

# PEROMYSCUS NEWSLETTER

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NUMBER THIRTY-NINE

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SPRING 2005

**Cover:** Santa Rosa Island beach mice (*Peromyscus polionotus leucocephalus*)  
Composition by Janet Crossland and Clint Cook.

## ***Peromyscus Newsletter* Number 39**

This issue of *PN* will be my final one as editor. As many of you are aware, I retired from the University of South Carolina faculty five years ago, but continued a formal association with the Peromyscus Genetic Stock Center as a consultant and as editor of *PN*. In 1986, as Director of the PGSC, I along with Janet Crossland, launched this newsletter as a means of informal communication among researchers and others interested in peromyscine rodents, and to publicize the Stock Center. For our first issue we ran 175 copies by hand from the departmental copier. Our present readership approaches 900. We believe that *PN* has played a major role in making the Stock Center widely known in the US, Canada, Mexico and elsewhere.

The future of *PN* is now under review. Costs associated with producing and mailing are increasing and the feasibility of continuing it in its present format is being assessed. About ten years ago we considered producing it on-line, and there was some support for that approach, but most of the feedback favored retaining it in hard copy format. However, now, with static funding, and increasing costs to operate the PGSC it will be necessary to initiate an on-line version of *PN* and to cease producing it in the hard copy format. **Dr. Julie Weston** will become the new Editor. I feel certain that she will appreciate **input from our readership concerning changes and improvements in *PN* as it moves to a new on-line format beginning in autumn 2005.**

In the years we have published *Peromyscus Newsletter* and have operated the Stock Center we have enjoyed a wealth of encouragement and advice from our external and internal advisory committee members and from our NSF and NIH program officers. On pages 14 - 16 we acknowledge these individuals and the institutions they represent. We also note with gratitude others who have been noteworthy in advocating for and promoting the Stock Center, and for those who have assisted us in-house in a major way.

Also, on pages 11 - 14 we relate a brief history of the Peromyscus Genetic Stock Center and its antecedents at the University of South Carolina.

I personally thank all of those individuals and others who encouraged us and made the Stock Center, **PeroBase** and *Peromyscus Newsletter* possible.

Wally

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