



**PACIFIC
BRANCH**

December 5, 2014

Students of the Pacific Branch ESA!

Sharpen your entomology skills, Texting skills, presentation skills, and employment skills! Join us **April 12-15, 2015** for the **99th Pacific Branch ESA** meeting at **the Coeur d'Alene Resort** in beautiful **Coeur d'Alene, Idaho**.

This is your chance to share your research with others, hear and discuss others' research, and network with colleagues and potential employers! Nearly one third of the attendees were students at last year's meeting in Tucson and it would be great to improve on this notable trend. YOU are an important part of making Tucson a successful meeting!

VISIT the PB-ESA website for more information - <http://www.entsoc.org/Pacific/2015-esa-pacific-branch-annual-meeting>

Deadlines are approaching! Some key dates and events for students to be aware of:

Student Paper and Poster Competition – submit your titles and abstracts on-line via Confex by **February 9th**. Only the student competition requires abstracts. (If you are submitting a general session paper or poster you don't need to include an abstract.). First and second places will be given for each student paper session and include cash awards.

Student Recognition Awards – Don't be bashful. You can't win if you don't enter. Award nominations deadline is **February 15th**, and can be submitted through the PBESA web site. For more information, contact the Awards Chair, Chuck Burks (Chuck.burks@ars.usda.gov). See website for instructions.

- John Henry Comstock Graduate Student Award - recognizes an outstanding PBESA graduate student. Winner will give a talk at the Pacific Branch general session Monday morning and be further recognized at the Awards Luncheon on Tuesday. Recipient receives \$100 cash prize and expenses paid for trip to the National ESA Meeting (Nov 15-18 in Minneapolis, MN).
- Student Leadership Award - recognizes outstanding leadership in the department, university, community, and/or professional societies. Winner is recognized at the Awards Luncheon on Tuesday of the PB-ESA meeting. (Hint: Employers love students who've demonstrated leadership in graduate school!)

Student Travel Awards – Limited funding is available. Submit your request through the PBESA website by **February 15th**. Feel free to contact Dr. Holly Ferguson, hferguson@wsu.edu.

Instructions and forms are available at PB-ESA Website. Recipients will be expected to help out the Operations Chair, Erik Wenninger, erikw@uidaho.edu, as needed during the meeting.

Meeting Registration – The early bird reduced rate of \$40 is good until **February 22nd**. After this date, the rate goes up to \$60. Registering early helps meeting organizers plan ahead for food, beverage, rooms, etc. Register on-line w/ credit card or print out the PDF form and send with your check to your Secretary/Treasurer Jesse Richardson. See links on the PB-ESA website.

Book your rooms at the Coeur d'Alene - Meeting rates of only **\$114/night** good from **April 11-15th**. Come early and stay late to enjoy the many outdoor and indoor activities available in Coeur d'Alene. The deadline for the guaranteed meeting rate is **March 23rd**. After that, the room rates go up and the CDA may not be able to guarantee availability of rooms. Don't wait until the last minute. Did you know that staying at the conference-arranged venue helps keep your costs down? We've committed to a certain number of hotel sleeping rooms, and if we meet that number, we get free meeting spaces. Tempting as it might be to find cheaper accommodations on-line, it hurts the Society. So please book on-line via the website link to the **Coeur d'Alene web site** (<http://www.cdaresprt.com/>).

Linnaean Games – Showcase your depth and breadth of entomological knowledge, from the common to the arcane! Please sign up by **March 9th** by contacting Michael Costello at mcostell@calpoly.edu. Winning teams get a check for \$500 to go towards travel to compete at the National Meeting in Portland year. Plus it looks good on your resume. Signing up early helps Dr. Costello prepare ahead of time. Which university will have bragging rights this year?

4th Annual Texting Competition – Back by popular demand! Test your entomology knowledge and texting skills in this fast and fun texting competition prior to the Linnaean Games. Participants receive points for accurately and quickly texting Latin names and answers to trivia questions. There will be 3 rounds with 5 questions per round. With each round, the questions will increase in difficulty and point value. The participant that accrues the most points is the winner. No points will be awarded for abbreviated, inaccurate, or misspelled answers. Participants must supply their own mobile phone or texting device. No traditional computer keyboards allowed, this is about texting speed, not typing speed! We will have fun prizes for the winners. **Registration is open until noon on the day of the competition. To register your device, text your name to 657-229-BUGS.** Contact Michael Orr, michael.christopher.orr@gmail.com, Texting Competition Organizer, if you have any questions.

Career Fair – Tuesday evening **April 14th** we will have an opportunity for students to explore employment opportunities, get career advice and network with professionals. Employers from all walks of entomology (e.g., University, Federal, State, Industry) will be available for discussions. Students that visit the most employer stations will be awarded coupons to a local brew pub. If you have any ideas or suggestions, contact student organizer Alix Whitener, (alix.crilly@email.wsu.edu).

NEW! ELEVATOR OPPORTUNITY! Right after the Career Fair on **Tuesday evening, April 14th**, we will have a brand new event we call 'Elevator Opportunity!' The concept is based on the ever increasingly popular 'Blast Talks', but with a twist. You will be given 3 minutes to describe your project/research to a prominent person. There will be no slides, but a substitute for a 'cocktail napkin' will be provided for drawing, if necessary. This is an open event, intended for students and early career professionals, and registration is limited to the first 20 people. Start practicing now!

Go to the PB-ESA website now to submit your paper/poster, register to attend, nominate yourself for an award, book your room, sign up for Linnaean Games and Texting Competition. Get involved! <http://www.entsoc.org/Pacific/2015-esa-pacific-branch-annual-meeting>.

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