

Southeastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America
77th Annual Meeting
Radisson Hotel and Conference Center
Baton Rouge, Louisiana
March 9-12, 2003

Executive Committee Meeting
March 9, 2003

1. Call to Order (President Beverly Sparks): Sparks called the Executive Committee Meeting to order at 3:05 pm, Sunday, March 09, 2003, in the Chairman's Library, in the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Sparks expressed her appreciation for attending the meeting and asked the attendees to introduce themselves. In attendance were: Tim Kring, Dan Suiter, Gary Lentz, Don Alleman, Paula Lettice, ZB Mayo, Micky Eubanks, Richard Sprenkel, Catharine Mannion, Beverly Sparks, Ellen Thoms, David Riley, Kathy Flanders, Mike Williams and Melissa Willrich.
2. Comments from ESA President (ZB Mayo): Mayo expressed his thanks for the invitation to attend the SE Branch meeting. Mayo stated that the ESA financial situation is under control but that we are completely out of the woods. The ESA's biggest concern is the loss of members. Although ESA has learned much from evaluating its financial situation, it is not clear why we are losing members. This appears to be a trend in other societies as well. President Sparks asked what categories of members are leaving. Executive Director Lettice stated that we are losing from most membership categories. President Mayo continued that the annual meeting is continually well attended, however, it has been slightly low for the past couple years. This lower attendance is not unexpected. Overall the good news is that the financial situation is better but maintaining memberships is becoming more difficult. Dan Suiter asked if the decline in membership is real or just normal fluctuations. President Mayo stated that the decline is real but not surprising due to budget cuts. Mayo stated that the ESA is a good size organization but it needs to define what its membership baseline needs to be. The ESA's biggest concern is the retention of members. Mike Williams stated that there was a problem with online registration and that he has not heard back from ESA. Lettice stated that there is a backlog of registrations (renewals, etc.), which has been one of the problems with outsourcing membership services. Lettice stated that she would like to implement a "thank you" response for on-line membership renewal to at least acknowledge receipt. Don Alleman asked if there has been any discussion about combining branches or reducing the number of branches. President Mayo stated that there was a report about restructuring the branches and the conclusion was to leave the branches as they are. Wayne Gardner stated that the report did not address this issue but was more focused on improving programs.
3. Comments from ESA Executive Director (Paula Lettice): Lettice provided a summary of the ESA financial situation which will be presented to the membership during the opening session. Lettice highlighted the need to have adequate operating reserves, and that income needs to keep pace with expenses. Overall ESA membership is 80% of what it was in 1999.

4. Comments from ESA GB Representative (Wayne Gardner): Gardner stated that he did not have a lot to add to the reports by President Mayo and Executive Director Lettice. Gardner stated that the oversight of the meeting and the financial state of ESA has improved and there have been some very tough issues to deal with. Executive Director Lettice is collecting and providing critical data for better decision-making.
5. Comments from ESA Certification Board Director (Don Alleman): Alleman presented reports on Board Certified Entomologists and the Entomological Foundation. Since 1970 ESA has conducted a program that tests the knowledge and experience of practicing entomologists and certifies their professionalism. A Board of 8 governs the BCE program with representation from each Branch. There are currently 436 BCE entomologists. A major activity has been the development of a new category of certification-Associate Certified Entomologist (ACE). President Sparks asked how the ACE program would be marketed. Alleman stated that it would be marketed primarily through interested Associations. Gary Lentz asked if there is competition by the Certified Crop Association. Alleman stated that there may be some competition but do not expect much of a loss of members.

The Entomological Foundation is a nonprofit organization created in 1992 by leaders of the ESA. Executive Vice President is April Gower. A 13-member Board of Directors governs the Foundation. The mission of the Foundation is to help finance activities and fund recognition that promotes the science of entomology. Activity during the past year include establishing its own office, telephone and website separate from ESA; the bylaws were rewritten to allow persons outside of ESA to participate in Foundation governance; the Foundation became more aggressive in solicitation of funds; increased focus on recognition of youth entomology programs; and investing money through Schwab and TIAA-CREF.

6. Minutes of the 2002 Executive Committee Meeting in Little Rock (Secretary-Treasurer Richard Sprenkel): Sprenkel stated that the minutes were forwarded to past and current presidents for comments/changes and were posted on the website since May 2002. Tim Kring made a motion to adopt the minutes as published on the web. Don Alleman seconded the motion and it passed on voice vote.
7. Committee Reports
 - a. Local Arrangements (Seth Johnson): Johnson provided a Local Arrangements Committee Report. Johnson commended his committee composed of Ralph Bagwell, Andrew Cline, Stacey Clayton, Abner Hammond, Linda Hammond, Roger Leonard, Dennis Ring, Rick Story, and Mike Stout. Linda Hammond put together an Associates Program with the assistance of Dora Johnson and Mary Lou Guillot. The Golf tournament did occur on March 9 and was organized by Abner Hammond. The LSU Ag. Center Entomology Department will host a breakfast on Mar 10 for all membership. A reception and mixer will be held in the evening of Mar 10 following the Linnaean Games. Entertainment for the mixer will include Dennis Boudreaux and his Savoir Fair Cajun Band and a dance exhibition by the Cajun French Music Association. Syngenta will host a mixer the evening of Mar 11. Roger Leonard and Ralph Bagwell found sponsors from industry to support the reception and breaks. As of Mar 1, 2003, \$9,100 in contributions have been committed from the following sponsors: Amvac, Bayer, Cheminova, Dow,

AgroSciences, DuPont, FMC, Gustafson, Monsanto, Roy Walker Associates (Griffin Corp.), Syngenta and Valent. The minimum room nights needed was 385 and we exceeded that number with 435 room nights committed. Johnson suggested that the Guidelines for Officers and Committee Chairs needs to be updated to reflect the increased responsibility of the Local Arrangements Committee regarding submission of power point presentation files. Some serious attention needs to be given to the most efficient way to send these presentations in advance of the meeting and to whom they should be sent. Collecting and downloading the presentations is very time consuming. New technology should reduce the workload in the future. There was excellent response in getting the presentations. Suggest encouraging files being sent FTP to a website which was available this year. However, this method does incur some cost because these presentations need to be burned on CDs. Overall, with the power point presentations there is a large workload just prior to the meeting. President Mayo stated they are dealing with the same issues at the national level and up to now the individual symposiums have made arrangements for this. There has been discussion at the national level to have presentations sent to moderators. If a hotel has internet connection in the meeting rooms, it would alleviate the need to burn CDS. President Mayo commented if the ESA server is involved there would likely be a charge. Dan Suiter stated that all but 5 presentations were submitted as power point. It may be necessary to charge each presenter a small fee if submitted to a server. It was also suggested that a legal statement of chain of custody of the power point presentations be written to clarify who has access to the presentations and how they will be handled at the end of the meeting.

- b. Meeting Location and Time 2004 (Joe Culin): No report was given at this time.
- c. Meeting Location and Time 2005 (Mike Williams): No report was given at this time.
- d. Program (Dan Suiter): Suiter commented on the exciting program of 196 papers and 75 posters. More posters than normal. Vector disease topic is timely for being in Baton Rouge. 14 sessions; 3 cancellations so far. Most of the presentations (95%) were submitted as powerpoint.
- e. Member Awards (Seth Johnson for Dorothy Prowell): A report was provided to the committee. A total of 4 nominations were received from SEB-ESA members. The nominations included Excellence in Pest Management (1), Distinguished Achievement in Teaching (1), and Distinguished Achievement in Extension (2). All nominations were handled electronically. The number of nominations was low and announcements to Entomology Departments and Agricultural Stations in the SE region drew limited responses. It is suggested that future committees explore mechanisms to enhance the nomination process. Improved information between outgoing and new committee chairs would be helpful. President Sparks stated that the departments need to be encouraged to submit nominations.
- f. Student Awards (Micky Eubanks): Eubanks received 6 for Comstock award and 7 for Kirby Hays award. The transition to electronic submission went very well with the exception of some pdf files of scanned letters, which required burning CDs. Eubanks

will make recommendations to the next chair on this issue. In the student competitions, there were 8 Ph.D. posters, 11 Ph.D. oral presentations, 13 M.S. posters, and 7 M.S. posters. There was one cancellation for the M.S. paper.

- g. Nominating (Kathy Flanders for David Oi): The Nominating Committee submitted the following candidates for the following offices:

President Elect – Tim Kring and Gary Mullen
 Member-at-Large – John Adamczyk and Wayne Brewer

The names of those contacted and other suggested candidates will be passed on to the next nominating committee chair for future reference.

- h. Student Affairs (Melissa Willrich): The activities coordinated by the students include the Photo Salon, Student Symposium, Linnaean Games and the Job Placement Room.

Student Symposium: “Entomology beyond the degree: where do we go from here” was organized by Helen Hull-Sanders, Auburn University. Nine speakers will participate.

Photo Salon: 9 photos were submitted as 35 mm slides. The first place winner will be awarded a plaque. There is discussion about using digital photos for the future.

Linnaean Games: Seven universities will be competing this year (Arkansas, Mississippi State, Georgia, Auburn, Tennessee, Clemson, and North Carolina). Game questions were submitted by each team to Willrich. Drs. Beverly Sparks, ZB Mayo, and Mike Williams will serve as judges. The moderator is Dr. Chris Charlton. Small gifts will be given to each of the judges and moderator and a plaque will be awarded to the first place team. All gifts and plaques were purchased locally in Baton Rouge for a cost of \$145.29.

- i. Membership (Catharine Mannion for Ken Ward):

	Current Members 12/31/03	% Current Members	New Members (in 2002)	% New Members	Lapsed Members (from 2001)	% Lapsed Members
Total	1125		110		147	
Member	794	71	43	39	86	58
Student Member	243	22	62	56	51	35
Emeritus Member	67	6			3	2
Honorary Member	8	< 1				
Lifetime Member	2	< 1				
Youth Member	4	< 1	3	3	6	4
Miscellaneous	7	< 1	2	2	1	1

- j. By-Laws Revisions (Tim Kring): A mail-ballot was required to change the Constitution of the SE Branch naming the Education Committee as a Standing Committee. The ballot

was mailed to members and 71 ballots were returned. The vote was 69 for the change and 2 against. A 2/3-majority vote is required for passage. The constitution change passes. Ballots were counted by Kathy Flanders.

The By-Laws revision (defining the makeup and duties of the Education Committee) was mailed to members as required. This amendment will be read at the Final Business meeting and the President will call for its adoption. A vote will be taken with a 2/3 majority of those in attendance required for passage.

Request a change in the wording of the guidelines for the Local Arrangements Committee's to include electronic submissions of presentations. Have written as a change to bylaws to be effective next year. Voted – passed.

- k. Education (Joe Culin): No report
 - l. Nomination to National Office (Mike Williams): There were no nominations for President Elect. Williams was approached by Section A to endorse their candidate. General consensus was that membership would prefer to choose their own candidate and would not endorse a Section A candidate. There was discussion on who makes the nominations for ESA offices. The SEB guidelines state it is the responsibility of the Nominations Committee. In the past, it has been done by the past presidents, which were an ad hoc committee. We can continue as an ad hoc committee but need to change guidelines for removal from nominations committee.
 - m. SEB Website Development (Dan Suiter): Currently, the SEB website is on the UF server. Mike Caprio will continue to maintain the electronic submissions.
8. Treasurer's Report (Secretary-Treasurer Richard Sprenkel):
- a. Financial report 2002-03: \$43,030.12 as of 2/1/2003.
 - b. Budget for 2003-04: There was discussion on changes in proposed budget based on number of registrations, average income for each, and increasing mail out costs. There were discussions on using electronic mail outs and voting electronically. The budget was approved by vote.
9. Comments from President Elect (Mike Williams)
- a. SEB Guidelines Update – it was decided that it will not be update each year but it currently needs to be updated.
 - b. Approval of the Nominating Committee. Nancy Hinkle will assume the chair, Art Lappel will be the second university member, Chip Anderson and Jeff Dobbs will be industry members, and Dave Williams and Frank Guillot will be government members. All votes in favor, no opposed. Comments: Most of the committee members are urban, turf and ornamentals.
 - c. Chairs:
 - Program - John Ruberson
 - Member Awards - Donn T. Johnson
 - Membership - Mike Caprio

Student Awards - Jeremy Green
Student Affairs Committee - Donny Oswald (Members selected by
department chairs for each state)
Local Arrangements - Joe Culin

Other comments: There is a concern for the erosion of membership and participation at meetings. Entomology has taken some hits, combining companies, combining departments, elimination of departments, budget crises, etc. Therefore, all of us are going to need to promote the discipline and society. We need to give serious thought on how to operate in the future. We need to ensure that the members enjoy the meetings and to encourage attendance.

10. Other Business Items: None

6:45 ended meeting