

**The Eastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America
Final Business Meeting, Charlottesville, Virginia**

Tuesday, March 14, 2006, Meeting Minutes (prepared by R. R. Youngman)

Officers present: Art Agnello, Eric Day, Bill Lamp, Doug Pfeiffer, Pete Schultz, and Rod Youngman

Pete called the meeting to order at 7:10 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the Final Business Meeting. He introduced Frank Gilstrap, current President of ESA, and invited him to make a few comments.

Frank thanked Pete for his introduction and the opportunity to say a few words. Frank began by inviting everyone to the National Meeting in Indianapolis, which is scheduled for December 10-13, 2006. Frank spoke about the restructuring process ESA is currently undergoing. One of the benefits of restructuring The Society is that it will enable sections to operate in the same way our branches do now. The number of sections and the names of sections are not the issue. What is key is that sections be issue driven. Groups such as ECBN, IOBC, etc., would be encouraged to meet with sections and develop their own agenda and budgets. The ESA annual meeting would not change. Sections would still be driven by programmatic themes; however, we would encourage sections to deal with issues. Frank said there are individuals outside of ESA who would benefit from their association with ESA, from which ESA would also benefit in the end. He asked, Why change what's not broken? In response to his rhetorical question, he said ESA is not broken, but by restructuring ESA, we will be better positioned for the future, which we cannot predict.

Pete thanked Frank for his comments and then introduced Paula Lettice, Executive Director of ESA, and asked if she would care to make any comments.

Paula thanked Pete for his introduction and then spoke about recent trends in membership at The Society and Branch levels. She said our biggest problem is not with recruiting new members; it is with retention of new members. She added one of the ways we are exploring to improve retention is through personal phone calls. She pointed out that membership levels for the Eastern Branch were at a low point in 2003, but was pleased to see them rebound in 2005. She commented on how hard everyone worked to reschedule the 2005 Fort Lauderdale meeting after Hurricane Wilma. She concluded her remarks by mentioning the positive response they have received from the membership about the member pins, which displays the years an individual has been a member of ESA.

Pete thanked Paula for her report and asked Doug for the Past President's Report.

Past President's Report: Doug Pfeiffer

Doug briefly commented that his major responsibility as immediate Past President is to chair the Awards Committee for the Herbert T. Streu Meritorious Service Award and the L. O. Howard Award. Doug said Karl Maramorosch was the 2006 recipient of the L. O. Howard Award, and no award was given this year for the Herbert T. Streu award. Doug concluded his remarks by announcing that the Virginia Tech team was the winner of the 2006 Linnaean games.

Pete thanked Doug for his report and asked Eric for the Treasurer's Report.

Treasurer's Report: Eric Day

Eric thanked Pete and then briefly went over the June 30, 2005 Financial Statement. As of July 1, 2004, the General Fund balance on hand totaled \$25,183.82, which is the sum of The Branch's savings (\$15,370.14) and checking (\$9,813.68) accounts. He said the total funds available to The Branch as of July 1, 2005 are \$59,607.68. This figure is the sum of the July 1, 2004 reserve fund (\$32,905.23) and the June 30, 2005 combined checking and savings accounts (\$26,702.45).

Eric continued by reminding us that part of his duties as Treasurer is to chair the meeting site selection committee. He said we are returning to Harrisburg for our 2007 meeting, which will be held from 18-20 March. In addition, our 2008 meeting will be held from 8-11 March at the Holiday Inn and Conference Center in Syracuse, NY. He said he has not confirmed a meeting site for 2009, but is considering the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, PA.

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

Secretary's Report: Rod Youngman

Rod went over his expenses for the past year, and said his largest expenditure is for the awards. He spent a total of \$528.09 on framing for five certificates, two engravings, and two plaques. He went over a handout that lists his annual expenses back to 2001-02.

Rod next reported on two amendments to the Eastern Branch Constitution and Bylaws that were passed by the membership on 15 July 2005.

The first amendment was to allow the Eastern Branch Representative on the ESA Governing Board to serve for two consecutive terms.

The second amendment was to accept the proposed changes to Committee Member Number, Selection, and Terms.

Rod concluded his remarks by saying there are other changes to the Eastern Branch Constitution and Bylaws that need to be addressed in 2006.

Governing Board Representative's Report: George Hamilton (not present)

No report.

Member-at-Large Report: Bill Lamp

Bill said he had nothing to report.

Alan Cameron asked for more clarification about the large reserve fund. He suggested we consider reducing it by \$10,000.00–\$15,000.00 for the ESA foundation for youth activity.

Loke Kok said we should try to attract more emeriti to attend. One way to do this would be to eliminate the meeting registration fees for emeriti.

Jim Steffel, Corporate Support Coordinator, said we have 16 sponsors this year who have contributed a total of \$6,800.00. He added that corporations are interested in supporting The Branch; however, some have indicated they would like to see their donation and corporate name sponsor such things as coffee breaks, drink tickets, or the banquet meal.

Pete announced that Jim Lashomb was the next President-Elect of The Branch, and then passed the gavel to Art Agnello, the next President of the Eastern Branch. Art thanked Pete and the other officers for their help in preparing him to serve as the next president. He said he was looking forward to contributing to another productive and rewarding year for the Eastern Branch.

Pete adjourned the meeting at 7:50 a.m.