

A Message from the President...



Dear Colleagues,

A culture of supporting students is a core value of the ASP. We have focused events such as the Student Mixer and Data Blitz at the annual meeting, and investments

including the student research awards and Ruppenthal student travel awards. Students are active members of standing committees, and we have an ad hoc Student Committee (co-chaired by students). These activities reflect ASP's dedication to students' development as primatologists.

I'd like to highlight the Ruppenthal student travel awards. Gerry Ruppenthal was an original member of the society and at the time of his death in 2005, he was one of the few members of the Society to have attended every annual meeting since the society's inception. Friends and ASP colleagues of Gerry initiated this award with donations in 2005 to honor his memory and his service to the Society. Gerry would often use his own funds to support new students who otherwise would be unable to attend the ASP meeting. The first awards were made in 2006. The first few years the award was funded from individual donations and the profits from Gerry's [folding perch invention](#) that was sold to Carter2 Systems Inc.

Later the ASP Board of Directors committed to contributing money via a percentage of profits from the previous year's meeting; and more recently, the Board of Directors committed to funding the Ruppenthal student travel awards independent of meeting profits. Additionally, since 2010, half of the proceeds from the annual Primate Promenade (fun run) have gone to the Ruppenthal student travel award fund. Since the initiation of these travel awards, ASP has provided more than \$25,000 in travel awards to over 50 young students to defray the costs associated with attending and presenting at the annual meeting.

We recently received a generous donation from a friend and former student of Gerry's, which will enable ASP to support eight students' attendance at the 2017 meeting in Washington, DC. I am truly grateful and in awe of the tireless dedication of so many primatologists who are supporting the future of our field.

Members of the Education Committee are hard at work evaluating the 20+ applicants to the student research award competition. The 5 - 8 finalists in both the Oral and Poster presentation categories will give a 2-minute Data Blitz during the opening session of ASP 2017 to publicize and succinctly describe their research. I look forward to learning about the exciting research of our student members in just a few short months, and to seeing you all at our 40th Anniversary meeting in Washington, D.C., in August!

~Kimberley A. Phillips
President, ASP

Join us for ASP's Ruby Anniversary! 40th Anniversary Meeting



Artwork by Michelle Bezanson

August 25-28, 2017
Washington Plaza Hotel
Washington, DC
Hosted by: Amanda M. Dettmer,
PhD
#ASPDC2017

ON-TIME REGISTRATION
ends July 15, 2017

HOTEL REGISTRATION
deadline is July 25, 2017

www.asp.org/meetings

Opening Reception August 25, 2017 at the National Zoo!

Hosted by Friends of the National Zoo & The George Washington University's Columbian College of Arts & Sciences



Batang, the baby orangutan born at the National Zoo in September 2016. Photos courtesy of the National Zoo.

Confirmed Speakers

Distinguished Primatologists Address

Robert Seyfarth, Ph.D. & Dorothy Cheney, Ph.D.
University of Pennsylvania

2016 ASP Early Career Award Winner's Address

Bernardo Urbani, Ph.D.
Center for Anthropology, Venezuelan Institute for Scientific Research

Past President's Address

Karen Bales, PhD
University of California, Davis

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Awards & Recognition

"The Awards and Recognition Committee is pleased to announce that the 2017 recipient of the Maderas Rainforest Conservancy Scholarship for Education and Training in Field Primatology is Natalia Roberts Buceta. Natalia is a senior at USC who will soon earn her B.S. in Human Biology. The scholarship will allow Natalia to gain valuable field experience while attending a summer course in Primate Behavior and Ecology at La Suerte."

~**Lynne Isbell**, ASP Awards & Recognition Committee Chair

Conservation

The ASP Conservation Committee supports conservation research and education around the world. The committee raises funds and distributes them to recipients of the Conservationist Award and Conservation Grants. We are currently working to increase our funding for **ASP Conservation Grants** and **Conservationist Awards**. We encourage members to continue using Amazon Smile and choosing the ASP when you make your online purchases (ASP donation via AmazonSmile: <http://bit.ly/ASPAmazonSmile>).

In addition, we are seeking donations for the **ASP/IPS auction** in Washington, DC. We had great success with original art pieces last year, so please keep those coming! As you travel this summer please keep the auction in mind. Any and all items are greatly appreciated--everything helps! And help us spread the word!

The conservation committee is busy reviewing **Conservation Grants!** We will make our recommendations for grants before the end of April 2017 so that grant recipients will be able to acquire their funds before the summer months. All applicants will be informed of decisions by May 2017, and successful applicants will be published in the ASP Bulletin and posted on the ASP web page.

Upcoming Deadlines:

Consider nominating a primatologist for the **Primate Conservationist Award!** This award provides recognition and financial support for students and early career investigators from primate habitat countries who demonstrate potential for making significant and continuing contributions to primate conservation. Students, researchers, and educators from primate habitat countries for whom no more than five years have elapsed since receipt of their terminal degree are eligible. Past awards have been presented by U.S. Ambassadors or other senior officials, thereby obtaining favorable publicity for the award, its recipient, and primate conservation in the recipient's country. Nominations are due April 2, 2017. More information on grants and awards can be found at: <https://asp.org/grants>

~**Michelle Bezanson and Stacey Tecot**, ASP Conservation Committee Co-Chairs

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Primate Care Committee

The Primate Care Committee has published its quarterly “Hot Topics” in welfare – check out our blog post on Allostatic Load. In this post we explore the research of **Ashley Edes**, a Ph.D. candidate at The Ohio State University. Ashley won the 2016 Primate Welfare Award at the joint meeting of ASP/IPS in Chicago, IL, and we are pleased to welcome her as a new committee

Research & Development

ASP General Research Grants

ASP General Research Grant proposals are due June 1 through the ASP website. Students and early career professions are invited for either captive or wild primate-oriented research projects. Preference is given to research projects with clear testable hypotheses that will add to the general knowledge in primatology not related to conservation or conservation education. Applications for start-up funds, supplementary funding for students, and innovations in animal care and research technology are welcome. Award amounts range up to \$1500, and are funded out of ASP's general fund as an ongoing commitment to research and developing young investigators. For more information please email welawrence@mdnaderson.org or check out the Grants page on the ASP website.

Dr. Deborah Moore Memorial Grant for Early Career Primatologists

A new award for 2017 is the Dr. Deb Moore Grant for Early Career Primatologists. This award, is in memory of Deborah and her passion for primate research and conservation. The award is open to application from exceptional early career researchers who can demonstrate their passion and dedication for extending knowledge through original research of primates in their natural environment. Promising new primatologists able to continue the legacy set by Dr. Deborah Moore should apply. In this funding round, three grants of \$2000 USD will be awarded. The deadline for application is May 1, 2017. The applicants must possess a Ph.D., Ph.D. must have been awarded within the last 5 years and the applicant must not be in a tenure-track or tenure position. For more information please email welawrence@mdanderson.org or check out the Grants page on the ASP website.

~Larry Williams, ASP Research & Development Committee Chair

Get Social With ASP!

Connect with ASP and this year's meeting!



Don't forget to join the ASP members Facebook page via the members-only section of www.ASP.org.



EDITOR SEARCH FOR THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PRIMATOLOGY

The ASP would like to thank **Dr. Paul Garber** for his service as Editor of the *American Journal of Primatology* (AJP) for 10 years. Under his leadership, the impact factor of AJP has steadily increased, and it has maintained a 5-year impact factor of 2.304. AJP is the highest ranked primate journal and ranks 23rd among 160 scientific journals listed under the heading of Zoology. Paul has decided to step down effective December 31, 2017.

A search for a new Editor is underway. **Dr. Matthew Novak**, Chair of the ASP Publications Committee, is chairing the search committee, and he is joined by **Drs. John Capitanio, Marilyn, Norconk, Entang Iskandar, and Francisco Vidal-Garcia.**

Please circulate the announcement below to your colleagues, and contact **Matthew Novak** if you would like to apply, or if you know of an outstanding candidate.

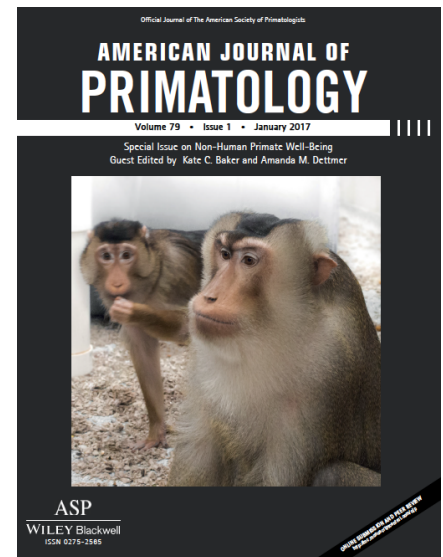
Vacancy: American Journal of Primatology - Editor-in-Chief

Job Description:

The *American Journal of Primatology* (AJP), the official Journal of the American Society of Primatologists (ASP), is currently looking for an Editor-in-Chief starting January 2018. The Editor-in-Chief oversees the peer review of manuscripts, distributes the manuscripts to Associate Editors (based on their area of expertise), and is ultimately responsible for all editorial decisions made at the Journal. In addition, she/he commissions high-quality review articles and topical special issues, manages the editorial board, and works closely with the Journal Publishing Manager, editorial office and production staff at Wiley, with the President of the ASP, and with the Society's Publication Committee.

The Editor-in-Chief of the AJP shall:

- ensure the high quality and integrity of the Journal.
- maintain high scientific standards in the peer-review process and ensure that the Journal adheres to ethical standards (i.e. COPE guidelines).
- ensure efficient handling of the manuscripts by the Associate Editors (the Editorial Board) and maintain frequent communication with the Wiley production team once the papers are approved for publication.
- lead the Editorial Board and advise on the composition and succession plans of the Editorial Board members and mentor new members.
- support the preparation and realization of strategic editorial plans to maintain/increase the status and visibility of the Journal.



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- collaborate with the marketing staff at Wiley on the promotion of the Journal.
- solicit articles and special issues in consultation with the Associate Editors and the Editorial Board.
- drive the journal development including the aims and scope and implement new article types as needed.
- prepare an annual report on the status of the Journal to be delivered at the annual ASP meeting and submit the report for publication in the ASP Bulletin.
- represent the Journal at national and international scientific meetings (e.g., American Association of Physical Anthropologists, International Primatological Society).

Desired Attributes:

- Strong leadership and communication skills.
- An experienced manager with strong organizational ability.
- An active researcher with an extensive publication record.
- A recognized expert in the field, with a broad appreciation for the diverse fields of Primatology.
- A wide sphere of influence and range of contacts in the field of Primatology.
- Experience with an online editorial system.
- Awareness of relevant technological advances in publishing/ dissemination of Science.
- Willingness to travel to conferences to promote and acquire content for the journal.
- High professional and ethical standards.

Application process:

Please email your curriculum vitae with a cover letter addressing your background, history with the Journal and vision for the Journal to the Chair of the American Society of Primatologists Publication Committee: Matthew Novak (mnovak@cocc.edu) by **April 30, 2017**.

About the *American Journal of Primatology*:

The *American Journal of Primatology* was founded in 1981 and is published by Wiley. It is the monthly premium international journal dedicated to the field of Primatology and is the official Journal of the American Society of Primatologists. The objective of the Journal is to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and findings among primatologists and to convey our increasing understanding of this order of animals to specialists and interested readers alike. The Journal welcomes for consideration manuscripts from all areas of primatology. This includes but is not limited to the behavioral ecology, conservation, evolutionary biology, life history, demography, paleontology, physiology, endocrinology, genetics, molecular genetics, and psychobiology of the nonhuman primates. The journal publishes original research articles, reviews, and commentaries. Proposals for special issues on a particular theme are also welcomed, and may be guest edited.

About the American Society of Primatologists:

The purposes of the American Society of Primatologists are both educational and scientific. The Society's goals are to promote and encourage the discovery and exchange of information regarding primates, and anyone engaged in scientific primatology or who is interested in supporting these goals may apply for membership. The Society is established as a nonprofit corporation under the nonprofit laws of the State of Washington and the United States of America.

CONSERVATION GRANT REPORT

Shared Landscapes: The human-ape interface within the Mone-Oku Forest Complex and the implications for conservation

Alison H. Wade, PhD candidate

Department of Anthropology, University of Auckland, New Zealand

A significant proportion of gorilla and chimpanzee populations are found in Cameroon, many in areas with no formal protection. In particular, the Cross River gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla diehli*) and the Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes ellioti*) the most endangered subspecies of their respective taxa, occur only in the restricted range of the Cameroon-Nigeria border, a biodiversity hotspot of global significance but also an area of high human population density. Building dialogue with local communities that are dependent on forest resources for subsistence can help in designing new conservation approaches needed in areas that lack legally protected status. To understand how ape distribution is affected by anthropogenic activities, the research focuses on investigating the ecological influence of humans through theoretical frameworks of ethnoprimateology and political ecology.

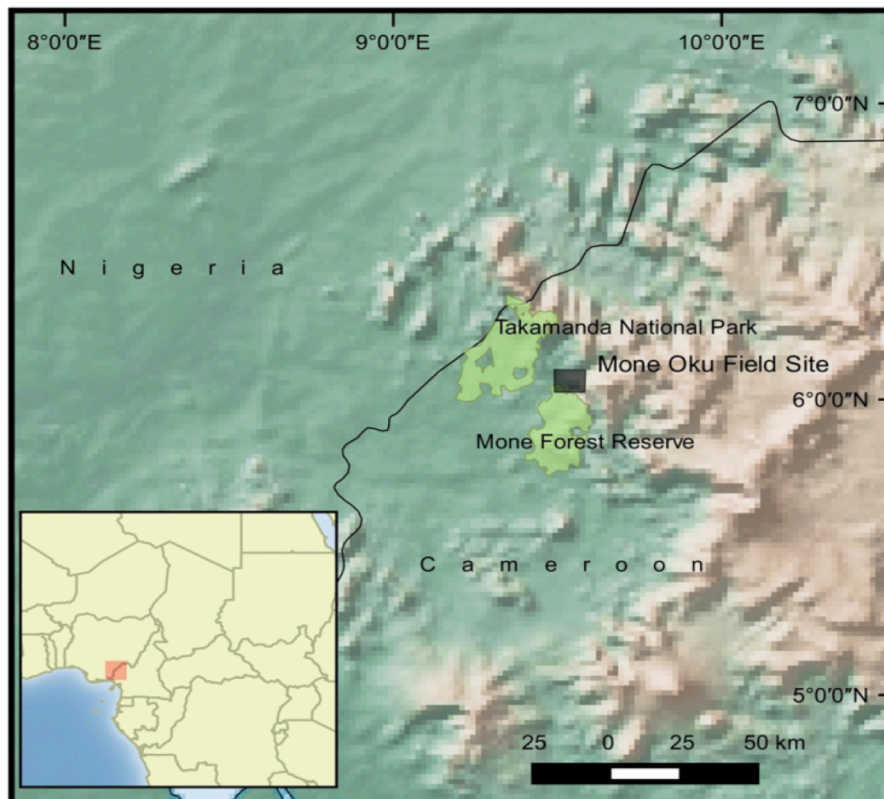


Figure 1: Map illustrating the location of the study site and villages, with insert illustrating the location within Cameroon

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Between May 2014 and March 2015 we collected data on gorilla and chimpanzee populations, determining important nesting plant species, levels of human activity within the forest, and the extent of resource overlap between the gorilla and chimpanzee populations and the local human community. Reconnaissance surveys searching for ape signs and nest sites were conducted in an unclassified forest corridor located between Mone Forest Reserve and the Mbulu Forest, Southwest Cameroon (Fig. 1), a mosaic landscape of villages, farmland, secondary and primary forest from moist semi-deciduous in lower elevations to submontane forest. A population of 6 to 15 Cross River gorillas and 50 to 200 Nigerian-Cameroon chimpanzees live there. All signs of human activity (e.g. traps, bullet cartridges and bush huts) were noted. In total, 101 nest sites with 30 classed as gorilla, 34 as chimpanzee, and 37 as ape, totalling 569 individual nests. At each site, habitat characteristics were recorded (e.g. forest type, canopy cover and slope). For arboreal nests the height of the nest, height of the tree, diameter at breast height (dbh) and tree species were recorded, and for ground nests the number of stems of each plant genera used to construct the nest was noted. Within two villages, 50 semi-structured interviews were conducted encompassing topics that included forest use, farming practices, economic pathways and village history. Ethnographic data provide contextual detail regarding how and why particular activities within the forest occur, infer the degree in resource overlap with the apes, and gain perspectives on conservation concerns among the participants. This information will be supplemented with historical data mostly from the Cameroon National Archives.

Preliminary results show that nesting sites of chimpanzees and gorillas are separated by a distance of five kilometres. The majority of chimpanzee nest sites were found at mid-elevations (550–700m), and in areas of primary forest (N=95). Chimpanzees showed preference for closed forest canopies ($X^2 = 18.98$, $df=3$, $P < 0.001$), and steep to precipitous slopes ($X^2 = 61.70$, $df=2$, $P < 0.001$). Arboreal nests were constructed in 87 tree species out of a possible 180 species (N=556); over half of the nests were constructed in 13 species. Chimpanzees showed a preference to nest in trees between 16–45m (Wilcoxon signed-ranks test: $Z = -5.48$, $P < 0.001$, $N = 1377$) and with a dbh between 25–50cm ($Z = -5.45$, $P < 0.001$, $N = 1377$). Chimpanzees avoided areas of human hunting activity and their nesting range had the lowest encounter rate when compared to other areas of the forest.

Gorillas showed preference towards nest sites at low elevations (210–550m) with very open canopies ($X^2 = 12.28$, $df=3$, $P = 0.006$), and steep slopes ($X^2 = 11.30$, $df=1$, $P = 0.001$) (N=30). Arboreal nests were constructed in 32 tree species with a mean height of 6 ± 3 m (N=58). Over half the nests were constructed in eight tree species. Ground nests incorporated 111 plant species from an available 207 species (N=82). While gorillas avoided nesting in areas of high human hunting activity, they often nested within a kilometre from Nga village and within 100 meters of a main hunting road. The encounter rate within the gorilla nesting range was comparably high (1.99 signs/km), while the highest encounter rate occurs in forest zones above 500m (2.12 signs/km). The Mone-Oku gorilla population appears somewhat tolerant of human hunting activities within their nesting range, potentially a trade-off between preferred food resources available at lower altitudes and the level of perceived risk from human activities.

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Ethnographic insights suggest the forest is generally perceived as an economic resource with the quality of the forest judged by the bush-meat it supplies and the quantity of crops it produces once cleared. The perception of the apes varies, but broadly speaking most hunters fear gorillas and will flee upon an encounter. In contrast chimpanzees rarely entice fear in a hunter. It is possible these reactions from hunters may play a role in the level of the disturbance risk perceived by the apes and the location of their nesting sites.



Figure 2: Learning how to crack njansan'(*Ricinodendron heudelotii*), participating in one of the women's' key economic activities. Photo by Simon Taylor

Figure 3: A recently cleared section of the lower forest to be converted to farmland (left) and a mature cocoa (*Theobroma cacao*) farm the main cash crop of the region (right). Photos by Alison Wade



UPCOMING EVENTS



Join your fellow ASP members in the national [March for Science](#), or in one of the hundreds of [satellite marches](#). The March will be held in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, April 22; local events are also scheduled throughout the country that day and we encourage participation in local groups if you cannot make it to Washington, D.C.

The American Society of Primatologists supports the study of the behavior and biology of non-human primates, our closest living relatives. We promote and encourage the education, communication and implementation of evidence-based policies that benefit human societies and underscore a respect for science. We support and promote the conservation of natural environments to secure the long-term survival of primates. The ASP is committed to supporting the free exchange of ideas and encourages participation by young scientists and scientists of underrepresented groups, particularly those living in habitat countries. Furthermore, the ASP is committed to supporting the protection of all scientists, of the scientific method, and of resources dedicated to science.

Save the Date! ASP 2018

August 8 – 11, 2018 at the Hyatt Regency
San Antonio, TX

Hosted by Dr. Kimberley Phillips

Registration opens Jan 6, 2018

Symposia/Workshop abstracts due Feb 3, 2018

Oral & Poster abstracts due March 17, 2018

#ASPSATX2018

