2007–2008 Annual Report for *ASPT Newsletter*

The *ASPT Newsletter* continued operations following the procedures outlined in previous annual reports. Basically, the editor of the *ASPT Newsletter* is responsible for the following tasks: 1) Maintain the *Current News* section of the ASPT homepage; 2) Periodically take information in *Current News* and produce formal issues of the *ASPT Newsletter*; and 3) see that the *ASPT Newsletter* is distributed both as hard copy issues that are mailed to those members who request this version and an electronic version that is accessible through the ASPT homepage. Beginning in 2005, e-mails are sent to all ASPT members with e-mail addresses alerting them when new issues of the *Newsletter* are available on the web.

There is a continuing demand for the hard copy version of the *Newsletter*. Currently, there are requests from 513 members for the hard copy *Newsletter* — 318 domestic and 183 from other countries. The overall percentage of members requesting the hard copy of the Newsletter has declined slightly in the past two years.

	2007–2008	2006–2007	2005–2006	2004–2005	2003–2004
Domestic	318 (37%)	360 (41%)	390 (45%)	369 (43%)	401 (45%)
Foreign	183 (38%)	182 (41%)	186 (40%)	197 (49%)	188 (49%)
Total	513 (38%)	542 (41%)	576 (44%)	565 (45%)	589 (47%)

IMPORTANT: I retired from the Illinois Natural History Survey 30 June 2008 and am completing my role Editor of the *ASPT Newsletter*. We are in a period of transition as Eric Roalson takes on the editorship of the ASPT Newsletter in addition to his current role as webmaster of the ASPT website. I will be completing the summer issue of the ASPT Newsletter in Illinois, and Eric has initiated a new feature on the ASPT webpage to alert users of current news items.

The following paragraphs largely are repeated from previous annual reports as background information for new members of the ASPT Council.

It is very important that the editor of the *Newsletter* receive news generated *within* ASPT. Officers and committee chairs need to remember to send the editor information that should be included in the *Newsletter*. All too often I have found information about ASPT in other society's newsletters or websites that should have first been in our own Newsletter and website. So please remember to send me pertinent information!

The information in *Current News* comes from a variety of sources — information sent directly to me from individuals and organizations by regular mail or e-mail, responses sent by me to other persons, and sometimes information is first found in other newsletters. I try to add new information to *Current News* within a day or so its receipt, although sometimes this takes longer due to fieldwork, meetings, and other business.

As decided at the 2000 meeting of the ASPT Council, the number of hard copy issues has been reduced from three to two. Vol. 20(2) was published in December 2006 and Vol. 21(1) will appear.

Currently, the production of the hard copy *Newsletter* is now done primarily by Charles Warwick, a professional editor at the Illinois Natural History Survey. This involves taking the html files from *Current News,* converting them into normal text, and then laying out and editing the text using InDesign. Beginning in 2000, printing and mailing the hard copy is coordinated through the ASPT office in Wyoming. ASPT pays Mr. Warwick $400 for laying out each issue. When a hard copy issue of the *Newsletter* has been completed, Mr. Warwick sends me a pdf file, which I then place on the ASTP website as an archival issue of that issue. Currently, there are electronic versions of the ASPT Newsletter from Vol. 6(2), October 1992, through the present.

Respectfully submitted,
Kenneth R. Robertson
11 July 2008