves at lunch time or after the meeting.

Wendy Enright announced next year's WSM/AMS meetings will be held 19-22 June 2018, in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Don Cadien then discussed his library donation to SCAMIT. He was hoping the library would sell and raise funds for SCAMIT. However, it did not find a buyer and is currently residing in Don's office at Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD). Don made the sad announcement that he is most likely retiring in the next year and so the library will need to move to a new location, whether for new ownership (sold) or storage. He felt we needed to discuss where it should go and how it can benefit SCAMIT. The entire literature collection is catalogued in EndNote and is immensely valuable, representing Don's long and illustrious career as a marine biologist, naturalist extraordinaire, and bibliophile. There was some discussion about advertising it outside the SCAMIT community. Maybe we could post it on various phyla list servers such as CrustL etc. There was also talk of sorting the collection in to different disciplines/phyla and offering it in sections. At this point representatives from the City of Los Angeles Environmental Monitoring Division (CLAEMD) offered to store it. We may still sell it but it will reside at CLAEMD for the foreseeable future. Don said there are professional dealers who would sell it, but he hates to go that route because they will jack up the price and make it less available. Kelvin made a motion, and it was seconded and approved, that we take CLAEMD up on their offer to store Don's library. If we haven't sold it in a year, by default, CLAEMD gets to keep it in perpetuity.

Speaking of literature, Larry announced he has 15 years of issues of The Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington, and 10 years of Southern California Academy of Science (SCAS) bulletins. They are stored in boxes and he is willing to donate them to SCAMIT. We thought of advertising them on the SCAMIT list server, and other options. Ultimately it was tabled and the SCAMIT officers were nominated to decide how to handle the donation.



Leslie sadly announced that Gene Ruff passed away on 26 November 2017. She talked about what a nice person Gene had been and how generous he was with sharing knowledge and his unfailing optimism. He was very knowledgeable about polychaetes of the west coast. Tony Phillips agreed that Gene had always been willing to share knowledge and lend help where needed. He worked as a consultant for years with many CA consulting and research agencies and will be sorely missed.

With the general business over it was time to address one of the primary tasks of this annual membership meeting – SCAMIT Constitution revisions. Kelvin passed out a hard copy of the 2008 version with line numbers. Here is a list of the most significant changes proposed:

- **Article 4: Dues** - Change wording so that dues can be determined by a vote of the Executive Committee
- **Article 4: Dues** - Change wording that electronic members will be “notified” when the newsletter is available on the website; changing from “received” since we no longer send the newsletter out via email
- **Article 9: Amendments:** - Change wording so that it reads “proposed actions will be emailed to the membership”, instead of “mailed” to the membership; change it in **Article 10** as well
- **Article 12:** remove “https:” from the website name
- Change the word “mail” to “email” throughout the document; (The membership form will be updated so that there’s a check box for mail only for those who still don’t have access to email)
- Fix the page numbers in the Constitution

During the discussion a number of additional changes, not enumerated here, were discussed. All proposed changes were approved by a unanimous vote.

Also, it was noted that we need to clarify what exclusive benefits come with a paid SCAMIT membership. For example, inclusion in the SCAMIT General Topics list server. It was remarked that this, as well as other benefits, could be included on the membership application as well as added to a “Benefits” section of the website.

A group photo was taken to put on the cover of this newsletter. Then we broke for lunch provided by SCAMIT. Thanks to members Danny Tang and Ben Ferraro for arranging and retrieving lunch.

With the Constitution edits completed it was time to hear from our Treasurer, Erin Oderlin. She announced she has successfully established a PayPal account for SCAMIT. Members who wish to renew via PayPal will incur the PayPal fees which are 2.2% plus a .30 cent transaction fee. The current membership dues structure, *if one chooses to use PayPal*, are as follows:

- Electronic member - \$20.74
- Hard copy member - \$36.07
- Institutional member - \$66.62



We are working on getting a PayPal option on the website. Our current goal is to get it functional on the SCAMIT website before May 2018 (next year's membership renewal month). Erin also shared the annual SCAMIT Treasury Summary which is attached at the end of this newsletter.

With that it was time for a Species List Review Committee (SLRC) Update. We reviewed action items from the last meeting and commented on progress to date. Edition 12 of the List is still being reviewed and has no date certain for publication.

Dean Pentcheff (SCAMIT webmaster) asked members to send him suggestions for any changes to the pdf version of the Species List. Tony Phillips asked for color codes on taxa; Larry Lovell thought an index (at front of the document) to Families within Phyla would be helpful; Don Cadien and Brent Haggin suggested being able to hover the pointer over a taxa and its systematic hierarchy would be shown.

The next subject to be considered was the impending Bight'18 project. Don started by querying members if we wanted to have two meetings per month leading up to B'18 in order to standardize our approach. At first we all agreed but upon further discussion we decided that the 2 meetings/month schedule is more important once the B'18 samples are back and being processed as it gives taxonomists opportunities to bring problem specimens to meetings for review and assistance.

The molecular discussion then began, as it has with the last few Bight projects. The Smithsonian has offered to run molecular analysis on any animals sent their way. Dean Pentcheff chimed in and let us know that the NHMLAC is partnering with the Smithsonian and it might be simpler to just deposit the animals to the NHMLAC; in this way the animals will stay on the West Coast. This then led to a discussion on the logistics of taking extra samples to be preserved in ETOH, sorted, and identified by participating agencies and taxonomists. This is most likely not going to happen as there is no money being offered to offset the cost of taking and processing additional samples. If there was money available even just for the taxonomic identification portion, in order to hire retired taxonomists, it could be a reality, but no one is holding their breath. On a positive note regarding molecular analysis, the DNA results from the Bight '13 trawl animals are complete and can be found in the BOLD database.

It was asked if there was going to be a specialty taxonomy option for B'18. The general feeling was that there would be no funding set aside for this, but there has been no definitive answer as of yet.

On the chance that specialty taxonomy is funded, people were asked to suggest taxa that they feel either need to be addressed as specialty taxonomy or that might need pre-B'18 meetings to try to standardize our approach. Megan Lilly suggested the following groups:

- Anthozoa (specialty taxonomy)
- Apodus holothuroids (pre-B'18 meeting)
- Trawl inverts (pre-B'18 meeting if other members feel it is necessary)
- Hoplonemertea (specialty taxonomy)
- Heteronemertea (pre-B'18 meeting)



Vice President Leslie Harris had the floor next. We talked about the logistics of having 2 meetings per month and suggested not having the same phyla twice in the same month so people are spared from having to attend two meetings a month. Before the scheduling began we agreed that the bimonthly meetings would be scheduled “if needed” but for the moment our goal for the day was to schedule monthly meetings throughout the next 12 months. Kelvin took this opportunity to remind everyone that Toolbox review meetings are pertinent and important prior to the processing of B’18 samples. It was decided that most meetings should be a combination of taxonomy teaching, and Toolbox and Species List review. And with that we began scheduling the next year’s meetings.

- 22 January 2018 - Anthozoans at OCSD; M. Lilly
- 5 February 2018 - Scaphopods at the NHMLAC Invertebrate Paleontology Collections; Katy Estes-Smargiassi
- 21 & 22 March 2018 – Ascidian workshop at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium
Dr. Gretchen Lambert
- 16 April 2018 – Phoxocephalids workshop at CSD; D. Pasko
- 7 May 2018 – Mollusca, problems and review, at OCSD; K. Barwick
- 11 June 2018 – Orbiniidae, *Leitoscoloplos* (Brent Haggin) and *Scoloplos* (Ashley Loveland), general review, at NHMLAC
- 20 August 2018 – Terebellids Part II at NHMLAC; Leslie Harris
- 10 September 2018 – Holothuroid review – apodus conventions; *Apostichopus*, general questions or concerns, Toolbox/Species List review at TBD; M. Lilly
- 15 October 2018 – Spionidae/Polydorinae, at NHMLAC; L. Harris and T. Phillips
- 5 November 2018 – Nemertea problems, at OCSD or CSD; M. Lilly?
- December – Annual General Membership meeting

There was as brief discussion about having other “outside experts” come in and give a workshop or presentation on their specialties. One suggestion was Megan Schwartz who works on nemerteans of this coast. She is based in Oregon/Coos Bay and if she can provide tools to help “working” taxonomists SCAMIT could look in to funding a visit; it would most likely be after July 2018.

And with that we adjourned a productive SCAMIT meeting.



Please visit the SCAMIT Website at: www.scamit.org

SCAMIT OFFICERS

If you need any other information concerning SCAMIT please feel free to contact any of the officers at their e-mail addresses:

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The SCAMIT newsletter is published every two months and is distributed freely to members in good standing. Membership is \$15 for an electronic copy of the newsletter, available via the web site at www.scamit.org, and \$30 to receive a printed copy via USPS. Institutional membership, which includes a mailed printed copy, is \$60. All correspondences can be sent to the Secretary at the email address above or to:

SCAMIT
PO Box 50162
Long Beach, CA 90815

SCAMIT Treasury Summary 2016-2017

Below is the treasurer's report for 2016-2017. Once again we did **not** raise dues thanks to so much continued support from all of you! We have 148 members across the US and worldwide. SCAMIT awarded one publication grant this past year to Kelvin Barwick for publishing: *A new species of the genus Policordia (Bivalvia, Verticordioidea, Lyonsiellidae) from off the coast of southern California*. Please help get the word out that these funds are available. As stipulated in our grant policy, we have **\$7,601.83** or 25% of our operating budget of \$30,407.34, which does not include database funds, available for publication grants this year. The taxonomic database support tools on our website were maintained by our webmaster. The database expense totaled \$405.00. We have been doing a great job catching up on newsletter publications; therefore, that expense is higher than in past years, totaling \$678.28.

Account Balances (as of 4/30/17)

Checking	\$ 20,377.31
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 10,030.03
Database Fund	<u>\$ 244.55</u>
Total	\$ 30,651.89

Income

2016-2017 Membership dues	\$ 2,400.00
D. Cadien Bergen Microscope Purchase	\$ 1,000.00
Interest from CD	<u>\$ 4.35</u>
Total	\$ 3,404.35

Expenses

Meeting refreshments	\$ 53.53
Annual Member Luncheon	\$ 308.02
Christmas Luncheon	\$ 300.68
2017 PO Box	\$ 134.00
Check Order	\$ 27.00
Adobe In Design for NL creation	\$ 239.88
Website Content & Design	\$ 405.00
Kelvin Barwick Publication Grant	\$ 311.13
Newsletters (printing/postage)	<u>\$ 678.28</u>
Total	\$ 2,457.52