

Entomological Society of America Plant-Insect Ecosystems Section *February 2013 Newsletter*



<http://www.entsoc.org/pie>

Austin 2013 National Meeting and P-IE Section Symposia

ESA central has been clearly advertising the meeting scheduled for **November 10-13** in Austin, Texas. However, it was not clear that this is a week earlier than the date that was set for several years leading up to the change and it has caused a scheduling conflict for some. Please be sure you have recorded the new date.

The next deadline fast approaching is the **March 1** deadline to be considered for **Section Symposium**. P-IE is allocated about 20 symposium slots based on its membership. In March, the Governing Council will select from hopefully a much larger group of submissions the ones we want to support. We attempt to select the best proposals but also try to represent the broad membership of P-IE. The advantages of being selected for a Section Symposium are better time and room placements and an improved chance for program enhancement funds. We thank in advance the symposium organizers and those agreeing to present. There are many ways to obtain information today but a well-organized symposium continues to be one of the best methods for bringing ideas together, stimulating new ones and advancing the science of Entomology. Please continue to step up and do your part! For the March deadline, the minimum requirements are titles and suggested speakers so the immediate task is not that bad. However, this also means the GC really just has titles to select from so feel free to send us more detail on your symposium so we are sure not to overlook it.

P-IE Volunteers Needed for National Conference

More than 100 volunteers, primarily moderators of 10-minute papers and judges of student papers and posters, are needed each year to run the P-IE portion of the national conference. This year ESA has started a new service to collect volunteers for various needs including the national meeting. It is located in Member Services on the website www.entsoc.org. Please give it a try. However, because we are still unsure how well this will work, please feel free to also volunteer via email instead of or in addition to the new volunteer portal on the website, by sending an email to Vice President John Adamczyk, jadamczyk301@gmail.com.

Nomination Committee Reconstituted

Theresa Pitts Singer, Chair and Pacific Branch Rep and Carlos Blanco, Southwestern Branch Rep rotated off after their 3-year appointments. Thank you, Theresa and Carlos! Because this was the inaugural term of the committee, they worked hard to figure out the process and left an easier path going forward. David Held, Southeastern Branch Rep, has accepted the role of chair and Rachid Hanna, International Branch, will serve as Vice-Chair. We welcome Tom Royer, Southwestern Branch, and Doug Walsh, Pacific Branch, as new members of the committee. The nominating committee is seeking talent for multiple opportunities and in particular for those to be nominated by the Section for national office. Contact David Held, dwh0004@auburn.edu or your branch representative for more information or to volunteer.

P-IE Goals for 2013

During our monthly Governing Council call in January, we discussed new and possible stretch goals for the Section. Several ideas were brought forward but with only a few thousand dollars of flexible funding most were rejected. We do hope to put forth a contest to improve the functionality and content of the ESA website and P-IE subsection, so stay tuned. Also, if any member has ideas on ways the Section can better serve membership, please let us know.

ESA Presidential Committee on Science Policy

President Wiedenmann has established a new committee to gather input from ESA Sections and Branches on which policy positions and issues ESA should focus. It is hoped that this will allow ESA to develop a Science Policy Agenda, identifying the top issues ESA should address to serve the broad interests of our members, and what change we hope to support through education, outreach, and advocacy. Our past Governing Board representative Bob Peterson, bpeterson@montana.edu, is chairing the committee

Bob has asked us to survey the Section membership about what policy issues they are most concerned about and/or on what issues ESA should be engaged in. Please send me (gdthompson@dow.com) your thoughts and we will put them forward as Section concerns. We have been asked to complete this activity by **April 1**.

Nominations Due for Fellows and Honorary Members by March 15

The ESA eNews does a great job of advertising future meetings and providing quick links. One worth repeating is the rapidly approach deadline for Fellow and Honorary

member nominations. It would be great to see several beaming smiles from P-IE members in November so please make time to nominate deserving members.

New P-IE Rep to the *Environmental Entomology* Editorial Board

Dr. Gene Reagan, LSU, had completed his term on the editorial board of *Environmental Entomology*. Thank you Gene, another job well done! We have been fortunate enough to recruit Dr. Mark Wright, U. of Hawaii, to represent P-IE membership. Thank you for stepping-up Dr. Wright!

Dr. Mark G. Wright is an entomologist at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Mark obtained a B.Sc. (Hons) and M.Sc. from Stellenbosch University in South Africa, and his Ph.D. in entomology from the University of Natal (1997). He worked on insects associated with indigenous crops and vegetables in South Africa (Department of Agricultural Development and Agricultural Research Council), prior to moving to Cornell University for a post-doctoral fellowship, where he worked on augmentative releases of *Trichogramma* for biological control of European corn borer. Mark then moved to the University of Hawaii to take up a position in the Department of Plant and Environmental Protection Sciences. He concentrates on integrated pest management research and extension in tropical fruit and nut crops, with strong research interests in sustainable pest management, risk-assessment for non-target impacts in biological control and post-release evolution in biological control agents. Mark has authored and co-authored numerous papers on insect-plant interactions, insect diversity, augmentative biological control, invasive insects, and integrated pest management. Mark is editor of the *Proceedings of the Hawaiian Entomological Society*. He has current research projects addressing key pests of coffee, papaya and macadamia nuts, agro-ecosystem diversification and pest suppression, and control of invasive pests attacking indigenous plant species in Hawaii.



P-IE Governing Council

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