

2008 Board Report: VP-Conferences David J. Hafner

All appears to be in order for the IBS meetings in Mérida, now only weeks away. Ella's done a super job organizing the conference, working with folks from InterMeeting. Jens-Christian and José María have helped tremendously with the abstracts. I've send the formatted Program/Abstracts to Ella, and they'll be printed next week. I've attached two .pdf documents: the cover pages and the main text.

Please note that because of various schedule changes, we've moved the second Board meeting to 6:00-6:30 on Sunday evening. That gives us some time to return to our rooms, shower, change clothes, and relax before the banquet.

According to Matt Heard, we have the following registered as of 12 December:

Total Registered: 272 People

Field Trips

Dzibilchal: 30

Ria Celestun: 32

Loltun: 29

Chichen Itza: 87

Workshops

Spatial Analysis AM: 18

Spatial Analysis Full Day: 19

Visualizing Full Day: 33

Communicating Biogeography: 9

We're anticipating some additional registrations and sign-ups at the meeting; the registration desk will open on Wednesday afternoon.

John Avise, our Wallace Award winner, is arriving in Mérida at 8:58 pm on Thursday Jan. 8 onboard Continental Airlines flight 1842 coming from Houston. He's leaving Mérida at 7 am on Tuesday, Jan. 13 on Continental Flight 1843 to Houston. I'm planning on meeting him at the airport. My wife and I are flying to Mexico City on the 6th, staying overnight and doing some sight-seeing, and arriving in Mérida at 5 pm on the 7th.

At my request, Matt is trying to put together a list of emails for the workshop participants so that the organizers can contact them in advance.

We have 167 posters, so we've put them all into the first two poster sessions, and we'll use the final poster session to feature 20 (?) of the best posters. I request that President Vicki appoints a special committee to select these posters.

We've had a few minor adjustments to the Extinction and Asia-America symposia, but they're pretty much intact. Air fare costs are lower than we had budgeted; I'll be getting a list of checks to be cut and distributed in Mérida to Lois next week.