

**The Eastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America
Executive Committee Meeting, Charlottesville, Virginia**

Sunday, March 12, 2006, Meeting Minutes (prepared by R. R. Youngman)

Members present: Art Agnello, Eric Day, Nic Ellis, Frank Gilstrap, George Hamilton, Jeff Huether, Susan King, Tom Kuhar, Bill Lamp, Paula Lettice, Doug Pfeiffer, Dean Polk, Pete Schultz, Paul Semtner, Jim Steffel, and Rod Youngman

Pete called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. and welcomed everyone to Charlottesville. He asked for a round of introductions and then invited Frank Gilstrap, current President of ESA, to make a few comments.

Frank thanked Pete for his introduction and then invited all of us to attend the 2006 National Meeting in Indianapolis. He said we will continue with the things instituted under Steffey and Ivie that were so successful for the past two meetings. He then mentioned a couple of new things he wants to try this year. The first is to invite the emeriti to develop their own symposia. The feedback so far is that the emeriti are excited. The second thing will involve working with Marc Fisher, current Student Affairs Committee Chair, about offering a lunch setting for students attending the annual meeting. All students will be welcome, but they will have to identify a mentor they would like to visit with over lunch. Our hope is to create an opportunity for the student and mentor to establish a long-term relationship.

Frank then moved to societal issues. This coming year the ESA Executive Committee will be taking a hard look at what things we can do differently to pick up new members and grow The Society. Specifically, we are looking at ways to restructure ESA to affiliate with other organizations, such as the American Phytopathology Society and their affiliates, as well as ECN, acarology, extension, taxonomic groups, and IOBC for example. Other benefits of restructuring are that it will allow branches to link with other networks, sections will function more like branches, and it will position us for the future. Frank added there are many individuals worldwide who would like to be part of ESA, but our current structuring does not allow for this to occur easily. He acknowledged that implementation will take several years, but using networks will enable us to better influence regulatory policy, make it easier to function at the section level than at The Society level, and, probably most important of all, allow people a greater level of expression that does not require the full agreement of The Society.

Currently, ESA sections only do programming and populate standing committees. Sections are subject-matter based. They do not have bylaws, but they do have a level of independence. By changing to a section format, sections would have greater independence. They could set their own themes, decide with whom they want to associate, and take on a whole new level of lobbying activities apart from ESA. Sections could charge nominal dues for membership and have their own bylaws.

ESA would serve as the umbrella organization that would continue to hold annual meetings, cover all the business aspects, handle awards, etc. The model for this is ASA Tri-Societies, which looks to the parent organization for their infrastructure.

There currently are four proposed sections:

1. Evolution
2. Plant-Insect Ecosystems
3. Suborganismal Systems
4. Structural, Veterinary, and Public Health Systems

Pete thanked Frank for his comments, and then invited Paula Lettice to make a few remarks. Paula thanked Pete and then proceeded to speak about membership trends at The Society and Branch levels. She said the 2003 membership level of 5,527 was a recent low point for The Society, although she added that membership levels for 2004 and 2005 were progressively better at 5,714 and 5,960, respectively. She went on to point out that recruitment is not our main issue and added that we seem to get new members all the time. Our main issue is in retaining members. For example, there were 990 new members returning after a two-year absence in 2005. The churn in membership numbers was at a low point in 2002 (565 members), but increased steadily through the next three years: 2003 (732 members), 2004 (811 members), and 2005 (990 members). The Membership Committee is looking at ways to address the problem of retaining members. One suggestion is to make personal contacts.

Paula next spoke on membership trends among the branches. The North Central Branch has the most stable membership of all the branches. The Eastern Branch membership levels reached a low point in 2003, but rebounded in 2005. Paula then addressed the issue of emeritus members and reduced membership dues and meeting registration fees. The policy of The Society now is to award 'emeritus gold' status to all members over 75, which means their membership dues and meeting registration fees are reduced by 50%. She cautioned, however, that you are going to run into financial difficulty if you have too many people paying less than full dues.

Paula moved on to BioOne, which is a non-profit organization that offers libraries much lower subscription costs than commercial publishers do to a collection of more than 70 biological sciences journals. She said ESA is the largest publisher affiliated with BioOne. She added that the Cadmus Rapid Review system has allowed us to move publications along much faster than in the past. ESA has four new handbooks out; three with APS and one final handbook with CRC Press.

Paula said The Society has been operating on a budget surplus for the past three consecutive years, and the board is being very cautious about taking on new programs. She said the Eastern Branch was the first branch to use online voting; the North Central Branch was second. In closing, Paula mentioned the very favorable response they have received from the membership on the member pins. The pin displays the years in increments of 10 that an individual has been a member of ESA.

Pete thanked Paula for her remarks, and then moved to committee reports.

President's Report: Pete Schultz

Pete began by expressing his gratitude to everyone for their hard work and time spent in making his job as easy as it was, and for ensuring the success of the 2006 meeting. He commented that one of the main difficulties of his presidency was finding people to volunteer for committees. He pointed out that many committees require very little effort during the year and only need one individual. However, there are other committees, such as the Program Committee that requires a great deal of time and effort. The Program Committee needs at least two individuals who have agreed to serve for two years, first as co-chair and then as chair. He wondered whether The Branch has too many committees, and if so, which committees do we eliminate? Doug commented that it is difficult to do away with committees, and raised the Resolutions Committee as an example. After some discussion, there was no consensus on which, if any committees should be eliminated. Pete concluded his remarks by pointing out that federal guidelines no longer allow USDA scientists to serve in society positions.

Past President's Report: Doug Pfeiffer

Doug said his major role as Past President was to find nominees for the Herbert T. Streu and L. O. Howard Awards. He said he will pass his list of strong potential nominees to Pete for consideration for 2007. Doug suggested that the Past President work with outgoing committee chairs to modernize the guidelines for their committees. He pointed out the changes Rod has made to streamline the Secretary's duties by making use of electronic notification and voting.

President-Elect's Report: Art Agnello

Art said that at the June 2005 Business and Planning meeting he was one of the voices encouraging the Executive Committee to consider holding our 2008 annual meeting in Syracuse, NY. He also mentioned contributing a column wrap for the 2005 National meeting at Fort Lauderdale, and added that he was working to find candidates for President-Elect for the next election.

Governing Board Representative's Report: George Hamilton

George handed Rod his report and said Paula L. has already covered what he was going to say.

Treasurer's Report: Eric Day

Eric provided handouts of his financial statements. He began by addressing the March 9, 2006 financial statement for The Branch. He said that as of July 1, 2005, the General Fund balance on hand was \$26,702.45. This figure is the combined balance of the checking (\$11,293.88) and savings (\$15,408.57) accounts as of July 1, 2005. Because of the low interest rate in the savings account, he moved \$15,000.00 from savings to a Wachovia Band certificate of deposit (CD). He said that as of March 9, 2006, the checking account balance on hand was \$23,528.86. The combined total of the checking and savings (\$418.57) accounts is \$23,947.43. When this figure is combined

with the reserve funds of \$48,720.74, the total funds available to The Branch as of March 9, 2006 are \$72,668.17.

Eric next commented on receipts, which included \$2,613.00 for the program enhancement funds, \$3,400.00 from the 2006 meeting sponsors, \$7,000.00 from registration, and a \$100.00 refund check from ESA for our error in paying the J. H. Comstock awardee. The Society is responsible for paying the \$100.00 cash prize to each branch awardee.

Eric moved to disbursements and said \$658.02 were spent on awards, \$200.00 on program expenses, and \$20.00 on the Executive Committee.

He finished his remarks by discussing the two reserve funds: The Blue Ridge Bank CD, which was created in 2003, and the Wachovia Bank CD, which was created in 2005. As of December 31, 2005, the Blue Ridge Bank CD totals \$33,569.66, and the Wachovia Bank CD totals \$15,151.08. The combined total for these two CDs is \$48,720.74.

Eric asked for a motion to accept his 2006 financial statement.

A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's 2006 financial statement.

The motion was seconded.

Discussion was requested.

There was no discussion.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Voting members: Agnello, Day, Hamilton, Lamp, Pfeiffer, Schultz, Youngman

Paula L. asked why we carry such a large reserve fund. Eric said the main reason for such a large reserve fund is to cover the expenses of an annual meeting that does not take place. For example, if severe weather conditions force us to cancel a meeting, our reserve fund puts us in a good position to cover our expenses with the hotel. Jeff asked about changing from a banquet format to something less formal like a buffet format for the Monday evening awards banquet. There was a fair amount of discussion on this topic, but the majority present felt the banquet format was more in keeping with the more formal intent of the awards banquet.

Eric concluded his comments by addressing future meeting sites. He said we are going back to Harrisburg in 2007 (18-20 March meeting date). The 2008 meeting is scheduled for 8-11 March at the Holiday Inn and Conference Center in Syracuse, NY. The decision has not been finalized for the 2009 annual meeting. We will either return to Harrisburg or go to the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, PA.

Pete thanked Eric for his report and then asked Rod for the Secretary's report.

Secretary's Report: Rod Youngman

Rod began by handing out copies of his 2004 and 2005 meeting minutes (copies of these meeting minutes had previously been made available at the 2004 and 2005

Executive Committee meetings). He asked for a motion to accept the 2004 meeting minutes.

A motion was made to accept the 2004 meeting minutes.

The motion was seconded.

Discussion was requested.

There was no discussion.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Voting members: Agnello, Day, Hamilton, Lamp, Pfeiffer, Schultz, Youngman

Rod asked for a motion to accept of 2005 meeting minutes.

A motion was made to accept the 2005 meeting minutes.

The motion was seconded.

Discussion was requested.

There was no discussion.

The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Voting members: Agnello, Day, Hamilton, Lamp, Pfeiffer, Schultz, Youngman

Rod went over his expenses for the past year. He said the awards are his main expenses now that we have done away with paper mailings and balloting. He spent a total of \$528.09 on framing five award certificates, two engravings, and two plaques. He went over a table in his report that lists his annual expenses back to 2001-02.

He then discussed two recent amendments to the Eastern Branch Constitution and Bylaws, which were to allow two consecutive terms for the Eastern Branch Representative to the ESA Governing Board, and to allow proposed changes to Committee Member Number, Selection, and Terms. An initial ballot was sent out, but we were unable to garner the 50 votes needed to constitutionally validate the proposed changes. The Executive Committee then approved the following message that was sent to the Eastern Branch listserv on 18 May 2005.

"The Eastern Branch Executive Committee recently called for a vote on several proposed changes to The Branch Constitution and Bylaws. Unfortunately, only 28 votes had been received by the original deadline of 31 March 2005. The Bylaws specify that a minimum of 50 votes are needed for an outcome to be valid. In an effort to correct this problem, we extended the deadline to 15 July 2005."

Rod reported the extension garnered the votes necessary to validate this process, which produced the following outcome:

The first item, **Accept proposed changes to allow two consecutive terms for Representative to ESA Governing Board** received 51 yes votes, 1 no vote, and 2 confused responses (both accept and reject boxes were selected).

The second item, **Accept proposed changes to Committee Member Number, Selection, and Terms**, received 53 yes votes and 0 no votes.

Rod concluded his remarks by saying there are other changes to the Eastern Branch Constitution and Bylaws that will need to be addressed in 2006. Art offered to work with Susan and Rod on these changes.

Member-at-Large: Bill Lamp

Bill said he had nothing to report at this time.

Awards Committee: Doug Pfeiffer

Doug said he has already covered what he wanted to say about awards in his Past President's report.

Finance Committee: Vacant

The Treasurer is fulfilling these duties.

Meeting Site Selection Committee: Eric Day

Eric said he has already covered site selection in his Treasurer's report.

IDEP Committee: Dick Bean

Dick handed out copies of his report and said he was very pleased with the attendance at the activities workshops in Harrisburg. He went on to say that after Donna Ellis resigned her position he was voted in by the membership.

Membership Committee: Nic Ellis

Nic handed out copies of his report and said that for the last two years the Eastern Branch and Society have seen membership numbers increase. He said the 2005 Membership Committee has been active in recruiting and retaining new members, with the result that Society membership increased across categories, branches, and sections. One of his goals is to develop a true Eastern Branch Membership Committee that will function on it's own.

Registration and Hospitality Committee: Dean Polk

Dean reported the latest meeting attendance figures. He said that in addition to the 128 individuals who preregistered, 17 registered on site. He added that the 2006 on-site registration has been much easier than it was at the 2005 meeting. He attributes this to the \$5.00 student registration fee we instituted for the 2006 annual meeting.

Nominations Committee: Tom Kuhar

Tom began by saying that electronic balloting was definitely the way to go. However, he was disappointed at the low voter turnout of only about 13%. Jeff Huether mentioned the possibility of having department heads help spread the word. Tom responded that departments with heads who are pro-Eastern Branch usually have good voter turnout and attendance at The Branch. Tom went on and announced the 2006 election results. He said Jim Lashomb was elected President-Elect, and Eric Day,

George Hamilton, and Bill Lamp, were re-elected to second terms as Treasurer, Governing Board Representative, and Member-at-Large, respectively. Pete spoke about the difficulty and frustration of getting people to sign on as candidates for elected positions. Tom said Past Presidents are a resource that could help the nominations committee find suitable candidates. Doug agreed and said the chair of the Nominations Committee should consider using Past Presidents for assisting with securing nominations.

Program Committee: Greg English-Loeb and Paula Shrewsbury
Neither Greg nor Paula were able to attend the Executive Committee meeting. Pete said they did an excellent job of putting together the 2006 annual meeting program.

Public Information Committee: Vacant
There was no discussion on this committee.

Rules Committee: Colwell Cook (not present)
Rod briefly went over a few items from Colwell's report.

Screening for ESA Awards Committee: Tracy Leskey (not present)
Pete went over Tracy's report and listed the names of the 2006 Branch nominees for Distinguished Achievement Award in Extension and Distinguished Achievement Award in Regulatory Entomology.

Student Affairs Committee: Wilma V. Aponte-Cordero (not present)
Rod handed out copies of Wilma's report to the committee, but did not go over her committee's accomplishments.

Auditing Committee: Brian Nault (not present)
Rod read from the 7 March 2006 report Brian sent previously regarding his recent audit of The Branch finances. In his report he said he reviewed the Eastern Branch Financial Statement for fiscal year 2005 and found everything to be in order.

Board of Certified Entomologists: Henry Hogmire (not present)
No report.

Corporate Support Coordinator: Jim Steffel
Jim said we currently have 16 sponsors that have pledged \$6,800.00 for 2006. He added that AMVAC Corporation is our newest sponsor. He then discussed the change in our sponsorship fees from \$300.00 to \$500.00 for 2006; however, the feedback he received indicated that \$400.00 was a more reasonable sponsorship fee for our meeting. The sponsorship fee was reduced accordingly. He added that some companies like Trécé Corporation would rather sponsor an awards luncheon or social mixer in lieu of giving money.

Linnaean Games Committee: Doug Pfeiffer

Doug said Virginia Tech and Penn State are the only teams signed up so far. He hopes other departments will field teams before the games start.

Local Arrangements: Paul Semtner

Paul said he had nothing to report at this time.

Outreach Program Committee: Faith Kuehn (not present)

Pete said Faith is unable to attend our meeting because she is presently helping with the "It's a Bug's World" exhibit. He remarked the exhibit is well attended and that Faith has done an excellent job with this program.

Parliamentarian: Susan King

Susan said she had nothing more to report.

Listserv Manager and Webmaster: Rod Youngman

Rod commented that he regularly adds new members to The Branch listserv from the monthly spreadsheets ESA sends out to every branch. He added that he continues to look for ways to improve The Branch website, and said he added an Archive link that can be accessed from the homepage. The Archive currently houses past programs, governing board reports, and the minutes of The Branch.

Pete thanked Rod for his remarks and then asked if there were any old or new business items that needed to be discussed. Since none were raised, Pete thanked everyone for their service and adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.