

**ESA Eastern Branch Final Business Meeting**  
**March 17, 2015**  
**Minutes**

Present: Daniel Frank, Paula Shrewsbury, Katherine Matthews, George Hamilton, Bill Lamp, Chris Bergh, Mark Taylor, Anne Nielsen, Tracy Leskey, Doug Pfeiffer, Yong-Lak Park, Tom Kuhar, Don Weber, Melody Keena, Faith Kuehn, Ames Herbert, Lisa Tewksbury

**Call to order: 7:07 am**

**Committee Reports:**

It is discussed that the Final Business Meeting should be advertised as open to the membership.

**Secretary (Daniel Frank):** Daniel and Katherine suggest sending a post-meeting survey to the Eastern Branch membership to get feedback. Potential survey questions include:

- Did you attend the 2015 ESA Eastern Branch Meeting in Rehoboth, Delaware?
- How many ESA Eastern Branch Meetings have you attended?
- How would you rate your overall experience at the 2015 ESA Eastern Branch Meeting?
- Please indicate how important each of the following factors was in your decision to attend the 2015 ESA Eastern Branch Meeting.
  - Relevant scientific research being presented
  - The opportunity to present my research
  - To participate in business/committee meetings
  - The opportunity to compete (i.e. Linnaean Games, student competition)
  - Location of Branch Meeting
  - Meeting dates
  - Overall cost
  - Bug's World
  - Networking opportunities with colleagues and friends
  - Funding availability by employer/advisor
  - Opportunities for professional development
- In your opinion, what would be the best month to have the ESA Eastern Branch meeting in the future?
- The ESA Eastern Branch Meeting rotates among cities located in the north, central, and southern region of the Branch. The 2017 meeting is scheduled to occur in the north region (i.e. CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI, VT, or Canada). In your opinion, what city in the north region would you like to have the 2017 ESA Eastern Branch Meeting?
  - Amherst, MA
  - Burlington, VT
  - Hartford, CT
  - Providence, RI
  - Other (please specify city and state/province)
- The ESA Eastern Branch Meeting is a three day event that has traditionally started on Sunday and concluded on Tuesday. In your opinion, what would be the best day of the week to start the ESA Eastern Branch Meeting?

- Please list any symposia topics you would like to see in future ESA Eastern Branch Meeting programs. If you are you willing to help organize a symposium on one of these topics, please include your name and email address.
- Please share any additional feedback that you may have about the 2015 ESA Eastern Branch Meeting.

Participants agree that this post-meeting survey would be valuable and should be sent to the membership.

**Treasurer (Mark Taylor):** Mark presents current financial report (attachment included in Executive Committee Minutes). ESA headquarters has insurance, so we don't need as much reserves in the bank as in past years; fiscally the Eastern Branch is looking very good.

Participants agree that the Branch should increase prize money for student awards and incentivize future meetings. Students are happy with prize money associated with student competition, but we need to increase the prize money for the Fitch and Comstock awards (these recipients currently receive less than student competition winners). Participants vote to raise prize money for these awards to \$250 as of this year. It is also discussed that the student competition should be split when attendance is high (18 PhD oral presentations this year) and have more awards. It is suggested that if participation in the student competition is high (more than 15 presentations) there should be 3 awards (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place). Also, if there are more than 20 presentations then the competition should be split into two sections. It is suggested that the Branch should advertise the number of student presentations to push more students into the poster competition (low PhD numbers this year and in previous years) and consider having 3 minute student presentations like the national meeting. Further discussion on this topic should continue during the Summer Business Meeting.

**Linnaean games (Doug Pfeiffer):** Virginia Tech and Maryland placed 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Linnaean games, respectively. The increase in travel funds for winning teams was enthusiastically received by students; \$1,000 for 1<sup>st</sup> place (with ESA HQ matching \$1,000) and \$500 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place (with ESA HQ matching \$500). Next year when soliciting teams the increase in prize money should be included in the announcement.

There was good attendance at the Linnaean games this year; the atmosphere was more relaxed and rambunctious, and it was suggested that we should keep the event in the evening.

**President Elect (Tracy Leskey):** Tracy thanks Paula for putting together a great meeting.

Tracy gives a quick reminder about next year's joint meeting: joint meeting will be held January 3-7 in Philadelphia, PA at the Sheraton Philadelphia Society Hill Hotel. The meeting 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. The meeting will open Sunday with "Bug's World". Student presentations will occur Monday and the Linnaean games will be in the evening on Tuesday. A multidisciplinary Quiz Bowl will also be scheduled. Multidisciplinary symposia are

expected, so if anyone has ideas for topics they need to let Tracy or Anne know. The Eastern Branch will not have a banquet during the meeting, but will instead have a reception. Registration for the meeting will be increased to \$200 (\$50 dollars for students).

**ESA Headquarters (Katherine Mathews):** Katherine mentions that total registration numbers for this year's meeting was 199 (2 guest, 9 half-day, 15 1-day, 173 full, 70 student). Registration numbers typically average 180.

**Insect Detection, Evaluation, and Prediction (IDEP) Committee (Lisa Tewksbury):** Lisa mentions that the IDEP symposium went well. The presentations were well attended and they had a packed room. She would like more communication with the Program Committee when an invasive insect presentation is in another section, so that it can potentially be moved to the IDEP symposium.

**Public Information Committee (Faith Kuehn):** Faith mentions that Bug's World went well. ESA will direct more money to Bug's World in the future. At next year's meeting the other societies will also need to provide funding for the event.

**New Business:** Everyone agreed that they liked the location of the meeting, but not the hotel. Problems with the hotel included: no restrooms on meeting room floor, loud noises during presentations, heating/cooling issues in meeting rooms, deposit on room reservations, high room rates (cheaper room rates if walked in off street), inflexible about a lot of things in general. In the future better rates need to be negotiated by the Site Selection Committee.

It was agreed that the Program Committee did a great job putting together this year's meeting. Participants also agreed that we should keep the printed program books for future meetings. Improvements suggested for the printed program books included: advertise next year's meeting and have blank pages in the back for notes. Doug volunteered to help Anne as Program Committee co-chair.

A problem during the meeting occurred when not enough seats and meals were provided during the banquet. This was due to the large number of on-site registrations. Katherine mentioned that ESA headquarters can help with this in the future by providing on-site registration numbers during the day of the banquet, or by providing a ticket system for banquet meals. Another problem was that the banquet room became really noisy when people were speaking to the group. Suggested solutions included: no food served when people are speaking and providing a better PA system.

It is mentioned that two students are needed to fill vacancies in the Student Affairs Committee.

Cesar Rodriguez-Saona will become the new President-Elect.

Melody Keena asks for nominations for ESA President from Eastern Branch.

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

**Meeting Adjourns: 8:03 am**