

Entomological Society of America Plant-Insect Ecosystems Section

December 2015 Newsletter

<http://www.entsoc.org/pie>



New P-IE Initiative on Pollinators

Over the last year, ESA leadership has focused on empowering section leadership to better respond to issues that are uniquely relevant to their section. An outcome of these sessions is that your P-IE leadership team has identified pollinators and pollination issues as a topic that we would like to focus on. This is an area that impacts most of our members at some level but very few have a thorough understanding of all of its dimensions. While many organizations have a voice on this issue, none have the national credibility and scientific base of the P-IE section of ESA. Given the current government, research and media attention being given to pollinator issues, we, as entomologists specializing in plant-insect interactions, need to be knowledgeable of the various issues and the science that addresses them. Furthermore, we need to make our knowledge and expertise accessible to the public so that we are the recognized experts in this area. In light of these needs we have developed 2 objectives for P-IE. Our objectives are:

1. By the end of 2017, P-IE member knowledge of pollinator protection issues will be enhanced through the development and dissemination of technical educational materials.
2. By the end of 2020, P-IE will become the lead national expert organization for the dissemination of knowledge on pollinators to the general public, media and policymakers.

Some activities to achieve these goals have been suggested, but **we need to form an ad-hoc committee who will spearhead these activities**. This committee should have representatives from industry, academia and government. It should have individuals with expertise in apiculture, native pollinators, crop protection and crop production. Furthermore we would like the committee to include students, early career professionals and those established in their careers. This means that nearly everyone in P-IE could potentially serve on this committee. If you want to nominate yourself or someone else that you believe would be an asset to this committee, please contact Fred Musser at fm61@msstate.edu.

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ESA to Develop New Journal with Focus on Systematics, Evolution, and Biodiversity

One of ESA's most important strategic principles is that ESA has a social responsibility to develop all of its members. This includes providing publishing opportunities for all members, in all areas of specialty and all career stages. In pursuit of this goal, the ESA Governing Board has voted to begin development of a new journal focused on systematics, evolution, and biodiversity content.

This decision came in response to detailed research undertaken by ESA's publishers at Oxford University Press (OUP) that showed that ESA was publishing only a small proportion of current research related to systematics, evolution, and biodiversity of insects. After careful consideration, the ESA Governing Board determined that a new journal would be the best way to ensure that ESA members specializing in these areas would have the opportunity to publish within the ESA family of journals. ESA staff are working with the Sections now to convene an editorial board for the new journal that will determine its title, aims, and scope and provide leadership throughout the development process. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Lisa Junker, ESA's director of publications and communications, at ljunker@entsoc.org.

P-IE has been asked to appoint a representative to the editorial board of this new journal. This appointment will be about a 2-year term (ending at the annual meeting in 2017) and the P-IE representative will be the chair of the board. This editorial board will have more responsibilities than normal as they will be selecting an editor-in-chief and determining the title, aims and scope of this new journal. If you are interested in serving on this editorial board, please contact Fred Musser at fm61@msstate.edu.

Annual Meeting Recap

In case you missed Entomology 2015, we had a very good meeting in warm Minneapolis Minnesota! P-IE members were very active in the meeting. We organized 16 section symposia, gave 251 regular ten minute presentations and 208 regular posters. In addition we had 258 student competition presentations and 107 student competition posters. All combined, P-IE gave 994 total presentations at the meeting.

At our P-IE section meeting we presented the following awards:

Undergraduate Student Achievement: Jaana Iverson, University of Minnesota
Jacqueline Hoban, University of Delaware
Allyson Richins, University of New Mexico
Jessica Kansman, Michigan State University

Master's Student Achievement: Ian Lane, University of Minnesota

Kenneth and Barbara Starks Plant Resistance to Insects:
Anthony Hanson, University of Minnesota

Lifetime Achievement: John Foster, University of Nebraska

Congratulations to all award winners! [View photos of the award winners.](#)

In addition we had an outstanding symposium at the P-IE section meeting entitled “Effective Communication: How to avoid pie in your face!” where 3 speakers gave varying perspectives on communicating science with the media. While the speakers did not always agree on the best approach, the consensus of all was that we need to increase our communication of science-based issues with the public, or others will speak for us.

Call for Volunteers

P-IE has several available service opportunities at this time as listed in the table below. If you are interested in serving or want more information about any of these opportunities, contact Fred Musser at fm61@msstate.edu.

Service Opportunity	Number of open positions	Length of term
Pollination Initiative Committee	7	2-4 yr
P-IE Awards Committee (University rep.)	1	3 yr
P-IE rep. on ESA Science Policy Committee	1	2 yr
Judging Panel for Distinguished Achievement in Horticultural Entomology Award	2	3 yr

Upcoming Deadlines

International Congress of Entomology (<http://ice2016orlando.org/>)

Late-breaking symposia: January 13

Submitted paper presentation: February 1

Submitted poster presentation: February 1

P-IE Governing Council

Fred Musser, President (fm61@msstate.edu)

Melissa Willrich-Siebert, Vice President (mwillrichsiebert@dow.com)

Mark Wright, Vice-President Elect (markwrig@hawaii.edu)

Andy Michel, Secretary (michel.70@osu.edu)

Patrick Moran, Treasurer (serves in personal capacity) (patrickmoran84@yahoo.com)

Sujaya Rao, Past President & ESA Governing Board Representative (sujaya@oregonstate.edu)

Lina Bernaola, Student Representative (LBernaola@agcenter.lsu.edu)