

ESA Eastern Branch Executive Committee Meeting
March 14, 2015
Minutes

Present: Daniel Frank, Dough Pfeiffer, Phillip Mulder, David Gammel, Tracy Leskey, Paula Shrewsbury, Melody Keena, George Hamilton, Judy Hough-Goldstein, Mark Taylor, Tom Kuhar, Anne Nielsen, Katherine Matthews, Jim Steffel

Call to Order: 3:10 pm

Executive Committee Reports:

Past President Report (Eric Day): The search for candidates for the two Branch Awards was successful with the L.O. Howard going to Ann Hajek of Cornell University and the Herb Streu going to Chris Bergh of Virginia Tech. Eric thanks the other Past-Presidents on the Committee for their work on this selection process.

Secretary Report (Daniel Frank): Daniel thanks Tom Kuhar and Anne Nielsen for putting together the program and Judy Hough-Goldstein for local arrangements. He will bring up several topics when other business is discussed.

Treasurer Report (Mark Taylor): Mark presents a current financial statement (see attached). He is still receiving checks for meeting registration, which have not been deposited.

The money market (~ 0.75% interest) and checking account are both with Wells Fargo. This makes it easy to transfer funds if necessary, which can be done online. The reserve account is with Bank of Delmarva, which is in a 3 year CD (~ 2% interest).

In addition to our internal audit (Julie Herbert; Auditing Ad Hoc Committee), the Branch was audited by the same people as ESA HQ. Financial records are in good shape. Mark mentions that we may need to find a replacement for Julie in the future.

David mentions that ESA HQ insurance can help cover Branches during down meeting years. However, Eastern Branch reserves are in good shape and we have a surplus of funds.

Participants discuss using Branch funds to supply an honorarium, or cover travel for invited speakers, as well as provide additional money for Bug's World, Eastern Branch awards and student travel; essentially use funds to incentivize the meeting and increase attendance. After the discussion no concrete plans were developed, but this topic will be brought up again during the summer business meeting. If using funds to incentivize the meeting, it is agreed that the Branch would need to advertise this information well; especially for members at smaller universities/colleges.

Governing Board Report (Doug Pfeiffer): Doug presents a Governing Board report (see attached). The Governing Board meets in the summer and the handout is derived from this meeting.

Membership in the Eastern Branch (1,307 total members), and ESA (6,935 members) have increased. Overall, growth has been pushed by student members. There was discussion at the Governing Board meeting about how to restructure membership dues because students are heavily subsidized. David mentions that HQ had some problems keeping track and moving students into the transitional category once they graduated; which is why there is a dip in student membership after 2013. ESA HQ will try to do more to retain student members once they graduate. The new ESA journal contract will likely help boost membership

Several important issues were discussed during the Governing Board meeting and are highlighted in Doug's attachment.

Doug's term is ending after Minneapolis and the Eastern Branch will need to find someone new; preferably before the next Governing Board meeting.

ESA President Report (Phillip Mulder): ESA strategic priorities in 2015 are: social, global, influence.

- Social responsibility to develop all members.
- Exploring global partnerships and relationships within and outside our science.
- Expanding our influence around the world to maximize the impact that entomology has on improving the human condition and our knowledge of the world around us.

ESA met with 3 DC staffers in 2014; more visits expected. ESA will continue with science policy fellows. ESA is trying to become a political force, but would like the respective Branches to also become more involved; especially to push their own agendas.

ESA Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, MN co-located with the Tri-Societies: The American Society of Agronomy (ASA), the Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), and the Soil Science Society (SSSA) of America. Meeting attendance is expected to be 6,000-7,000 people. Theme for the meeting is: Synergy in Science: Partnering for Solutions. Joint offerings include plenary sessions with Rob Snyder and John Pickett (Food chain sustainability) after ESA specific plenary session.

Symposia submission numbers are down considerably for the 2015 ESA Annual Meeting. Any late breaking symposia will be encouraged to contact Program Committee. ESA will also encourage more participation for submitted presentations. New for the 2015 meeting will be 3 minute/1 slide presentations for students (40 total). This was suggested as a way to thin out the number of participants for the student oral presentation (ESA has been running out of space for student presentations). Participants for this new event may also submit a poster, but will not be allowed to participate in the 10 minute oral presentations. Winners in this competition will also be recognized with president prizes. Other things new for the meeting will be the addition of "Premiere Presentations" to recognize outstanding symposia presentations. The section leaders will determine 5 (total of 20) premiere presentations, which will be highlighted in the program. Speakers of premiere presentations will be asked to participate in a video chat about their presented research and will receive an acknowledgment letter from ESA.

2016 ICE preparation: 326 symposia; expect 7,000-8,000 attendees; will be largest gathering of entomologists. One talk or poster allowed for ICE. Two Nobel Laureates to provide keynote.

ESA will continue to develop the global grand challenge agenda and explore new partnerships by resurrecting its International Affairs Committee. The grand challenge website is still online. The purpose of the grand challenge agenda is to get everyone together (including industry) to develop concrete projects that move ideas forward. ESA will create focus on issue, but wants others to move critical projects forward. The benefit for ESA members is to frame funding around grand challenges, which will make entomologist more competitive for grants.

ESA leadership is meeting with “Council of Scientists” (council of other scientific societies) twice a year to encourage relationships. ESA making statement to support entomology and science in general, and will be sending out an email shortly to ask members to contact their state representatives

ESA HQ Report (David Gammel): ESA finances are in good shape. Budget deficit projected for the next few years, but reserves are large and stocks are doing well. The deficit is mainly because of waiving page charges, and organizing essentially two meetings for 2016. The new relationship with Oxford is expected to make up for the projected deficit.

The 2014 ESA Annual Meeting went well last year; membership is at an all-time high. Susan Weller (University of Minnesota) will be the next ESA president.

Several staffing changes at ESA HQ: Becky Anthony is the new Branch contact and Katherine Mathews will now assist Branches with database management and elections. ESA HQ will continue to support Branches with Confex and staff for on-site meeting registration. If the Eastern Branch needs anything it should not be afraid to contact ESA HQ.

Eastern Branch will need a member (preferably a postdoc) to volunteer for the STEP committee this summer; represents ESA student transitional and early professionals. Activities of the STEP committee include participation in a conference call once a month.

Meeting Site Selection Committee Report (Judy Hough-Goldstein): The 2016 Eastern Branch Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA will be co-located with Northeastern Weed Science Society, Northeastern Division of American Phytopathological Society, American Society of Horticultural Science-Northeast Region, and the Northeast Branch of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and the Soil Science Society of America.

During the summer business meeting the Eastern Branch will need to determine where to go North for 2017; Mark will discuss meeting prices with his contact before making final meeting decisions. Branch leaders should coordinate meeting locations and time with ESA HQ during their summer planning meeting.

A discussion about why the Eastern Branch meeting is held on weekends was discussed. Traditionally this has been because airfare prices are lower and classes are not in session. A close of meeting survey will be emailed to get the Branch membership’s opinion on this topic.

Program Committee (Tom Kuhar and Anne Nielsen): A written program was printed by Virginia Tech for \$473 (approximately \$2.40/program). Tom will not charge the branch for printing, instead it will go on a Virginia Tech account. The hardcopy program was provided to all registrants in addition to making a larger program available on-line. The printed program was reduced in size, black and white with colored hardcover, and spiral bound

This year's meeting has 8 symposia and a total of 140 presentations (60 symposia presentations, 20 submitted presentations, 18 submitted posters, 29 student presentations, and 13 student posters). Total presentation numbers are lower than the 2014 Williamsburgh, VA (162) and 2013 Lancaster, PA (150) meetings, but higher than the 2012 Hartford, CT (112) meeting.

The Confex Meeting System was used again this year. Tom mentions that the system is valuable in that it takes care of all submissions and keeps them categorized into a nice database. The system also automatically generates submission confirmations.

Changes to this year's meeting compared to meetings in recent years include:

- Elimination of the Saturday evening Welcome Reception
- Scheduling the Executive Committee Meeting for Saturday afternoon
- Linnaean Games scheduled for Sunday night after the Welcome Reception

Doug mentions that three teams have announced their intentions to participate in the Linnaean Games; Virginia Tech, University of Maryland, and University of Delaware. David mentions that ESA headquarters will match the prize money given to the 1st and 2nd place teams up to \$1,000 and \$500 for 1st and 2nd place, respectively. Doug suggests increasing the Linnaean Games prize money from \$750 to \$1,000 for 1st place and from \$250 to \$500 for 2nd place. Participants vote to accept this change. George will see if students at Rutgers will participate now that there is more incentive to participate.

Also new this year an entomophagy spin was added to the program. Faith has been working to make this event successful.

Jim Steffel reports that there are 13 sponsors for the meeting who contributed a total of \$8,650.

New Business: Tracy met with other scientific societies to discuss the joint 2016 meeting. The meeting is scheduled for January 3-7 in Philadelphia, PA. A general program was recently emailed to the Branch. A website and full program are still currently in the works. We will have "Bugs World" scheduled for Sunday and the Linnaean Games scheduled for Tuesday. On Wednesday we will have our reception, but no dinner/banquet. It is anticipated that the joint meeting will have 1-2 multidisciplinary sessions. On Monday, all student presentations will be integrated and grouped by major discipline, but our students will only be judged by Eastern Branch ESA members. Registration for the meeting is expected to be \$200 (\$50 for students) for all societies involved. A website will be developed and hyperlinked by society for registration. The program will not be going through Confex; instead the Weed Science Society will handle it within their group (it is anticipated that this will save \$1,300).

The Easter Branch ESA will need to find members to serve on the various committees for the joint meeting. Tom Kuhar and Joanne Whalen have agreed to serve on the Industry Committee, George Hamilton on the Receptions and Socials Committee, and Faith Kuehn on Bugs World.

Jim Steffel urges that a memorandum of understanding be written up for the joint meeting to outline how money is allocated to the various societies. He also mentions that it may be unclear how traditional sponsors will support the meeting because it is a larger, integrated group. We may need to also look for non-traditional sponsors who would like to support the meeting.

Old Business: Amendments for extending the term of Treasurer and Secretary to three consecutive terms passed. Mark has agreed to continue his service as Treasurer for the Branch.

Few of the committee guidelines have been updated for the Branch website. We may need to prod people to get these submitted.

George mentions that as historian he would still like to be included on emails. He will be boxing up programs and reports and shipping them to an archivist at Penn State.

Daniel asks if anyone has more information about Herb Streau that can be included in the Service Award description that is under his name. Doug mentions that he will find out more from other colleagues.

Greg Krawczyk sent his Nominations Committee report to George. In Greg's report he mentions that Ashley Kennedy (Student Affairs), Don Weber (Awards and Honors), Faith Kuehn (Education and Outreach), and Louela Castrillo (Membership) have all graciously agreed to continue their service. Eric Day will serve on the ESA Finance Committee. We still need to find someone to serve on the Governing Board and as President-elect.

Meeting Adjourns: 5:50 pm