

**2011 COMMITTEE REPORTS:
SOUTHWESTERN BRANCH OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA**

Audit Committee

Gary Puterka, Chair, reported that the financial records provided by Allen Knutson were examined by the committee and found to be in order.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Puterka, Chair

Members:

1. Jerry Michels
2. Kevin Gardner

Awards and Honors Committee. The Awards Committee accepted and reviewed nomination packages for one ESA Distinguished Achievement Award in Extension and three student awards: the John Henry Comstock Graduate Student Award; Undergraduate Student Achievement in Entomology Award (co-sponsored by SWB-ESA and Society of Southwestern Entomologists); and the for the Percival Scientific Undergraduate Entomology Student Activity Award (the second time ever awarded).

1. **Dr. Chris Sansone** was recognized as the Southwestern Branch representative for the ESA Distinguished Achievement Award in Extension. Dr. Sansone is a professor and Extension Entomologist at San Angelo TX, and serves as the associate Department Head for Extension with Texas AgriLife in College Station, TX.
2. **Hsiao-Ling Lu**, was the recipient of the 2011 John Henry Comstock Graduate Student Award, and she will also be recognized at the Annual Meeting of the ESA later this year. She is a Ph.D. graduate student at Texas AgriLife under the mentorship of Dr. Patricia Pietrantonio, Professor in the Department of Entomology, Texas A&M.
3. **Cassie Skipper** was the recipient of the Undergraduate Student Achievement in Entomology Award (\$50). Cassie is a student at the University of Texas at Tyler under the mentorship of Dr. Blake Bextine.
4. **Janet Arras** was the recipient of the inaugural Percival Scientific Undergraduate Entomology Student Activity Award (\$250). Janet is a student at the University of Texas at Tyler under the mentorship of Dr. Blake Bextine.
5. Discussion was exchanged on the future crafting and maintaining the bust model for the Ta-que-ne-whap Award (pronounced Ta-k-ne-wa). Dr. Grant Kinzer (retired), the artist of the award will continue to produce the bust, but someone will be needed to hold and maintain the award. Currently Dr. Scott Bundy will be the holder of the busts.

Respectfully submitted,

John Scott Armstrong
Chair, Awards Committee of the Southwestern Branch of the ESA

Members:

1. Pauline Vega (2011, INIFAP, TAMPS, MX)
2. Jesus Esquivel (2011, USDA-ARS AWPRU)
3. Jeff Tomberlin (2011, Texas A&M University)
4. Blake Bextine (2011, Univ. of Texas – Tyler)
5. Erik Rebek (2011, Oklahoma State University)
6. David Kattes (2012, Tarleton State University)
7. Sonja Swiger (2012, Texas AgriLife Extension)
8. Dave Thompson (2012, New Mexico State University)

Branch Archivist. No report.

Governing Board Report. Submitted by: Bastiaan "Bart" M. Drees, Professor of Entomology, Extension Specialist and Regents Fellow, Department of Entomology, 318 Minnie Belle Heep, 2475 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-2475, Ph: 979-845-7026, Fax: 979-845-7029

I completed 2010, my first full year as Southwestern Branch (SWB) Entomological Society of America (ESA) Representative to the Governing Board (GB) and Certification Corporation Governing Board (CCGB). I participated in the June 7-8, 2010 Summer GB meeting in Washington D.C. where we primarily reviewed nominations submitted for the ESA Fellows Awards. I missed Aug. 8 telephone conf. meeting due to a scheduling conflict. For the Annual ESA Meeting in San Diego, CA, we arrived early (Dec. 8, 2010) to interview candidates for the Executive Director position. The GB and CCGB met throughout the meeting, Dec. 8 to 15, with Dr. David Hog, ESA President, conducting the meetings. GB and CCGB discussions are confidential but minutes are being approved for posting on the revised ESA website.

The ESA GB interviewed candidates and selected C. David Gammel, CAE, Executive Director, Entomological Society of America. Ann Kenworthy, Interim Executive Director participated in her final GB meeting. Marlin Rice, Past President, participated in his last meeting! The Journal of IPM (JIPM) is now accepting manuscripts. The 2011 GB convened on the last day and now has a student representative as a voting member, Wendy Johnson, who will serve a 2 year term. The 2011 Budget was discussed and approved; discussions regarding funding sections and the international branch were held.

The summer GB and CCGB meetings are planned for June 12-15 in Reno, Nevada. Please contact me if there are any issues to bring to the attention of the Governing Board

Insect Detection Committee. This report covers just the highlights from arthropod identifications rendered by the three entomologists on the IDEP Committee plus any additional information provided by colleagues in their respective states.

TEXAS Highlights---Dr. Mark Muegge, Texas A&M University, Ft. Stockton, TX

Nothing New for 2011. Chilli thrips, *Scirtothrips dorsalis* (Hood) [Thysanoptera: Thripidae] <http://chillithrips.tamu.edu/>

Nothing New for 2011: Pink hibiscus mealybug, *Maconellicoccus hirsutus* Green [Hemiptera: Pseudococcidae] is an exotic pest first discovered in the US in Florida in 2002. It was reported in 2007 from Nueces County, Texas. New Locations confirmed in Texas are Hidalgo County, Galveston County, Harris County and Brazoria County. It attacks over 300 species of plants in 74 families so it has great potential as a pest of many plants. For more information on this pest see: http://etipm.tamu.edu/insect_alerts/ph_mealybug.cfm

Nothing new for 2011: Raspberry crazy ant, *Paratrechina* sp. nr. *pubens*. [Hymenoptera: Formicidae], This species has yet to receive positive identification. In Texas, the ant was first found in Harris County. It now has been confirmed from areas in Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Hardin, Jefferson, Liberty, Montgomery, Orange, Walker and Wharton counties. More than likely this ant has established outside these areas, but has not yet been confirmed. This ant is a major nuisance pest for homeowners, but may be more of an ecological problem as it competes with native ants for food and shelter. For more information see: <http://urbanentomology.tamu.edu/ants/crazy.cfm>

Red Imported Fire Ant, *Solenopsis invicta*: All counties west of the Pecos River have confirmed RIFA activity; however, none of the counties have yet to be quarantined. This appears to be due to the lack of widespread activity in the counties.

Kira Metz, Entomologist-Identifier (Domestic), USDA-APHIS, PPQ-WR for Texas provided the following data.

Scolytinae: *Scolytodes plumeriae* : 6/01/2010: Los Indios, TX, Lindgren trap.

Biology and Distribution information is from: Wood, Stephen L. 1982. The Bark and Ambrosia Beetles of North and Central America (Coleoptera: Scolytidae), a Taxonomic Monograph. Great Basin Naturalist Memoirs, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah; No. 6, pp 1369.

This is a Central American species that can attack and kill healthy host branches. Host: *Plumeria rubra*. Life cycle 20 days.

Scolytinae: *Scolytogenes knabi* (Hopkins): 11/09/2010: San Antonio TX: Lindgren trap.

Biology and Distribution information is from: Wood, Stephen L. 1982. The Bark and Ambrosia Beetles of North and Central America (Coleoptera: Scolytidae), a Taxonomic Monograph. Great Basin Naturalist Memoirs, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah; No. 6, pp 1369.

Distribution is from Nayarit east to South Florida and south to Venezuela. Hosts: *Calonciton tamnifolium*, *Candiosperma holacobium*, *Ipomeoa pes-carpae*, *Serjania* sp., and several other vines and small lianas. Attacks recently cut or dying vines usually less than 3cm in diameter.

Japanese Beetle, *Popillia japonica* Newman: 6/28/2010: Dallas Fort Worth Airport, Japanese Beetle Trap: It was considered to have come in with luggage.

Papaya mealybug, *Paracoccus marginatus* Williams and Granara de Willink: 6/29/2010: Galveston TX: Intercepted on some plants near a hotel. **USDA-ARS Quarantine Notes:** This species is commonly taken on papaya and hibiscus but is not limited to these hosts. It is most frequently taken in quarantine from Mexico but it also is reported from Central and South America and the Caribbean Islands.

The following information is from: First Report of the Papaya Mealybug, *Paracoccus marginatus* (Hemiptera: Pseudococcidae), in Indonesia and India. R. Muniappan, B. M. Shepard, G. W. Watson, G. R. Carner, D. Sartiami, A. Rauf and M. D. Hammig. J. Agric. Urban Entomol. 25(1): 37–40 (January 2008) native to Central America (Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Costa Rica). The mealybug is a polyphagous pest, with hosts recorded from 22 plant families including economic and weedy plants in genera such as *Acacia*, *Acalypha*, *Ananas*, *Annona*, *Bidens*, *Capsicum*, *Hibiscus*, *Ipomoea*, *Mangifera*, *Manihot*, *Persea*, *Plumeria*, *Punica*, *Solanum* and *Vigna* (Ben-Dov 2008). *Carica papaya* (L.) H. Karst. and *Parthenium hysterophorus* L. are favored hosts.

October - December 2010

European Pepper moth, *Duponchelia fovealis*: the following TX counties have tested positive for this pest: Harris, Fort Bend, Waller, Van Zandt, Smith, Dallas, Denton, Travis.

Surveys for light brown apple moth and emerald ash borer were negative; however, the European Pepper Moth was detected in several Texas counties this year. The survey was coordinated by Dr. Allen Knutson and Dr. Manuel Campos. Their report summary is given below.

The European Pepper Moth (EPM), *Duponchelia fovealis*, was first detected in the US in July, 2010 in California. Subsequent surveys determined that this insect was also present in 12 states, including Texas where the first state record was confirmed from Houston. To determine if this moth was present in other areas of Texas, APHIS requested that Texas AgriLife Extension Service survey for EPM as part of the on-going survey for Light Brown Apple Moth. Thirty pheromone traps for EPM were monitored for 6 weeks in late September to early November in 13 Texas Counties. Capture of European Pepper Moth was confirmed in the following 8 counties: Harris, Ft. Bend, Waller, Smith, Van Zandt, Travis, Dallas, and Denton Counties, all of which represent new county records for this species. European Pepper Moth was not detected in traps monitored in Collin, Montgomery, Nueces, Kleberg and Williamson Counties.

OKLAHOMA Highlights---Dr. Richard Grantham, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK
Last year proved to be an interesting year pest wise. We had a colder than average winter and a major snow event going into the year. It was hoped this would have a major impact on pest insect populations, but alas, no such luck!

We received numerous reports of a large assortment of caterpillar pests, especially bagworms. In addition to evergreens, these occurred on multiple deciduous hosts, and 2010 may turn out to be one of our heaviest bagworm years in decades.

With all of the increased food around, wheel bugs (Hemiptera: Reduviidae, *Arilus cristatus*) were also in plentiful supply. Densities as high as 5 adults per square yard were observed. In southeast and south central Oklahoma we have been receiving reports/samples of large outbreaks of sugarcane beetles (*Euetheola humilis*). These have been reported “burrowing” into caulk/tar/asphalt in sidewalks, parking lots, roofs, and building expansion joints. One location reported almost \$30,000 in damages to a parking lot. High profile sites include a casino, hospital, college, and high school. All of these areas appear attractive and good light management is difficult if not impossible. We are still trying to assess the source of these infestations.

Since their entry into the “Cowboy State” in 2004, we added no new Africanized honey bee infested counties for the year! Activity was also down with only about a dozen samples submitted; our county total now stands at 41 of 77. We continue to test samples on an as needed basis for New Mexico.

Bed bug submitted samples (40+) continued to increase this year. Many pest control operators are not submitting samples to OSU so we do not have a firm distribution for the state but most major cities have reported cases.

CAPS surveys for light brown apple moth, emerald ash borer, assorted grape pests for Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry were all negative for 2010.

First state report: A termite scarab, *Valgus canaliculatus*. Two beetles (1 male, 1 female) were found in several USDA wood boring beetle monitoring traps at the Port of Catoosa in Tulsa. This species is reported to be common in the nests of subterranean termites (*Reticulitermes* sp.)

First state report: A hispine leaf beetle, *Anisostena cyanea*, was found during a routine sweep of a native pasture.

Rare report: Oak stag beetle, *Platycerus virescens*. Two beetles were found in USDA wood boring beetle monitoring traps at the Port of Catoosa in Tulsa. This is only the second time this species has been found in OK, with the last specimen collected 75 years ago.

NEW MEXICO Highlights---Dr. Carol Sutherland, New Mexico State University

In late summer, 2010, I tentatively identified pecan serpentine leafminer, *Stigmella juglandifoliella* (Clemens) (Lepidoptera: Nepticulidae) in foliage submitted from Chaves and Dona Ana Counties (Pecos and Mesilla Valleys, respectively). As far as I know, this would be a new state and at least two new county records for this insect. *Coptodisca lucifluella* Clemens (Lepidoptera: Heliozelidae), is another long established but rarely noticed pecan insect that re-purposes the dry remains of its tiny oval mine into a pancake-shaped shield that protects and cushions its minute pupa as it falls to the soil.

After a nearly 20 year hiatus, hickory shuckworm (Lepidoptera, Tortricidae, *Cydia caryae* (Fitch)) was collected again in New Mexico, this time from commercial pecans in Chaves County. Best documented from Central Texas and east, hickory shuckworm has the potential to decrease pecan nut quantity and quality, although its predictability and economic impact seem sporadic in at least parts of its range.

In New Mexico, I have identified navel orangeworm (Lepidoptera, Pyralidae, *Amyelois transitella* (Walker)) in the nuts or fruit of pecan, English walnuts, almond, pomegranates, and pistachios. New Mexico’s pistachio producers, almost exclusively in Otero County (south central) are just coming to grips with this secretive, damaging pest. In 2010 several of us at NMSU used commercially available traps in two large orchards to document the pest and determine periods of peak flights. Baited with ground almond hulls, the traps were attractive only

to ovipositing females in the first generation flight; thereafter, the females ignored our traps and oviposited directly onto damaged fruit, apparently the preferred host. We then documented NOW infestations in harvested nuts. Dissections of harvested nuts also permitted us to evaluate kernel damage caused by leaf-footed plant bugs (*Leptoglossus clypealis* and *L. occidentalis*) and large populations of conchuela stink bugs (*Chlorochroa ligata* (Say)).

Granulate Cutworm, *Agrotis subterranean* (Fab.) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) infested 20,000+ acres of alfalfa in Eddy County (SE New Mexico) in July and later. Caterpillars of mixed sizes and ages destroyed above-ground plant parts, crowns and roots near the soil surface, resulting in extensive crop losses. Emergency federal funding was obtained for producers, covering some crop losses and allowing replanting.

White-Fringed Beetle, *Naupactus* sp. (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) was verified in Quay County (east central NM) where it significantly weakened a 2-3 year old alfalfa stand that had already been replanted once for the same symptoms. These flightless gray broad-nosed weevils appear above ground in late summer and fall where they notch foliage of alfalfa and crop weeds with their chewing jaws. They lay their eggs around the bases of potential host plants; over 350 species of plants have been documented as hosts in the US. The legless C-shaped white larvae hatch and burrow through the soil around and sometimes in the host's roots, weakening and killing the hosts. Producers don't notice plant deaths but eventually are aware of decreased production, patchy growth and increased weediness. The problem occurs again several years after replanting but well before a producer expects to rotate crop species. Finding white-fringed beetle only happens when a collector is in the right place at the right time, examining the right evidence. Quay County joins Dona Ana, Eddy, Lea and Chaves Counties, all known to have white-fringed beetle infestations. These pests traverse long distances by hitch-hiking on anything coming out of an infested location, from hay bales to old equipment, trailers, firewood and other items. Insecticide treatments are not likely to provide as much relief for growers as rotating to fibrous-rooted small grains for several years; these roots do not provide adequate food or habitat for WFB larvae.

Tomato/potato psyllids (Hemiptera: Psyllidae, *Bactericera cockerelli* (Sulc)) were confirmed in San Miguel County on both tomato and potato in a large school garden. This pest is known to occur in outdoor crops in most northern New Mexico counties and in greenhouse tomato in several southern and central counties. All life stages are found on host foliage and stems. Long associated with 'psyllid yellows,' the pests are now recognized hosts of a bacterial plant pathogen, *Liberibacter* sp. Infestations on tomato and eggplant will cause plants to stop flowering and any fruit in production often will be small, distorted and unusable. Infestations on potato change the plant's physiology such that sugars produced in photosynthesis are not stored as starches in the tubers; instead, they remain as sugars, resulting in tubers that appear watery and bruised. Damaging sugars are noted when tubers are processed as chips or fries that turn brown or black when cooked; consumers reject these products, complaining about disagreeable odors, flavors and appearance.

Apple maggot, *Rhagoletis pomonella* (Walsh)(Diptera: Tephritidae) was confirmed in Valencia County(north central) apple orchard in late summer. Since 2003, this invasive pest has been documented in Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, Sandoval, Santa Fe, Bernalillo, and Taos County (all north central) apples.

Two samples of Jujube fruit and figs were heavily infested in the field with larvae of 'small fruit flies, *Drosophila* sp. (Diptera: Drosophilidae). The fruit was noted to be soft but sour and full of minute maggots.

After not being reported for nearly 50 years, the plum gouger (Coleoptera: Curculionidae, *Coccotorus scutellaris* (LeConte)) was collected and reared from the pits of yellow plums ripening in a small orchard in Rio Arriba County (northwest). Apparently with just one generation annually, adults emerge from the soil in spring and oviposit on small developing plum fruit. The grubs chew into developing plum pits, which they hollow out before either escaping the ripening fruit or persisting inside the pit while the fleshy fruit is eaten.

Carpenterworms (Lepidoptera: Cossidae, *Prionoxystus* sp.) attacked hybrid poplars in north central, central and southern New Mexico, creating spots of stained or weeping bark, distorted, sunken woody wounds and eventually peeling bark on their hosts.

A blue cactus worm (Lepidoptera, Pyralidae, *Melitara* sp.) destroyed several pads of an *Opuntia* in a cactus garden in Roswell in late summer. The mature caterpillars were plump, about an inch long and most were a dark denim blue. They consumed all of the soft tissue out of the pad, leaving just the epidermis and shreds of vascular system inside. Several adults were reared for the collection.

Larvae of an unidentified genus and species of Megalopygidae (Lepidoptera, the puss moths, hag moths, etc.) were defoliated native oak trees and shrubs on a ranch near Pinyon, New Mexico (central) in late summer. The deceptively soft, fuzzy white caterpillars each were armed with short, stout black stinging spines, barely visible under the long, white fuzz. Each caterpillar had a large, school-bus-yellow mark on the rear quarter of the caterpillar. Unfortunately, all caterpillars that survived to pupate in the lab produced tachinid fly parasites in January, 2011.

P-14, the 14-spotted lady beetle (Coleoptera, Coccinellidae: *Propylea quatordecimpunctata*) was released in New Mexico in the early 1990s as a potential biological control for the Russian wheat aphid, a serious pest at the time in the grain fields of eastern New Mexico. In 2010, relatively large numbers of adult P-14 were submitted on yellow sticky traps used for glassy-winged sharpshooters in commercial vineyards (for wine) in north-central New Mexico. While the number of honey bee samples received for identification was 'off' in 2010, Africanized bees were confirmed in one new county, San Juan (extreme northwest), after invading and replacing a European honey bee colony. The new beekeepers were attacked and stung by the invaders. Two dogs were killed and a third severely injured by AHB in the Albuquerque city limits in June, spurring an effort by city officials to regulate beekeeping in town. Model regulations are in place in several cities in the Western U.S., including some cities already with AHB infestations. 4Hers and six 4H sheep were attacked and stung by AHB in southwestern New Mexico; 2 sheep died. At the end of 2010, 21 of 33 New Mexico counties have had at least one sample of confirmed AHBs; the remaining counties are mostly rural counties with low density, highly independent populations.

Human bot flies, *Dermatobia hominis* (L.) (Diptera: Cuterebridae) were recovered from two dogs in Dona Ana County in the summer and fall of 2010. Mr. Muggles, a pug, was 'dog-napped' from a Las Cruces subdivision in late spring. After 6-8 weeks, a dirty, skinny pug excitedly scratched at the front door of the pug's owners. Recognizing their long-lost pest, the wife fed the dog and gave him a bath, discovering two suspicious lumps on his skin. The veterinarian removed two small to medium human bot fly larvae from the otherwise healthy dog. In the second case, a family was hiking east of Las Cruces in early fall, finding a skinny, dirty Chihuahua puppy abandoned in the desert. They captured it, took it home, fed and washed it, only to find a large, painful lump in the middle of its back. The same veterinarian extracted another human bot fly larva from the puppy, now named 'Mouse.' The best that I can determine, the range of human bot flies extends from central South America north through Central America,

southern Mexico and ends in the highlands of Tamaulipas, Mexico. Their preferred habitat includes cooler temperatures, higher humidities and reasonably ample vegetation. They also require at least one 'go-between' Dipteran species that physically carries the bot fly eggs to potential bird or mammal hosts where bot fly larvae develop. Unless human bot flies have been documented much closer to New Mexico, it would appear that both dogs were exposed to human bot flies in northeastern Mexico. Mr. Muggles may have been dog-napped as a possible gift for someone in Tamaulipas or a nearby area, but when he was rejected, the dognapper returned to the US with the infested canine, releasing him in the vicinity of his original home in Las Cruces. 'Mouse' likely escaped or was abandoned by people who brought him into the US from Mexico. Both dogs survived their brushes with myiasis and are happy, healthy and well loved in Las Cruces; the maggots, however, were preserved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Mark Muegge, Texas A&M University, Fort Stockton

Dr. Richard Grantham, Oklahoma State University, Stilwater

Dr. Carol Sutherland, Chair, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces

Insect Expo Committee. After considering many Amarillo museums and other locations, it was determined that the Ambassador Hotel would be suitable for the Expo event. It was also determined that no external insurance would be needed since the Hotel's insurance would cover the Expo participants and patrons. The Hotel was remarkably accommodating and they did a fantastic job hosting and facilitating all aspects the event.

A date for the Expo—and in fact the meeting—was based on the timing of state-wide required standardized tests. Amarillo ISD, all Amarillo private elementary schools, surrounding area schools, and area homeschooling groups were notified by email of the Insect Expo five weeks prior to the event date. Within days, a large number of excited responses were received and a total of 866 3rd-5th graders registered. Two "shifts" of visitors were established; one scheduled for 9AM arrival (426 registered) and the second for 11AM arrival (460 registered). It was determined that the Expo should end at 1:30PM at the latest so that all ESA members would be able to attend the 2PM Palo Duro Canyon/feedlot tour.

A total of 63 volunteers participated in the Expo. Volunteers were recruited from:

Potter County Master Gardeners

Randall County Master Gardeners

West Texas A&M BBB Club

Texas A&M University students

Oklahoma State University students

SWB-ESA Membership

US Army

Exhibitors included:

Panhandle Master Naturalists

Mr. Greg Cronholm

US Army Health Corp

Dr. Bonnie Pendleton

Oklahoma State University's Insect Adventure

A total of 19 activity/exhibit stations were presented:

Tarantulas	Pinned Insects	Insect Adventure Petting Zoo
Maggot Art	Ant Detective	Insect Olympics
Aquatic Insects	Pollination Station	Insects as Human Food
US Army Health Corp	Bug Bingo	Suck-A-Bug
Making Scents of Insects	Termite Trails	Roach Races
Grain Insects	Insect Antennae	Fear Factor
Pasta Metamorphosis		

A greater number of stations were presented so that the number of students at any given station was less than 25, on average. Also, the greater number of stations reduced wait time between activities, therefore increasing excitement for teachers and students. Stations were designed to be activity/experience-based instead of oriented towards a spoken presentation which and allowed classes to get through all stations in less than 2 hours.

Donations of food for volunteers were obtained through the efforts of Joy and Jeanette Newton.

Donations were received from:

The Donut Stop

United Supermarkets

OSU Insect Adventure

Donations of supplies for exhibits were received from:

Dr. Bonnie Pendleton, West Texas A&M University,

OSU Insect Adventure

Sgt. Chris Phillips, US Army

The Entomological Foundation

Many thanks to Sharon Andreason and Patrick Porter for their photographic efforts during Insect Expo. The best of these photos will be put up on the SWB website.

A number of notable issues and possible solutions presented themselves during preparation and execution of Insect Expo this year. If ESA members have any additions or suggestions to make on these topics, please don't hesitate to do so by contacting Andrine.

- 1) Volunteer Recruitment. There was a surprisingly low number of student volunteers from participating universities in the Branch. Not only are their numbers necessary to man stations, but this experience can be highly educational, an important networking opportunity, and a valuable resume-builder. Additionally, Expo participation can reduce the cost of student registration fees. This event simply cannot be successful without the commitment and involvement of the student membership. Encouragement and support for their participation must come from, first and foremost, from faculty at ALL SW Branch universities or these benefits for students will be lost when Expo is lost. If our Branch had 45 students participating in Linnaean Games, we should have instantly had 45 student volunteers for Expo, too.

- 2) Cost. The annual financial liability of the Insect Expo needs to be considered. Each year, location rental fees, insurance, supplies, and refreshments may or may not be required. Many combinations of methods for securing all these have been tried to greater or lesser success in the past. I would like to suggest that more formal operating procedures and policies are instituted to either cover or defray these costs in the future.

- 3) Location, Local Arrangements, and Insect Expo. Unless the Chair of the Insect Expo Committee is located in or near the Branch Meeting destination, planning and execution of the Insect Expo is extremely difficult, frustrating, and very time-consuming. Visual assessment of the meeting locale and surrounding community options is invaluable for important decisions made regarding number of schools invited, designing and selecting stations, number of volunteers needed, noise levels, traffic-flow, and financial support required. I would like to submit for consideration the idea that the Chair of the Insect Expo Committee each year be selected from the area near the meeting destination, or that the Chair of the Expo be invited to participate in early, on-site planning meetings for the conference.

With the intent of addressing these concerns and simplifying future Insect Expo planning and management efforts, the Insect Expo Committee would like the opportunity to submit for consideration additions to the Insect Expo SOP document. These could be ready for review by the SWB-ESA Executive Committee by April 30, 2011. The Insect Expo Committee will endeavor to incorporate all the experience gained in the past decade into changes in this document, but any new ideas or additional suggestions will be welcomed from the membership. We are the only Branch in the ESA to regularly provide this remarkable educational experience for the benefit of local teachers, students, and our membership. Please consider a sincere commitment to the continuation and betterment of our discipline by helping to educate and outreach to the future entomologists in our region through the Insect Expo.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrine A. Shufran, Chair

Committee Members:
Bonnie Pendleton
Phil Mulder
Carol Sutherland
Scott Russell
Trisha Dubie
Joy Newton

Linnaean Games Committee. The 27th Linnaean Games Competition for the Southwestern Branch of the ESA was held at the fifty-ninth annual meeting in Amarillo, Texas. Teams representing New Mexico State University, Oklahoma State University, Tarleton State University, Texas A&M University, the University of Texas at Tyler, and West Texas A&M University participated in the games. In eight well-played matches, Oklahoma State University won first place, whereas second place went to Texas A&M University. Members of all teams

received or will receive a Certificate of Outstanding Participation, and the teams from Oklahoma and Texas A&M are eligible to represent the Southwestern Branch at the National competitions at the next Annual Meeting of the ESA in Reno, Nevada. Both teams will will receive financial (\$500) support for their travels to the meetings. Oklahoma State will receive a traveling trophy, a permanent trophy and \$50.00 per team member. The Linnaean Games committee would like to thank the Southwestern Branch of the ESA for their support of trophies and other awards provided to the winning teams. We would also like to thank all those who submitted questions for the competition, including members of the Linnaean Games Committee.

Respectfully submitted:
Scott Bundy, Chair

Members:
Phillip G. Mulder, Jr., Gamesmaster
Blake Bextine
Jesus Esquivel
David Kattes
Mark Muegge
Bonnie Pendleton
Eric Rebek
Andrine Shufran
Kevin Shufran
Jim Woolley

Local Arrangements Committee. The 2011 Annual Meeting was held 7-10 March at the Ambassador Hotel in Amarillo, Texas. An Insect Expo for almost 900 3rd-5th graders was held in the Ballroom of the Hotel on Monday, 7 March. The Ambassador is the main conference hotel in Amarillo and has good facilities to accommodate meeting activities.

The room rate was \$84.00 per night, with free, hot, buffet breakfast included and one free comped room night provided for every 40 room nights reserved. The free room was provided to the ESA President.

Durham School Bus Services was contracted to provide transportation for the tour of Cadillac Ranch, Randall County Feedyard, and Palo Duro Canyon on Monday afternoon. A welcome reception with barbeque dinner was held for 86 people at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon on Monday evening. The total charge for the barbeque meal was \$883, with a \$99 charge for using the Museum for three hours.

Food for morning and afternoon breaks on Tuesday and Wednesday consisted of coffee, iced tea, pastries, cookies, and brownies. The student mixer on Tuesday evening cost \$500 with finger foods and a keg of beer for 50 students. A total of 120 buffet meals at a cost of \$22 plus 20% service charge per person was ordered for the banquet on Wednesday evening.

Easels for posters were borrowed for free, saving many hundreds of dollars in rental costs. Computers and projectors were provided by several members to save costs.

A total of 142 people attended the meeting. Only about half that many people pre-registered, which made it very difficult to plan for food.

Bonnie Pendleton, Co-chair
G. J. Michels, Jr., Co-chair
Jody Gilchrest, Member

Membership Committee. ESA Staff (Chris Stelzig) provided the figures on Membership through January 31, 2011:

- 2010 year-end ESA membership: 6410 total ESA (**500 in the SWB**)
- 2011 January ESA membership totals: 4736 renewed so far total ESA (**385 in the SWB**)
- 2010 new ESA member year-end: 992 total ESA (**100 in the SWB**)
- 2011 January new ESA member totals: 170 total ESA so far (**19 in the SWB**)

The numbers are all-inclusive. The totals shown include new members. Of the 6410 total year-end 2010 members, 992 were new.

Respectfully submitted,
Jesus Esquivel, Chair
Members:
John Burd
Bill Ree
Charles Suh
Justin Talley
Dough van Gundy

Nominations Committee. The Nominations Committee reviewed a list of Southwestern Branch ESA members and selected three believed were most qualified and dedicated to carrying on the work of the Branch. The Committee ranked the three individuals, and Robert Davis was selected to be Secretary/Treasurer-Elect for the Southwestern Branch for 2011.

Committee members for 2011 were:

Bonnie Pendleton
Greg Cronholm
Tom Royer
Carlos Blanco, Chair

Public Information Committee: No report.

Program Committee. No report.

Resolutions Committee.

Resolution No. 1 - **Whereas**, the **59th** Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Branch of the Entomological Society of America has been very productive, highly informative and enjoyable for the members and guests, and **Whereas**, the success of the meeting has been due in large part to the efforts of the executive officers **Tom Royer, Allen Knutson, Scott Bundy, Carlos Blanco, Jesus Esquivel, and Bart Drees**, **Be it resolved**, that the members of the Branch recognize and express their gratitude to all those involved in this pleasurable meeting.

Resolution No. 2 - **Whereas**, the Program Committee co-chaired by **Eric Rebek** and **Justin Talley**, the Local Arrangements Committee co-chaired by **Jerry Michels** and **Bonnie Pendleton** have organized a highly informative and interesting program in a most enjoyable setting, and **Whereas**, all of the other committee chairpersons and members along with the program moderators and numerous volunteers added significantly to the success of the meeting; **Be it resolved** that the members of the Branch recognize and thank all those involved in the planning and conduct of the meeting.

Resolution No. 3 - **Whereas**, ESA President **Dr. Ernest Delfosse**, ESA Director of Communications **Alan Kohan**, and Southwestern Branch Governing Board Representative **Bart Drees** have contributed to the success of this meeting through their perspectives of the status, health and goals of the ESA; **Be it resolved**, that the members of the Branch recognize and express their gratitude to these individuals for their participation in and contributions to this meeting.

Resolution No. 4 - **Whereas**, the organizers, moderator and participants of the Linnaean Games provided an outstanding program of entertainment and education; **Be it resolved** that the Branch membership extend their appreciation and thanks for the efforts of these individuals; and **Be it further resolved** that the membership extend congratulations and best wishes of success to the winning team of the Linnaean Games.

Resolution No.5 - **Whereas DuPont Crop Protection, FMC Corporation, Trece, Donut Stop and United Supermarkets** provided funds for Branch Functions; **Be it resolved** that the Branch membership express thanks and appreciation to the sponsors, for supporting Branch functions and the Linnaean Games.

Resolution No. 6 - **Whereas**, the accommodations, service, and hospitality for this meeting contributed to the success of the meeting; **Be it resolved** that President **Tom Royer** express written appreciation to the management and staff of **The Ambassador Hotel**.

Resolution No.7 - **Whereas**, the Invitational Speakers provided informative and enjoyable messages; **Be it resolved** that the Branch membership express their thanks to all Invitational Speakers for their participation in this meeting.

Resolutions No. 8 **Whereas**, the 2011 Insect Expo was a successful, exciting and educational event for 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students of the Amarillo area. **And Whereas** that the success of this important educational event would not have been possible without the volunteers from the Universities WTAMU, TAMU, and OSU, Panhandle Master Naturalists, the Potter Co. and Randall County Master Gardeners and financial assistance from the Donut Stop and United Supermarket. **Be it Resolved** that the Branch members express their appreciation to members of the Insect Expo committee, Andrine Mossison Shufren , chair, and volunteers for their hard work.

Resolution No. 9 - **Whereas**, the SW Branch prides itself in the accomplishment of its members, **Be it Resolved** that branch member express their congratulations to **Joe Louis**, University of North Texas as the 2010 SW Branch recipient of the John Henry Comstock Award.

Resolution No. 10 - **Whereas**, the strength of the Southwestern Branch of the Entomological Society of America lies within its “family” members and their contributions to the Branch and **Whereas** the Branch lost four important members since the last meeting. **Be it resolved** that the 2011 meeting be dedicated to the memory and contributions of our deceased members: **John Bolte, Aminatou Boubakary, Rodney Sams and Jerry Young.**

Respectfully submitted, Bill Ree, Chair
Members: Robert Miller, Stan Carroll, Allen Knutson

Site Selection.

Tom Royer, Chair, reported that the 59th meeting will be held March 7-9 at the Ambassador Hotel in Amarillo, TX, (once the Helium capitol of the world). This will be the first meeting of the SW Branch held in Amarillo. Bonnie Pendleton and Jerry Michels will serve as co-chairs for Local Arrangements.

A planning meeting will be held during the summer to coordinate program and local arrangements for the meeting.

Spouses, Guests and Retirees Committee. No report.

Student Activities Committee. The Southwestern Branch ESA meeting was a very successful, productive and informative meeting for all students involved. There were 20 student volunteers who performed their assigned duties throughout the meeting promptly and correctly. I would like to extend thanks to those students who helped in making our branch meeting run smoothly. The SWBESA Student Affairs Committee conducted its annual meeting on Wednesday March, 9th at noon in the restaurant at the Ambassador hotel. Members of the SAC in attendance were as follows: Sam Lowry (NMSU)-Chair, Erin Jones (WTAM)-Co-Chair, Lauren Ward (TAMU), Chris Neibur (Tarleton), Tricia Dubie (OSU), Lisa Overall (OSU) and Melise Schmidt (NMSU). Not in attendance were representatives from Texas Tech and UT Tyler. Also in attendance were, Dr. Tom Royer, and Dr. Allen Knutson.

Topics discussed during our meeting included:

- Making contact and cooperating with the SAC Chairperson from the Southeastern Branch.
- Adding an exhibition Linnaean Game between the winners of the student Linnaean Games and a “Professors Team” chosen from those in attendance at the meeting to the annual SWBESA meeting program.
- Scheduling poster presentation times for students other than break times.
- Having “clickers” to advance power point slides in all presentation rooms.
- Making a more prominent job opportunity display or room.

Elections were held for the SAC representatives to the Local Arrangements and Program Committees for the upcoming SWBESA meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas. Chris Neibur

(Tarleton) was elected as the SAC representative to the Local Arrangements Committee and Lauren Ward was elected as the SAC representative to the Program Committee. Elections were also held for the positions of Chair and Co-Chair of the SWBESA-SAC. Tricia Dubie (OSU) was elected as Co-Chair and Erin Jones (WTAM) was elected as the new Chair of the SWBESA-SAC.

The SWBESA-SAC had a positive and constructive meeting. We look forward to our next branch meeting and would like to thank the Executive Board members of the Southwestern Branch for all of their support.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sam Lowry, Chair
Members:
Erin Jones, Co-chair
Apurba Barman
Trisha Dubie
Melise Schmidt
Henry Sreiber
Ram Shrestha

Student Research Paper and Poster Awards Committee.

A total of 43 presentations was in the competition:

- 27 oral presentations – 5 Bachelor's, 13 Master's, and 9 Ph.D. students
- 16 poster presentations – 8 Bachelor's, 7 Master's, and 1 Ph.D. student

Each student was required to write an abstract that was printed in the Proceedings. Information on the judging forms completed by the judges will be typed and given to the students.

First-, second-, and third-place winners were awarded \$200, 100, and 50, respectively.

Award-winning students for 2011 were:

- Bachelor's Oral Presentation First Place – Cassie Skipper, University of Texas-Tyler
- Bachelor's Oral Presentation Second Place – Janet Arras, University of Texas-Tyler
- Master's Oral Presentation First Place – Cassie Schoenthal, Tarleton State University
- Master's Oral Presentation Second Place – Christopher Niebuhr, Tarleton State University
- Master's Oral Presentation Third Place – Henry Schreiber, University of Texas-Tyler
- Ph.D. Oral Presentation First Place – Rachel Mohr, Texas A&M University
- Ph.D. Oral Presentation Second Place – Warren Sconiers, Texas A&M University
- Ph.D. Oral Presentation Third Place – Sandipa Gautam, Oklahoma State University
- Bachelor's Poster Presentation First Place – Melise Schmidt, New Mexico State University
- Bachelor's Poster Presentation Second Place – Erin Ragsdell, University of Texas-Tyler
- Bachelor's Poster Presentation Third Place – Josh Brown, New Mexico State University
- Master's Poster Presentation First Place – Helen Vessels, New Mexico State University
- Master's Poster Presentation Second Place – Anndrea Navesky, Oklahoma State University
- Master's Poster Presentation Third Place – Rita Lloyd-Mills, New Mexico State University
- Ph.D. Poster Presentation First Place – Rebecca Pace, Oklahoma State University

Committee members for 2011 were:

Scott Armstrong

Blake Bextine

Scott Bundy

Jack Dillwith

David Kerns

Jerry Michels

Emilio Nino

Jane Pierce

Eric Rebek

Justin Talley

Bonnie Pendleton, Chair

Youth Science Development Committee. No report

In Memoriam Committee Submitted as a separate file

David Thompson (NM)

Phil Mulder (OK)

Jim Reinert (TX), Chair (j-reinert@tamu.edu)