

# HISTORY OF THE IBA, 1968–1998

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**Abstract:** This paper traces the 30-year history of the International Association for Bear Research and Management (IBA) from an informal organization of bear biologists, to the Bear Biology Association (BBA), to the IBA. Dates, locations, and highlights of the organizations 10 conferences are presented along with lists of officers and newsletter editors. Information from these conferences, along with newsletter articles, document the events and issues that shaped and changed the IBA and have made it the premier professional bear organization in the world.

*Ursus 11:11–20*

**Key words:** bear management, bear research, bears, biology associations, International Association for Bear Research and Management, international associations

Nineteen ninety-eight represents the 30th anniversary of the International Association for Bear Research and Management. From its humble beginnings as an informal meeting of 49 North American bear biologist in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, in 1968, it has grown into an international organization of over 600 members from around the world. During these 30 years IBA has worked to enhance the management of bears (Ursidae) on a worldwide basis through meetings and conferences, by providing money for research, through publication of professional bear papers and monographs, and by increasing communication between those working with bears via its newsletter. These meetings and publications have documented information on bears, but unfortunately not on the organization. This paper is an attempt to document that history before it is lost through time and attrition.

The majority of the information in this paper comes from my personal collection of IBA publications plus over 20 years of experience with IBA as member, President, Secretary/Treasurer, Council Member, and Newsletter Editor. I am especially grateful to all the IBA Proceedings and Newsletter Editors (Tables 1 and 2), without which IBA would have no history. A special thanks also goes to Kate Kendall, who, during her term as IBA Secretary/Treasurer, obtained all existing IBA publications and newsletters and established IBA archives at the Universities of Montana and Tennessee. Thanks to her efforts, a complete collection of IBA's history will be preserved.

I also acknowledge the commitment and sheer tenacity of the many individuals who have contributed to IBA history over the past 30 years. For many of us, a lifelong commitment to the welfare of bears worldwide has been fostered through IBA. Some of the individuals who started this organization 30 years ago are no longer with us, but many still are, and many other bright shining faces with similar commitments have appeared along the

way. I salute each of you, and in the name of IBA, thank you. You are IBA's history.

## THE BEGINNING

IBA originated from a need to communicate. Prior to 1968 it was a lonely world for bear biologists. Bears were considered vermin, pests, or at the very best, predators by much of the public and even many professional wildlife biologists. Individuals working with bears were few, and most did not know each other or what types of projects were being conducted.

In August 1968, Art Pearson, a grizzly bear biologist working for the Canadian Wildlife Service, attempted to improve communication among bear biologists by hosting the first "bear workshop" in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. Forty-nine men and women from North America attended this conference. Rather than formal presentations such as those at bear conferences today, attendees simply sat around tables and discussed their work, mutual needs, and problems. Major topics of discussion centered around immobilization and handling of bears and incorporating the new technology of radiotelemetry into bear work. This latter topic included the only formal paper given at the workshop titled "Telemetry of physiological function of large carnivores," by Edger Folk, Jr., in which he stated, "my task is to give you a glimpse of the future." This unedited paper, along with the discussions, were published in mimeographed form by the Canadian Wildlife Service and are now called the Proceedings of the First International Conference on Bear Research and Management (Table 1).

Probably the most important thing to come out of the Whitehorse meeting, however, was the idea that such meetings were worthwhile and that more workshops of this type were needed. The attendees decided that a second bear workshop would be held in Edmonton, Alberta, in November 1969 under the direction of Milan Novak and Stephen Herrero.

**Table 1. International Association for Bear Research and Management Proceedings Editors 1968–98.**

Year	Location	Editors
1968	1st International Bear Conference, Whitehorse, Yukon	Art Pearson
1970	2nd International Bear Conference, Calgary, Alberta	Stephen Herrero
1974	3rd International Bear Conference, Binghamton, New York, and Moscow, Russia	Mike Pelton Jack Lentfer Edgar Folk, Jr.
1977	4th International Bear Conference, Kalispell, Montana	Cliff Martinka Kathy McArthur
1980	5th International Bear Conference, Madison, Wisconsin	Charles Meslow
1983	6th International Bear Conference, Grand Canyon, Arizona	Pete Zager
1986	7th International Bear Conference, Williamsburg, Virginia, and Plitvice Lakes, Yugoslavia	Pete Zager
1989	8th International Bear Conference, Victoria, British Columbia	Laura Darling Ralph Archibald
1992	9th International Bear Conference, Missoula, Montana, and Grenoble, France	Jim Claar <sup>a</sup> Paul Schullery <sup>a</sup> Al LeCount <sup>b</sup> Cheryl Mollohan <sup>b</sup>
1995	10th International Bear Conference, Fairbanks, Alaska	Harry Reynolds Sterling Miller
1998	11th International Bear Conference, Gatlinburg, Tennessee	Mike Vaughan Todd Fuller

<sup>a</sup> Edited papers from Missoula portion of conference

<sup>b</sup> Edited papers from Grenoble portion of conference

**Table 2. International Association for Bear Research and Management Newsletter Editors, 1974–98.**

Name	Years
Jack Lentfer	1974 76
Cliff Martinka	1977 79
Al LeCount	1980 82
Tom Beck	1983 85
John Beecham	1986 89
Diana Weinhardt	1990
Joe Yarchin	1990 91
Teresa DeLorenzo	1991 98

## FROM WORKSHOPS TO CONFERENCES

The second bear workshop did occur in Alberta, but not in 1969 as originally planned. Following the Whitehorse meeting, Milan Novak left the Alberta Department of Land and Forests and the planned meeting place shifted to Kodiak, Alaska, with Dick Humel as chairman. Kodiak, however, did not work out and the meeting was subsequently changed back to Alberta where it was hosted by Stephen Herrero in November 1970 in Calgary.

The Calgary meeting differed dramatically from the Whitehorse meeting. For the first time the interna-

tional Conference on Bear Research and Management was used, and participation expanded outside North America to include individuals from Russia, Japan, and Norway, making it worthy of its billing as an international conference.

The Calgary meeting also laid the groundwork for the type of bear conferences we see today. Twenty-nine formal scientific papers were presented on a variety of research and management topics. With the help of the International Union for Conservation and Natural Resources (IUCN), edited papers were published as the "Proceedings from the Second International Conference on Bear Research and Management," a term which would subsequently come to identify the IBA. One paper presented at this conference by Ian McTaggart Cowan titled "The status and conservation of bears (Ursidae) of the world — 1970" became a benchmark by which trends in bear populations around the world would be measured for the next quarter century.

## DUAL MEETINGS

Four years passed before the next bear conference took place, but when it did it became a true international meeting. The coincidental meetings of the American Society of Mammalogists in Binghamton, New York, and the First International Theriological Congress in Moscow, Russia, in June 1974 presented an opportunity for bear biologists to meet in both North America and Eurasia. The first half of the conference convened in Binghamton, then adjourned and reconvened in Moscow. Conference organizers were Mike Pelton, Jack Lentfer, and Edgar Folk, Jr. This dual meeting resulted in the publication of 33 North American and 12 Eurasian bear papers in the Proceedings of the Third International Conference on Bear Research and Management.

Just as important, however, this meeting format allowed bear biologists from both North America and Eurasia to meet face-to-face for the first time to exchange information and ideas. It became obvious from these discussions that for bear biologists to increase their impact on bear management at national and international levels, a more formal organization was needed. The task of writing bylaws for such an organization was taken on by Chuck Jonkel, Mike Pelton, Edgar Folk, Jr., and Chris Servheen.

Another product of the 1974 meeting was the production of the first newsletter by Jack Lentfer titled the "Bear Biology Association Newsletter", a term which would eventually become the formal name of the organization (Table 2). The first 2-page edition was produced in July 1974 and gave subscribers a brief report on the New York-

Moscow meeting. Also included was a report from Mike Pelton on changes in the classification of the drug M-99 (etorphine hydrochloride). That change in classification led to Federal Drug Enforcement agents to the University of Tennessee to confiscate his supply of the drug, jeopardizing its continued use in wildlife work. Lentfer also requested a one-time \$2.00 fee from all individuals who wanted the newsletter to cover mailing costs and to help him maintain a bear reprint file, which he made available to subscribers. This reprint file was eventually taken over by Fred Dean at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and as IBA continued to grow was eventually discontinued because more authors were publishing their work in the IBA proceedings.

One additional newsletter was published in 1975 and another in 1976. Besides giving information on plans for the next bear conference being organized by Frank Craighead, G. Wakefield, and Ian Sterling, with Cliff Martinka as Conference Chairman, it also documented the formation of “spin-off” bear groups such as the Polar Bear Specialist Group, the Border Grizzly Steering Committee, and the Eastern Black Bear Workshop. Over time additional specialized bear groups would be added including the Western Black Bear Workshop, Spectacled Bear Group, Eurasian Bear Group, and the East Asia Bear Group. All of these groups, with the exception of the Polar Bear Specialist Group, would eventually be combined into the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Non-Polar Bear Specialist Group and eventually be directed by IBA.

## THE BEAR BIOLOGY ASSOCIATION

The Fourth International Bear Conference was held in Kalispell, Montana, in February 1977. Over 300 people attended and 60 bear papers were published in the proceedings edited by Cliff Martinka and Kathleen McArthur (now Jope). For the first time an individual paper also was published as a separate monograph titled *A proposed delineation of critical grizzly bear habitat in the Yellowstone region* authored by John Craighead.

The work of Chuck Jonkel’s Bylaws Committee also began to bear fruit. The name “Bear Biology Association” (BBA) was adopted as the official name of the organization. This name would remain in effect until 1983 when, in an effort to better reflect the international scope of the organization, the name was officially changed to the “International Association for Bear Research and Management” (IBA). The purpose of the organization was “to foster communication and cooperation relating to the management, research, and protection of bears and

their habitat.” Annual membership dues were set at \$5.00/year for regular members and \$3.00/year for students, and a format of holding an international conference once every 3 years was adopted. Offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and a 5-member Council were proposed, and prior to the Kalispell meeting nominations of candidates for these offices were taken. At the February 22 membership meeting Chuck Jonkel was elected the first BBA President; also elected were Mike Pelton (Vice-President), Stephen Herrero (Secretary), Cliff Martinka (Treasurer), and Jack Lentfer, John Craighead, Richard Knight, Art Pearson, and Thor Larsen (Council Members) (Table 3). On February 24, the first BBA Council met. President Jonkel was instructed by Council to contact people willing to host the next BBA Conference and Secretary Herrero was instructed to purchase BBA letterhead stationary and open a bank account. BBA had become an official organization.

During this first council meeting a discussion also ensued on what relationship BBA would have with IUCN/SSC. Council directed the President to write Sir Peter Scott, President of IUCN’s Species Survival Commission, and make appropriate arrangements regarding BBA’s role in a Specialist Group on non-polar bears. Jonkel did so and subsequently acted as BBA’s representative with IUCN/SSC.

Art Pearson also suggested that regional bear groups, such as the Eastern Black Bear Workshop, be encouraged to affiliate with BBA because “BBA is now too large to fulfill one of its original objectives, that of providing for good interchange among biologists”. Regional meetings and various specialized bear groups now help serve this function.

During this first Council meeting Cliff Martinka also was appointed BBA Newsletter Editor. Over the next 3 years Cliff produced a quarterly newsletter keeping members informed of everything from upcoming bear meetings to new bear literature. For the first time reports on ongoing research, reports from various bear workers, and guest editorials began to appear in the newsletter. Thanks to Cliff’s efforts the BBA Newsletter became the voice of the newly formed organization and the glue that held the organization together.

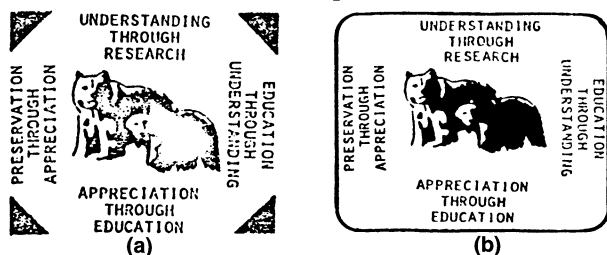
The first BBA logo also appeared in the August 1979 newsletter (Fig. 1a) This logo was developed from an idea submitted by member Justin Naderman. It was modified slightly for the subsequent November issue, and although never officially adopted by Council, became the official logo of the BBA (Fig. 1b).

**Table 3. International Association for Bear Research and Management officers and council members, 1977–97.**

Year	Officers	Council Members
1977–79	President: Chuck Jonkel, USA Vice-President: Mike Pelton, USA Secretary: Stephen Herrero, Canada Treasurer: Cliff Martinka, USA	Jack Lentfer, USA John Craighead, USA Richard Knight, USA Art Pearson, Canada Thor Larsen, Norway
1980–82	President: John Beecham, USA Vice-President: Jack Lentfer, USA Secretary/Treasurer: Al LeCount, USA	Mike Pelton, USA Cliff Martinka, USA Chuck Jonkel, USA Stephen Herrero, Canada Hans Roth, Switzerland Thor Larsen, Norway
1983–85	President: Mike Pelton, USA Vice-President: Thor Larsen, Norway Secretary/Treasurer: Brian Horejsi, Canada	John Beecham, USA Stephen Herrero, Canada Chuck Jonkel, USA Al LeCount, USA Jack Lentfer, USA Harry Reynolds, USA
1986–88	President: Steve Herrero, Canada Vice-President: Gary Alt, USA Secretary/Treasurer: Brian Horejsi, Canada	Toshiki Aoi, Japan Fred Dean, USA Chuck Jonkel, USA Al LeCount, USA Mike Pelton, USA Harry Reynolds, USA Ole Jacob Sorenson, Norway Francisco Perez Trejo, Venezuela
1989–91	President: Al LeCount, USA Vice-President: Ivar Mysterud, Norway Secretary/Treasurer: Sterling Miller, USA	Craig McLaughlin, USA George Kolenosky, Canada Dave Garshelis, USA Chris Servheen, USA Ole Jacob Sorenson, Norway Jorge Orejuela, Columbia Puotr Danilov, Russia Stephen Herrero, Canada
1992–94	President: Mike Pelton, USA Vice-President: Ivar Mysterud, Norway Secretary/Treasurer: Sterling Miller, USA Past President: Al LeCount, USA	Gary Alt, USA Puotr Danilov, Russia Dave Garshelis, USA Kate Kendall, USA Tsutomu Mano, Japan Bruce McLellan, Canada Chris Servheen, USA Edgard Yerena O., Venezuela
1995–97	President: Sterling Miller, USA Vice-President: Michael Vaughan, USA Secretary/Treasurer: Kate Kendall, USA Past President: Mike Pelton, USA	John Beecham, USA Djuro Huber, Croatia Hélène Jolicoeur, Canada Harry Reynolds, USA Ivar Mysterud, Norway John Schoen, USA

## FINE TUNING BBA

By the time the Fifth International Bear Conference rolled around in February 1980, the newly formed BBA was beginning to fulfill its role to foster communication among people interested in bears throughout the world. Membership had risen to 259 members, and more than 200 people attended the conference hosted by Bob Ruff in Madison, Wisconsin. The proceedings from this conference produced 44 papers on a variety of bear topics in both North America and Europe, and in addition to the



**Fig. 1. Bear Biology Association (BBA) Logos. a. Original logo, August, 1979. b. Modified logo, November, 1979.**

formal presentations, workshops on a variety of subjects were held along with several bear subgroup meetings.

BBA Council also had done some revision of the proposed BBA Bylaws, which were officially presented to the general membership for approval during the conference. Notable changes were that the Secretary and Treasurer positions would be incorporated into one office and Council would be expanded to 6 members. Council was also given the freedom to look at its own composition, and if regional representation was inadequate, 2 additional voting members could be added. Following input from the membership, Council officially adopted the first BBA Bylaws in March 1981. These Bylaws remained unchanged until 1995 when they were revised to reflect the expanded role of IBA.

The newsletter continued to be published on a quarterly basis by Al LeCount, and in an effort to expand the scope of the newsletter, a Regional Reporter System was instituted in June 1981. This system provided the readers with more information on bears and bear work in various parts of North America, Eurasia, South East Asia, and South America.

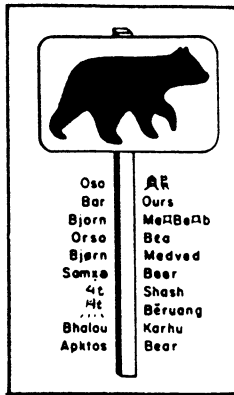
## BBA TO IBA

The Sixth International Bear Conference was hosted by Al LeCount at Grand Canyon, Arizona, in February 1983. It drew over 250 participants and resulted in 32

papers published in the proceedings. During this meeting the BBA Council made some decisions that would shape the organization's future. Due to the proliferation of bear subgroups and increases in worldwide membership, Council felt that the name Bear Biology Association did not fully express the make-up of the organization. To better reflect this make-up the name was changed to the International Association for Bear Research and Management, or International Bear Association (IBA) for short. Another noted change was the adoption of an editorial policy for conference proceedings. This policy was drafted by Charles Meslow and was put in force for the proceedings of all future conferences, including the Grand Canyon Conference. According to the policy, proceedings Editors would be appointed by Council, and they in turn would solicit help from Associate Editors and Referees to peer review papers. This change came about as a result of criticism from an Accreditation Committee of The Society of American Foresters that the BBA Proceedings "were not a bonafied [sic], refereed journal, and therefore not a first class publication." This, however, had not been the case. Starting with the Second International Conference, all papers presented had been peer-reviewed and only those judged acceptable were published in the proceedings. However, Council felt establishing an editorial policy would quell such criticism. Their thinking was correct, and today the IBA proceedings are considered one of the best sources for professional papers on bear research and management.

In addition to these 2 major changes, Council also raised annual dues to \$7.00/year, created an institutional membership, and created a position of Newsletter Editor, which would be appointed by Council. Since the name of the organization had been changed, Council also felt a new logo was needed and adopted the now familiar bear crossing sign surrounded by the word bear in various languages. This logo had been designed by Lauren Kepner of the Arizona Game and Fish Department for the cover of the program at the Grand Canyon Conference and is now the official IBA logo (Fig. 2).

Council also discussed an IBA history project at both of its Council meetings and the General Membership Meeting. Council noted that "this is our chance as an organization to put down on paper what has been relegated to late-night remembrances every third year. Let us not tarry much longer on this." Jack Lentfer took charge of the project and in the December 1983 Newsletter gave the first historical sketch of IBA encompassing the first 2 bear meetings. This history was to be continued in future newsletters, but unfortunately never appeared. However, if it had not been for Jack's efforts



**Fig. 2. International Association For Bear Research and Management (IBA) logo, February, 1987.**

to document these first events, details certainly would have been lost.

## DUAL CONFERENCES RESUME

At the Third International Bear Conference, held in New York and Russia in 1974, everyone agreed that more dual conferences should occur. Unfortunately, due to an array of international politics, it took 18 years for this to become a reality. In 1986, the Seventh International Bear Conference, hosted by Mike Vaughan in Williamsburg, Virginia, in late February, adjourned and reconvened in early March in Plitvice Lakes National Park, Yugoslavia, where it was hosted by Djuro Huber. This conference proved to be the most international conference to date with over 300 people from 20 countries attending, and 51 papers, 16 of which were on bears outside North America, were published in the proceedings. An ironic note on the Yugoslavian portion of this conference was that 6 years later some IBA members from former Yugoslavia were unable to attend the Ninth International Conference in Montana because their country was embroiled in a civil war, and that same war was threatening the bears and bear habitat that brought attendees to Plitvice Lakes in 1986.

The mid to late 1980s also marked a low time for the IBA Newsletter, and as a result IBA itself. Since the International Bear Conferences were held only once every 3 years, the newsletter had become the real voice of the organization, and without it there was little communication among IBA members. In 1983, Tom Beck was appointed Newsletter Editor. As his tenure as editor expired he was encountering more and more difficulty getting members to submit newsletter material. In January 1986, in a 2-page newsletter Tom wrote, "Many of you are wondering why there has not been a Newsletter since May of 1985; Simply no material." When John Beecham

assumed the Newsletter Editor job following the Williamsburg Conference, he did not fare much better. Even though John gave the Newsletter a new name, "Bear News," and worked hard to get regular newsletters out, he soon encountered the same problem as Tom, producing only 1 newsletter in 1987 and 2 in 1988. Without its voice IBA membership declined dramatically. In 1986 the membership list showed only 81 individuals, and memberships collected at the Williamsburg and Plitvice Lakes Conferences brought it back up to 270. Without regular newsletters, communication ceased, members were lost, and dues were not paid.

This lack of dues in turn put a financial burden on IBA. In the winter, 1988 Newsletter Beecham wrote, "I have spoken to President Steve Herrero and learned that we are short on funds. The primary reason appears to be related to the cost of publishing the 1983 and 1986 Proceedings at the same time, the need to provide some advance money for the 1989 conference organizers, and lagging membership". Only by encouraging members to pay for the 1983 and 1986 Proceedings before publication, and by a financially very successful 1989 Conference was IBA again able to get on sound financial footing.

## BACK TO CANADA

The Eighth International Bear Conference, hosted by Ralph Archibald in Victoria, British Columbia, in 1989, marked the first time the conference had been held in Canada since the Second International in Calgary in 1970. With a good job of organizing and advertising, this conference was very successful with over 320 people attending and 53 papers published. This conference also marked the first time that, in addition to the formal conference, IBA members provided evening programs on bears to the general public. These programs were well attended, enthusiastically received, and did an outstanding job of making the general public aware of IBA. Public programs like these have since become a part of each conference.

The newly elected IBA Council also conducted some important business during this conference. Since the early work by Chuck Jonkel in 1977 to get IUCN authorization for IBA to maintain IUCN/SSC's non-polar Bear Specialist Group (BSG), little work had been accomplished, and by the late 1980's IBA was not meeting its responsibility. To remedy this situation, then President Stephen Herrero worked with IUCN officials to develop an agreement whereby the IBA President and Council would be responsible for the non-polar BSG (polar bears [*Ursus martimomus*] had their own group). This meant that for the first time IBA would be responsible for the

development of action plans for all non-polar species of bears. To fulfill this obligation Council formed a permanent free standing IUCN/SSC-IBA Bear Specialist Group Committee, and because of their previous involvement with IUCN, Stephen Herrero and Chris Servheen were appointed co-chairmans. Presidents of various IBA specialist groups (e.g., Spectacled Bear Group) and other individuals experienced in international bear affairs were asked to serve on this committee. Today this group, with the help of IBA members, has gathered information on the distribution and status of the 7 non-polar bear species and prepared action plans to help assure the continued survival of these species (Servheen et al. 1999)

As IBA moved into the 1990s other important things also were happening. First, thanks to the hard work of then Secretary/Treasurer Sterling Miller, IBA was granted tax-exempt status by the United States Internal Revenue Service. This exemption made it possible for corporate and private individuals to obtain a tax break for monetary donations to IBA. Second, IBA Council also asked Craig McLaughlin and Pete Zager to develop a "Guide to Authors" for future IBA Conferences. In the past there had been a great deal of confusion over how papers would be selected and which papers would be published. McLaughlin's proposed guidelines were approved by Council in February 1992 and have been modified little since that time.

Finally, in addition to the Victoria Proceedings, IBA published its second monograph authored by Chris Servheen titled, *The status and conservation of the bears of the world*. This publication represented the first update on the status of the world's bear species since Cowan presented his landmark paper at the Calgary Conference in 1970, and it will undoubtedly serve as a new benchmark for many years to come.

Following the Victoria Conference, IBA also got over its case of laryngitis by again producing newsletters on a regular basis. Thanks to the hard work of Newsletter Editor Joe Yarchin, more people began to submit copy and the newsletter again became a source of communication among bear people between conferences. In September 1990 the newsletter also took on a new look by changing the name from "Bear News" to "International Bear News" to better reflect the true international scope of IBA.

All news in the newsletter was not good, however. In March 1991 a front page article reminded IBA members how dangerous their work can be by reporting the death of biologist John Bevins and pilot George Menkens. John and George disappeared without a trace during a polar bear radio-tracking flight over the Arctic Ocean on 11 October 1990. In his eulogy to John, Steven Amstrup

reminded all of us that working with bears has inherent risks and asked us all to remember those risks by quoting the words of Sergeant Esterhouse of the TV program Hill Street Blues when he said "Please — be careful out there."

For many of us, the deaths of friends, peers, and co-workers lost while doing wildlife work will forever remain a painful part of our personal and professional history. While John Bevins' death will always remain an unfortunate part of IBA's history, it also marks a bright spot with the establishment of the John Sheldon Bevins Memorial Trust Foundation. Thanks to John's widow, Julia, IBA, and the Nature Conservancy were named as recipients of the income from this trust. With this money IBA established a grant program to provide money for bear research. From 1993 through 1997 this grant program, along with some matching IBA funds, has provided \$36,000 in the memory of John Bevins to bear researchers throughout the world (Table 4). IBA is truly grateful to Julia Bevins for her generosity and to her commitment to furthering John's life work and passion.

## MONTANA TO GRENOBLE

The Ninth International Bear conference proved to be the biggest and best yet. A dual conference hosted by Jim Claar in Missoula, Montana, in February 1992 and the French Ministry of Environment, Natural History Museum of Grenoble, and the Regional Natural Park of Vercors in Grenoble, France, in October of that same year attracted over 400 people. The proceedings from this conference also reflected the increased interest given to IBA publications by professional biologists. The proceedings from Missoula, edited by Jim Claar and Paul Schullery, and Grenoble, edited by Al LeCount and Cheryl Mollohan, were published separately (the latter not until 1997 due to a misunderstanding between IBA and French organizers), but combined contained 91 papers on 6 of the 8 world bear species. In addition, IBA also published its third monograph edited by Mitchell Taylor titled *Density-dependent population regulation of black, brown, and polar bears*. It appeared that the critics who expressed to Chuck Jonkel in 1987 that "IBA proceedings were not a quality publication" had been answered. The IBA proceedings had become the place to publish professional research and management information on bears.

Besides the international conferences gaining additional status, the IBA newsletter also became a first class publication. Under the excellent editorship of Teresa DeLorenzo, International Bear News combined with the IUCN/SSC Bear Specialist Group Newsletter and ex-

**Table 4. John Sheldon Bevins Memorial Trust Foundation Grant Recipients, 1993–1997.**

Year	Recipient	Project
1993	Ken Johnson University of Tennessee	Giant pandas ( <i>Ailuropoda melanoleuca</i> ) of China: Ecological processes and conservation of biological diversity
	Adrienne Sanders North Carolina State University	Spatial organization, mating strategies, and reproductive success of male black bears ( <i>Ursus americanus</i> )
	The Alaska Conservation Foundation	Video A Gathering of Bears: Alaska's McNeil River State Game Sanctuary
1994	Roman Gula University of Poland	Travel to Maine to learn bear handling procedures with Craig McLaughlin
	Petra Kaczensky Munich Wildlife Federation	Equipment purchases in support of Sloveniz brown bear ( <i>Ursus arctos</i> ) project
	Harry Reynolds Alaska Department of Fish and Game	Support for foreign travel to the Tenth International Bear Conference in Alaska
1995	Mikhail Kretchmar Russian Institute of Biological Problems of the North	Support for brown bear research in Russia
	Dr. Djuro Huber University of Zagred	Support for brown bear research in Croatia
	Harry Reynolds Alaska Department of Fish and Game	Support for foreign travel to the Tenth International Bear Conference in Alaska
1996	B. Kijiddorj Great Gobi National Park Tom McCarthy University of Massachusetts	Status of the Gobi Bear ( <i>Ursus arctos</i> ) in the Great Gobi Desert National Park, People's Republic of Mongolia
	Y.N. Smirnov Sikhote-Alin Biosphere Howard Quigley Hornocker Wildlife Institute, Inc.	Ecology of sympatric brown bear and Himalayan black bears ( <i>Ursus thibetanus</i> ) in the Sikhote-Alin Biosphere Reserve, Russia
	Dr. Djuro Huber University of Zagred	Support for brown bear research in Croatia
1997	William Boone Greenville South Carolina Hospital System	Saving the endangered bear species through gamete preservation
	Vagar Zakaria and Anis Rehman Himalayan Wildlife Project	Conservation and management of brown bears on the Deosa Plains in Pakistan
	Dr. Djuro Huber University of Zagred	Conservation of brown bears in Croatia

panded to over 20 pages of news each issue with a readership of over 450 people throughout the world. Computer layout and quality artwork and photographs became a common occurrence, and more and more IBA members used the newsletter as a source for information or as a source to collect information from fellow bear workers that they rarely had an opportunity to meet. Teresa continues to be Newsletter Editor today, and because of her efforts, IBA's voice is heard loud and clear throughout the world.

The 1992 IBA elections also resulted in several firsts. Mike Pelton, who served as President from 1977–79, was elected President for a second time, and Kate Kendall was the first woman elected to Council. The latter of these two events seemed long overdue because women had been actively involved in IBA since its first meeting in Whitehorse.

IBA Council action at Missoula reflected the issues of the time. Inflation caused an increase in dues from \$7.00 to \$10.00/year. More importantly, Chris Servheen's monograph pointed out many of the problems facing various bear species in the world, but none seemed to affect more species than the sale of bear parts. In the spring of 1992, IBA officially opposed the sale of bear parts and supported the inclusion of the North American black bear under CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora) Appendix II. This action was taken not because of a scarcity of black bears, but because of the similarity with those of other bear species already listed under CITES, which made it impossible to regulate the sale of illegal bear parts. As a result of this action, CITES extended Appendix II protection to the North American black bear in March of 1992.

## NORTH TO ALASKA

Ever since 1968 when the first bear conference was held in the Yukon, people had suggested Alaska as a good site for a conference. All 3 of North America's bear species are found there, and a great deal of bear research was occurring in Alaska. Council realized this, but hesitated to select Alaska because it meant long travel for most conference attendees. Also, the traditional conferences were in February, the non-field season for most bear biologists, which was not an appropriate time to hold a meeting in Alaska. In 1995, however, Council took a chance and selected Alaska, along with Mora, Sweden, for its next dual conference. Harry Reynolds and Sterling Miller hosted the Alaska portion in Fairbanks in July, and Anders Bjärvall and Jon Swenson, the Swedish portion in September. When the conference

was over it appeared that Council's fear over travel and timing were unfounded. Over 400 people attended the Alaskan portion to hear 72 oral presentations and view 73 poster presentations; 128 people from 19 countries were in attendance in Sweden where 23 oral and 20 poster papers were presented. It appeared that IBA Conferences had become important enough to bear people that they would come no matter where or when the conference was held.

The newly elected Council in Fairbanks also was busy. Following the Missoula meeting Council realized that the 1981 Bylaws no longer met the needs of its members and asked Harry Reynolds to revise them. Harry's changes were submitted to members at the General Membership Meeting in Fairbanks where they were approved. Also, action on a dues increase took place raising dues to \$15/year if a person renewed their dues for a 3-year period and \$20/year if they renewed for only 1 or 2 years. Council hoped that by adopting this system more people would be encouraged to pay their dues for 3 years at a time, which would provide more money to help publish the proceedings from the previous conference and provide more up front money for the upcoming conference.

During IBA's business meeting in Fairbanks another first was recorded. Outgoing President Mike Pelton awarded Sterling Miller the first President's Award for his outstanding service and commitment to the organization during his 6 years as Secretary/Treasurer. During his tenure Sterling not only obtained tax free status for IBA, but through investments and good financial planning had put IBA on sound financial footing as it headed into the 21st century.

## WHAT NEXT?

As I look back over the history of IBA, I think all its members can be proud of what we have accomplished. During its 30-year history, IBA has hosted 10 conferences and published 403 papers and 3 monographs on bears. In addition, Newsletter Editors have produced 66 newsletters covering hundreds of articles on bears throughout the world, while providing a mechanism for bear people to communicate with each other between conferences. All of these publications are now archived at the Universities of Montana and Tennessee libraries. IBA is also in cyberspace with its own webpage on the internet ([www.bearbiology.com](http://www.bearbiology.com)), where anyone interested in IBA or bears can access information. Through the John Sheldon Bevins Memorial Foundation, IBA is making grants to worthy bear research projects around the world, and through its own investments will be financially sound well into the 21st century.

But our work is by no means finished. When Art Pearson held his first bear meeting in 1968 there were many individuals who did not take him or concerns about bears seriously. It was those 49 dedicated people who took the time to travel all the way to the Yukon, who sat around tables and openly discussed their problems and shared their ideas, that started IBA. And today, 30 years later, there are still some people who don't take bears or the people who work with them seriously. It is this group of over 600 dedicated individuals who take the time to prepare professional papers, correspond through the

newsletter, and attend bear meetings to openly discuss their problems and share their ideas that will keep IBA moving forward into the 21st century.

## LITERATURE CITED

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