

ASM Host Resolution 2024

WHEREAS, after many years of planning and postponing, mammalogists finally got to experience that long-awaited Rocky Mountain high that comes with convening our annual meeting at the University of Colorado-Boulder; and

WHEREAS, for this year's annual meeting, the program committee accepted 348 abstracts, and we had 514 attendees, made up of 56% females, and 226 students; we had 93 attendees who have attended more than 10 ASM meetings, and an incredible 248 attendees who are attending the ASM meeting for the very 1st time – simply amazing!; and,

WHEREAS, to those of you who are 1st time attendees, we enthusiastically welcome you to the ASM family and greatly look forward to seeing you at our future meetings; and,

WHEREAS, the Coach Prime staircase physical conditioning drill was a rather unwelcome surprise for mammalogists attending the closing social; and,

WHEREAS, clear cases of altitude sickness were on full display for everyone in the dorms who were able to successfully scale the challenging height of their beds; and,

WHEREAS, in place of lightning talks, Boulder provided lightning strikes; and,

WHEREAS, we gathered to remember our cherished lost members at our newly established session “ASM Remembers”; and,

WHEREAS, the recent passing of our friend Mac McIntyre really saddened us, and at the home for old mammalogists located somewhere out there, C Hart Merriam, Hartley HT Jackson, Vernon Bailey, and their cohorts are enjoying a cold beverage and being regaled with many a story from the Big Lumpy (i.e., the oceans) by Mac, tales which are sure to include the one about the beached whale and Chain Saw Schmidly; and,

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that the 103rd meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists was being held on the ancestral homelands of the Arapaho, Cheyenne, Ute and many other Native American nations, and that the science of mammalogy and our understanding of Colorado mammals is less rich because of Indigenous voices that have been excluded or lost; and,

WHEREAS, we learned that all bison statues in town were secured, and that Ralphie, the Univ of Colorado mascot bison, was provided with a clever disguise as a dairy cow by the local committee, because 500 mammalogists were coming to town looking for non-lethal samples; and,

WHEREAS, in honor of this year's ASM meeting, the Colorado Shakespeare Festival occurring during this year's meeting is rolling out a new production of Hamlet which will feature the skull of Yorick as a pronghorn; and,

WHEREAS, Hailey Jacobson explored the escalator to extinction on her way to winning the Annie M. Alexander award; and,

WHEREAS, Anna M. Jackson award winner Ellen Dymit proposed a new indicator for future fecal analysis presentations at ASM: the poop emoji; and,

WHEREAS, we were reminded by A Brazier Howell award winner Jesse Laney the fun and joy of field work, something we can all appreciate; and,

WHEREAS, Elmer C Birney award winner Julia Owens-Ramos used a whole genome landscape and runs of homozygosity to demonstrate the ancient status of the Channel Island Spotted skunk lineage, and skillfully justified using a sample size of 2; and,

WHEREAS, Albert R. and Alma Shadle award winner Mauriel Rodriguez Curras showed us that wolves on Isle Royale prefer moose for dinner, but sometimes they like to switch their diet to beavers named “Steve”; and,

WHEREAS, the Murie Family Conservation Award winner Heru Handika humbly set his presentation expectation bar low, but managed to accomplish a most impressive research program on Indonesian mammals; and,

WHEREAS, we learned from ASM Fellowship award winner Connor Burgin that a “C” in History can lead to an “A” in Mammalogy; and,

WHEREAS, Grinnell award winner Brian “the Dude” Arbogast taught us that the surest way to lower your course enrollment is to put up a circle phylogenetic tree on the 1st day of classes; and,

WHEREAS, C. Hart Merriam award winner Larry Heaney taught us that bait matters and that worms are not just for fish; and,

WHEREAS, at least OUR immediate Past-President has not been convicted of 34 felonies; and,

WHEREAS, the ASM *ad hoc* Vision Committee visited an ophthalmologist this spring and was found to have 20:10 eyesight; and,

WHEREAS, in an effort to build tons of anticipation, the ASM final program showed up for us the morning of the 1st day of the meeting; and,

WHEREAS, Janet Rachlow managed to get her 10,000 steps in at the BOD meeting by walking the microphone around the room for the entire day; and,

WHEREAS, UMC Food Services devised a stealth experiment testing scramble competition with ASM attendees following the Plenary I session when 500 mammalogists attempted to get into a room that fits 100 to compete for rapidly disappearing coffee; and,

WHEREAS, the secret is out – from the makers of the acclaimed film “The Mammalverse”, now comes “The Mammalverse: Part II The Rise of the Ice Age Mammals, directed by Felisa Smith; this film is a compelling story of a group of Ice Age Mammal friends set way back about the time of John Koprowski’s departure from Mongolia, and stars Duane Schlitter as the voice of Woolly Mammoth, John Hanson as the voice of Shasta Ground Sloth, Phil Sudman as the voice of Glyptodont, John Koprowski as the voice of Camelops, Al Gardner as the voice of Cave Bear and Christy McCain as the voice of Giant Ice Age Pika, and is beginning production this summer; and,

WHEREAS, mammalogists learned that, on the CU-Boulder campus, everything is closed on the weekend, even the Alferd (the cannibal) Packer Grill; and,

WHEREAS, herds of Lime Scooters seem to have replaced bison across Boulder; and,

WHEREAS, The Sink in Boulder is not just some place to wash your hands – it’s an iconic local establishment for good food, good beer, and great times with our colleagues; and,

WHEREAS, in a long-overdue victory, one of our most charismatic mammals, the wolverine, was granted ESA protection in Nov 2023, and last month, Colorado passed a bill to reintroduce wolverines to their state – way to go!; however, the companion bill to establish a wolverine petting zoo did not pass; and,

WHEREAS, the poster locations followed a complex two-tiered, double-blind numbering system as a test of logic capacity of presenters and attendees; and,

WHEREAS, during introductions at the BOD meeting, Cody Thompson revealed a “fun fact” about his former MS advisor Elmer Finck, which led everyone to immediately query Google Scholar for state records of human butt fungus; and,

WHEREAS, this year’s meeting is being held jointly with the North American Pika Consortium, whose namesake organisms are relegated to Sky Islands in the western US and face substantial threats due to climate change; and,

WHEREAS, during the 1st Members Meeting, ombudsperson Jessica Light gave a reminder of the Professional Code of Conduct and immediately dropped the mic - #jessicaout; and,

WHEREAS, the Univ Memorial Center’s ratio of urinals to toilets in the men’s room was even more confusing given the plethora of sinks, and may help explain the severe shortage of alcohol at the meeting; and,

WHEREAS, in a top-secret, elaborate experiment conducted by the Program Committee, bait-induced density manipulations of mammalogists in the form of legendary auctioneer Thor Holmes in a space-limited room at the auction, and food and beverages patchily distributed across the landscape in an art museum for the picnic; results - mammalogists took the bait!; and,

WHEREAS, the Resolutions Committee recommends that the ASM annual auction henceforth be known as the Thomas “Mac” McIntyre auction; and,

WHEREAS, the meeting venue provided ample opportunities to see and appreciate the fox squirrels, Eastern and desert cottontails, nesting barn swallows, trash pandas, and other wildlife species not to mention the breathtaking views of the Flatiron Mountains surrounding the campus,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Society of Mammalogists, meeting at their 103rd annual meeting from 7-11 June 2024 at the University of Colorado – Boulder, profusely thank those who were responsible for making this meet happen - Kerrell Dunsmore, her “work husband” Kevin Kowalczyk, and Nathan Sharpe from The Next Great Event, John Hanson and the Program Committee, Christy Classi, and a special show of gratitude to our local host Christy McCain and her able assistants Patricia Marquez, Cameron Pittman, Emily Braker, Helen Pigage, and Rachel Billings, the Campus Conference Support, the Dept of Evolutionary Biology, the CU Museum of Natural History, and the Denver Museum of Nature & Science for their hard work and dedication in the planning, organizing, and executing of this successful meeting, which allowed us the opportunity to visit with our friends and colleagues in person and provided us all with just the most incredibly fun, productive and memorable experience, and we cannot wait to reconvene in Indiana in 2025.

