

**Minutes of the 54th Annual Meeting
Southwestern Branch
Entomological Society of America
February 27 - March 2, 2006
Omni Austin Hotel - Southpark
Austin, Texas**

The 54th Annual Meeting of the Southwestern Branch of the Entomological Society of America was held at the Omni Austin Hotel - Southpark, Austin, Texas 27 February through 2 March, 2006 in conjunction with the Society of Southwestern Entomologists.

General Session February 27, 2006

Dr. Bart Drees, President of the Southwestern Branch, called the opening session to order at 8:05 a.m. Monday, 27, Feb., 2006. President Drees welcomed attendees to the 54th Annual SWB-ESA and 30th Annual SSWE meetings. He thanked all SWB members supporting the 2006 meeting. He especially thanked the program committee and its chair Noel Troxclair. He also thanked the efforts of the local arrangements committee and its Chair, Elizabeth "Wizzie" Brown.

President Drees introduced David Kostroun, Assistant Commissioner for Regulatory Programs at the Texas Department of Agriculture. Mr Kostroun reported on entomological activities at the Department of Ag and welcomed the group to Austin. Next Frank Gilstrap, ESA President, addressed the group about changes at ESA and gave a report on the Entomological Foundation. Marvin Harris addressed the members as Governing Board representative and reported on the potential restructuring of ESA where sections would be reduced from six to four. Next Paula Lettice, Executive Director of ESA addressed the group. She talked about efforts to retain membership, finances and restructuring of ESA. Jim Reinsert followed with a Necrology Committee Report (included in final business report). Tom Royer, President of Society of Southwestern Entomologist welcomed members and encouraged all present to consider becoming members of SSWE. Greg Cronholm, BCE Branch Representative reported on activities of the Board Certified Entomologist and reported on the increase in numbers of ACE (Associate Certified Entomologist). Greg recognized Bob Davis, Director of BCE for his leadership of the Certification Board.

Next Bart Drees recognized and presented the following Awards:

- 1, Greg Cronholm, ESA Distinguished Achievement Award in Extension, Branch.
2. Kenneth Brown from OSU, John Henry Comstock Award, Branch.

Phil Muller presented a special recognition award to John Burd for all his work in revising the SWB-Bylaws and developing Standard Operating Procedures for officers and committees.

Bart Drees gave the Presidential Address titled "Entomology: Video Clips and Animated Graphics followed by Roger Gold as the Keynote Speaker with a presentation titled "Forensics and Entomology Involving Entomophobia, Delusional Parasitosis, Bed Bugs, Fire Ants and the Courts".

The Opening Session was concluded at 10:00 a.m.

The **Final Business Meeting** was called to order by Bart Drees at 8:00 a.m. on March 2, 2006.

First Dr. Drees called for a review and approval of the Plenary and Final Business meeting for 2005 Annual SWB-ESA meeting. Jim Reinert made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and second was made by Carol Sutherland. This motion passed unanimously. Next Dr. Drees reviewed the proposed changes for the SWB-ESA Constitution. The major changes were in the New Member and Committees sections. The new member changes would allow members from other states outside the SW Branch region. The Committee section changes would allow chairs to select their replacement and make changes in committee membership. A motion was made by Forrest Mitchell to adopt these changes and was seconded by Bill Ree. It passed by a unanimous yes vote.

Dr. Drees led a discussion of holding officer elections for the Branch by electronic vote through the national ESA office. It was the consensus of the group not to make any changes in the Branch election process at this time.

President Drees next led a discussion on SOP's. He indicated our incoming president Dave Thompson will review SOP's not yet submitted. Dave indicated he will email Committees for SOP reviews work with committee chairs for new members in October or November. He will also incorporate membership rotations into SOP's. Changes in SOP's will be approved through the Executive Committee.

The following are Committee Reports submitted during the Final Business Meeting.

Treasurer's Report - Greg Cronholm

Prior to the meeting \$19,990.69 in registrations and donations had been collected and \$4,365 in registration fees had been collected during the meeting for a total income of \$24,353.69. Expenses to date are \$5,145.32, which do not include any expenses for the hotel and other expenses during the meeting. The contributions/donations to the Branch as of this report are as follows: Terry Mize, FMC \$300; Ann Thurston, Bayer \$600; Bob Davis, BASF \$200; Terry Pitts, Bayer \$100, Bill and Donna Lingen, Trece, \$500; Ralph Lassiter, Dow \$500 and Monsanto \$750 for a total of \$2,950. Paula Lettice, Executive Director of ESA presented the Branch a check for \$1,049.

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

Paul Smith

Paul indicated his co-chair was Alejandro Calixto and committee members were Pam Shrestha, Doug Jones and Glene Mynhardt. Paul talked to Beth Peterson on the National Student Affairs Committee concerning ESA restructuring, student retention and loyalty to ESA. He will take a list to the National Student Affairs Committee showing what the SWB does well for students. At the National level they will discuss time of student mixer and attendance issues. Also will consider a lunch mixer for students. The committee will encourage students to attend

symposia at the national level. Other concerns of the committee are that the Program Agenda is needed earlier to plan student mixer, expand donations for student mixer, reach out to other universities not currently represented on the committee. Tarleton State University would like to become involved.. This year 42 student volunteers assisted with the operation of the Branch meeting. Alejandro Calixto will be the new chair of the Student Affairs Committee. Paul thanked the Branch for leadership opportunities and he is headed to Georgia.

GOVERNING BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT SWBESA

M. Harris

The following is a synopsis of the report provided to the SWB-ESA at the Annual Meeting in Austin, Feb. 27- Mar. 2, 2006. The 2005 Minutes of the ESA are awaiting approval and they should be consulted for detailed information on the issues below and other matters of interest to members. Graph 1 shows a brief history of the re-structuring process and Graph 2 shows a DRAFT of the organization being considered. Members should familiarize themselves with issues associated with restructuring and provide input to the Governing Board and their other representatives to ensure their needs are addressed in the restructuring. This issue will be subject to a vote by the membership and majority support will be required before changes can be implemented.

1. FINANCES: FINAL NUMBERS BEING CRUNCHED BUT APPEAR TO HAVE EMERGED FROM POSTPONED MEETING, ETC. FISCALLY INTACT.
2. CONTRACTING OUT PUBLICATIONS: GB REVIEWING A PROPOSAL FROM BLACKWELL. APPEARS TO < PAGE CHARGES, > INSTITUTIONAL COSTS, ALLOW WEB-ACCESS TO FULL TEXT. BREAK EVEN FOR ESA?
3. MEMBERSHIP: STILL RECOVERING WITH STUDENT MEMBERS INCREASING AND INCREASED RETENTION.
4. INCREASED SCRUTINY OF BRANCHES? SARBANES-OXLEY EFFECTS?
5. ESA RESTRUCTURING PROGRESS: MAJOR PROPOSED EFFECTS ARE:
 1. TO REDUCE SECTIONS FROM SIX TO FOUR.

2. ADD TREASURER FOR EACH SECTION AND ALLOW SOME INDEPENDENCE OF OPERATION (SECTION DUES?).

AUDIT COMMITTEE

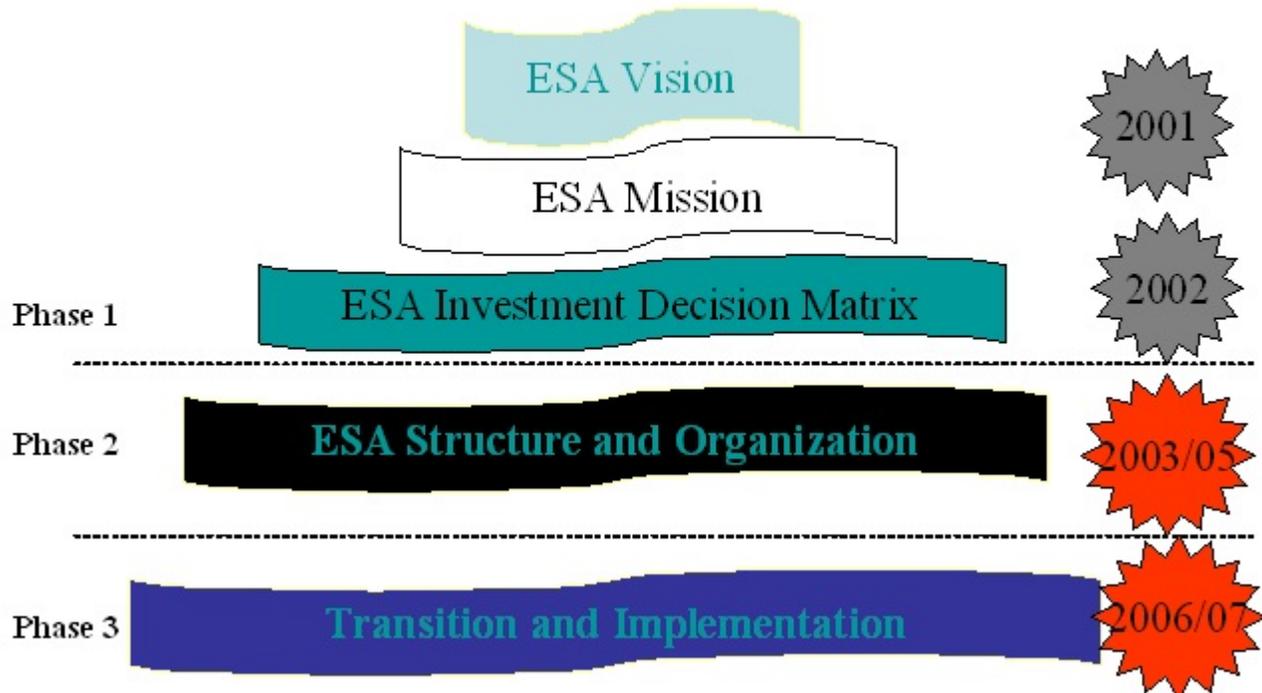
Grant Kinzer

Grant reported that Tom Fuchs, Jonathan Edelson and he had reviewed the accounts and found them acceptable through April 30, 2005.

AWARDS COMMITTEE

Kris Giles

ESA Strategic Alignment



The Branch Distinguished Achievement Award in Extension was Greg Cronholm from TCE/TAMU and the Branch John Henry Comstock Award went to Kenneth Brown from OSU. Phil Mulder indicated there are other awards we do not recognize and that the Branch needs more Fellows. Kris rotates off as Chair to be followed by Norm Elliott. Blake Bextine will be a new member on the committee.

INSECT DETECTION COMMITTEE

Carol Sutherland

INSECT DETECTION, EVALUATION AND PREDICTION COMMITTEE REPORT,
2005

Austin, TX; February 28-March 2, 2006

OKLAHOMA

The lingering drought in Oklahoma has kept many insect problems at lower than normal levels. We did however see a few problems this year, including several invasive species that made their first appearance in our state. The OSU Plant Disease and Insect Diagnostic Lab received 664 insect/arthropod ID requests in 2005.

Africanized honey bees (*Apis mellifera scutellata*) continue to pose a serious problem in 2005. We now have DNA confirmed cases in 27 counties (35% of the state) in southwest and south central Oklahoma. To date, 138 bee samples have been received for analysis, with 53 testing DNA positive for ARE. One bee tested negative but was confirmed as an introgression hybrid by the Carl Hayden lab. Oklahoma State University and the Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry (ODAFF) have initiated an intensive training program in safe bee handling and disposal for first responders and pest control operators. There have been several incidents of persons being stung over 150 times and one incident of 1,000 stings — luckily there have been no lingering health problems for these individuals.

Small hive beetles (*Aethina tumida*) made their first appearance in Oklahoma when they were discovered by a Tulsa bee keeper in October 2005. Three months later (Jan 2006), a second apiary in Pryor, approx. 40 miles NE, found a single infested hive. The latter case was found during a routine inspection prior to hives being transported to California. Hives in both cases were destroyed. This region of Oklahoma is apiary rich and hopefully these cases are isolated and not indicative of a larger problem.

Pink hibiscus mealybugs (*Maconeicoccus hirsutus*) were officially detected for the first time in September of 2005. A shipment of hibiscus from Florida was found to be infested during a routine horticulture inspection of a major chain store by ODAFF. The ID was confirmed by USDA APIHS PPQ. All plant materials were destroyed.

Whitefringed beetles (*Naupactus leucolorna*) were found for only the third time in Oklahoma. The first two reports were from single specimens collected in 1994 and 1995 from an urban environment. The current outbreak occurred in August 2005 and was found in a stand of alfalfa. This is our first instance of economic loss and damage was major due to feeding by both larval and adults weevils.

Japanese beetles (*Popillia japonica*) are becoming a very serious problem in northeast Oklahoma, particularly the major nursery region around Tahlequah. Numbers jumped from a few hundred in 2004 to over 58,000 in 2005. ODAFF is working closely with the nursery industry in this area to come up with a plan of action.

Asian ambrosia beetles (*Xylosandrus crassiusculus*) proved to be a problem at several northeastern Oklahoma nursery locations in 2005. Redbud var. Oklahoma was particularly hard hit and over 25,000 trees had to be destroyed. T. H. Atkinson provided positive identification of the collected specimens. We were then able to reexamine some previously undetermined specimens which also turned out to be AAB collected from the same area but 10 years prior. Two additional collection areas in central and southern Oklahoma were added from survey work associated with the 2005 National Exotic Beetle Survey.

A bark beetle (*Xyloborus californicus*) was also collected for the first time in Oklahoma in 2005. This beetle was another of those T. H. Atkinson determined. Several were taken in a Lindgren trap near Stillwater as part of a doctoral research project.

Mexican bean weevils (*Zabrotes subfasciatus*) were detected in a one pound retail package of black beans brought back from a medical mission trip to Nicaragua in 2005. This is also the first reported incidence of this pest in Oklahoma. The product was destroyed and all insect specimens were placed as voucher specimens in the OSU collection.

TEXAS

Texas is now considered generally infested with Africanized honey bees. The quarantine affecting movement of colonies within the state has been lifted by the State Apiarist and Texas Department of Agriculture.

Agrilusprionurus Chevrolat [*Coleoptera*, *Buprestidae*] larvae develop in soapberry and apparently can kill it. This insect was found several years earlier in Travis County and Bastrop County which represented the first US records. This year it was also found in Dallas County so the beetle is more widespread than previously thought. USDA-APIHS -PPQ determined that this species was non-actionable.

Mexican rice borer, *Eoreurna loflini* (Dyar), was found in Robertson County in white, non-BT, food grade corn. This is a new county record for this pest. Populations were high enough to justify treatment.

In 2005, a gypsy moth specimen was trapped west of Austin. Lab tests indicated that it was probably a hybrid Asian gypsy moth/European gypsy moth. Because Asian gypsy moth has a much greater flight capability, it has tremendous potential to spread. USDA-APHIS-PPQ instigated an area treatment program with BT which will be underway early in 2006.

Ox beetle, *Strategus aoelus*, [*Coleoptera*, *Scarabaeidae*] was found on palm roots in Los Fresnos, Hidalgo County. This scarab seems to be the culprit responsible for the deaths of various ornamentals in the area.

Mexican bean weevil, *Zabrotes subfasciatus* (Boheman), [*Coleoptera*: *Bruchidae*], was submitted from a kitchen floor in Sonora, Sutton County. This is a well known stored product pest but it is not commonly seen in Texas.

A ceutorhynchine weevil, *Aiosirocalus tau* (LeConte), [Coleoptera: Curculionidae], was submitted as an onion pest from the Uvalde area. This pest was reported in very old pest records but nothing very recent.

Black vine weevil, *Otiorhynchus sulcatus* Fab., [Coleoptera, Curculionidae], was identified from Amarillo. The adults were found crawling on the floor inside homes.

European larger cabinet beetle, *Trogoderma versicolor* Pic, [Coleoptera: Dermestidae] was identified submitted from Beilville. This is in the same genus as khapra beetle, so identification is critical.

Bed bugs, *Cimex lectularius*, continue to be reported in increasing frequency.

Pine tip moth, *Rhyacionia* sp., populations were unusually high in Miami, Roberts County in 2005.

NEW MEXICO

For the first time in 5-10 or more years (depending upon individual locations), many locations in New Mexico received ample winter moisture from snow and rain, beginning in the late fall of 2004 and ending rather abruptly in September or October, 2005. The extra moisture aided some arthropods and their populations soared, while it probably curtailed other potential outbreaks.

Probably the most newsworthy pest detections for the year involved Africanized honey bees with the addition of five new county records over the year: Roosevelt, Curry (both eastern), Chaves, Torrance and Santa Fe (all more centrally located). In each case, the bees were collected following unusual incidents or unusual behavior. Unusually hostile bees were recovered from "kept hives" in Roosevelt County, from inside the walls or roof-lines of occupied homes in Chaves, from dilapidated buildings in Curry, a late fall swarm from a neighbor's woodpile (Torrance) and from a protected porch on a house under construction in Santa Fe. In the latter case, the builder attempted to handle the problem himself following complaints from his subcontractors. After draping the offending porch in plastic, he set off one over-the-counter "pest control bomb" daily for eleven straight days before concluding that he got the last of the offending, stinging insects. This brings the total county infested count to 16 of our 33 counties, probably still an underestimate.

On another honey bee-related note, varroa mites persist in managed, unmanaged and feral honey bee colonies around the state. Although Checklvtite, a coumaphos formulation for varroa control was supported on a Section 18 label for several years in the state, the New Mexico Department of Agriculture dropped the product in 2005 after not receiving any producer records indicating they had used the material. Anecdotal information suggests some of the more successful, experienced beekeepers in the state have adopted a program of frequent, perhaps annual, requeening with "Blue Russian" bees which are supposed to groom away and kill the mite pests through better house-keeping on the combs.

Perhaps because of the increase in winter moisture but also because they exterminated susceptible hosts, the pinyon Ips beetles, *Ips confusus*, populations dipped significantly in 2005. Dead pinyon trees are still very prominent in the upper elevation landscapes of northern New Mexico in particular. While they may have lost their needles, the graying, standing dead snags are now surrounded by ample dry grass and short brush fuels, setting the stage in 2006 for some potentially

devastating range and forest fires. With the return of severe drought conditions to the state in 2006, this or additional species of scolytids may attack other forest and landscape conifers.

During a sticky trap survey for glassy-winged sharpshooter near Virden (southwest corner of the state) in late summer, a single adult of the smoke-tree leafhopper, another *Homalodisca* sp., was confirmed for the first time in the state. This species has been implicated in the spread of Pierce's disease of grapes in California

Apterona helix, the snailcase bagworm (Lepidoptera, Psychidae) continues to be found on a variety of weeds in northern New Mexico counties. At barely ¼" in diameter at maturity, the sandy, grainy spiral "shells" camouflage the minute, grayish-yellow caterpillars inside. These exotic insects have been dispersing with man's assistance from the Pacific Northwest (and perhaps elsewhere) since at least the 1960s. They are known from female-only populations and apparently have only one generation annually. In New Mexico they have been found feeding on various weeds only---ranging from common field crop and range weeds to white-top---although they have been found on foliage of apple and some urban landscape species in Colorado. What usually attracts attention is the tendency of these tiny creatures to congregate and "super glue" themselves to substrates like houses, fence posts, mailboxes, etc. when they pupate.

At least one species of unidentified Coleophorid or case-bearing caterpillar (Lepidoptera) has been encountered in both northern and southern New Mexico. These minute caterpillars are slightly over ¼" in length at maturity and produce thin, grayish-tan straight "cases" a little over 1/2" in length. When encountered on a rock or block wall, the surface of the stone appears dusted with "grass clippings" standing on end. At present, these are considered weed-feeding oddities.

Red imported fire ants became prominent again in the Las Cruces area in 2005---perhaps another result of our ample water supply. Several established colonies were detected in a recreational area along the Rio Grande River in the late winter; the area was treated by a contract pest control operator for the City of Las Cruces and the problem was considered "solved." A little later in 2005, another cluster of highly active RIFA colonies was detected about 2 blocks from the N4SU campus on the fringes of a landscape nursery. RIFA was detected on several orders of plant stock received at that nursery in the 1980s but was treated with insecticides and presumably eradicated on each occasion. On 2005, the ant problem was again treated with insecticides by a licensed professional pest control operator and again considered "eradicated."

Grasshoppers became major problems for ranchers and farms in central New Mexico by June. Several large samples of grasshoppers were collected from a 2-county area, revealing at least a dozen species in the mix. Area ranchers expressed concern to USDA, hoping for a grasshopper control project perhaps like the ones they remembered from the 1970s, the last time conditions were "right" for such devastating outbreaks in the area. Alas, no one was really ready for such a dramatic and damaging change in fortunes so no cooperative spray program was organized for 2005. A grasshopper program meeting is scheduled for Las Cruces in mid-April to assess the situation for 2006 and to explain basic changes in the grasshopper cooperative control programs that will affect the state.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard A. Grantham, Oklahoma
John Jackman, Texas and
Carol Sutherland, New Mexico, Chair

INSECT EXPO

Scott Russell

Scott was not present for report, but the Insect Expo was cancelled due to school schedule and test conflicts.

LINNAEAN GAMES COMMITTEE

Phil Mulder

The 22nd Linnaean Games Competition for the Southwestern Branch of the ESA was held at the fifty-fourth annual meeting in Austin, Texas. Teams representing New Mexico State University (2), Oklahoma State University (2), Texas A&M (2) and West Texas A&M University participated in the games. In six well-played matches Oklahoma State University won first place, whereas second place went to West Texas A&M University. Members of all teams either received or will receive a Certificate of Outstanding Participation, and the teams from Oklahoma State University and West Texas A & M University are eligible to represent the Southwestern Branch at National competitions at the next Annual Meeting of the ESA in Indianapolis, Indiana. Oklahoma State University will receive financial (usually \$500) support for their travels to those meetings, a traveling trophy, a permanent trophy and \$50 per team member. The Linnaean Games committee would like to thank the Southwestern Branch of the ESA and Trece, Inc. (Specifically Bill and Donna Lingen) for their support of trophies and other awards provided to the winning teams.

Marvin Harris asked if team members going to National could be changed. Phil indicated this could be an ethical problem as to whether they can be changed. Phil asked Marvin to pass his concerns to Mike Merchant who is the new chair of the National Committee.

LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE

Elizabeth "Wizzie Brown"

Room rates were \$85 for singles and \$111 for doubles. We exceeded the number of room nights we had committed to for the meeting. We had 259 room nights. We spent \$8,300.26 for food items. We did have a room block problem, but it was resolved. The decorating service charge was \$600. Two tours were planned with 8 people signed up, but only one participated. No one signed up for the Texas History Tour. We paid for 160 meals at the Banquet and had some problems with vegetarian meals.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Tom A. Royer

The Southwestern Branch of the ESA, as of February 16, 2006 has a total of 570 members, 350 are members, 147 students, 15 student Transitions 1 members, 13 Student Transition 2 members, 23 Emeritus members, 1 Emeritus Gold member, 1 Life member, 9 honorary members, 4 Family (M1), 4 Family (M2) members, and 1 President's Circle. This includes current and members who had not yet renewed their membership from 2004. Of that total 348 had paid through 2006, and 159 had paid through 2005 and 63 were unpaid through 2004. When the paid and unpaid memberships for 2004 are added, the result is 570 total members. The Southwestern Branch has seen an increase in membership since 2004.

I remind all members of the SW Branch that we will be continuing to encourage membership renewals and increases to counter the past decline in membership.

Former President Burd initiated a complete development of SOP for each committee. Included in the Membership SOP is a way to consistently identify a designated representative from the Southwestern Branch or the Standing Committee on Membership of the ESA. In the past, a representative was not always identified in a timely manner. Currently the chair of the SWB Membership Committee is to serve a 3 year term as a full member on the ESA Membership Committee upon appointment. The chair of the Southwestern Branch Membership Committee will be appointed by the President. This will be my last year serving on the Membership Committee.

NECROLOGY REPORT for SW Branch of Entomological Society of America

James A. Reinert (TX), Chair

Grant Kinzer (NM)

Phil Mulder (OK)

We are saddened to report the passing of four of our distinguished colleagues that have contributed to the science and advancement of Entomology and to the success of the Southwestern Branch of the Entomological Society of America.

Don Lee Bull

3 Sep. 1929 - 28 Jan. 2006

Dr. Don Bull was 76 when he died 28 Jan. 2006 in Houston, TX. He was born in San Benito, TX, grew up in the Rio Grande Valley and graduated from San Benito High School. Don was married to Betty Ann Bull, his high school sweetheart for 51 years when she passed away in Feb. 2005.

Don graduated with his B.S. in Entomology in 1953 from Texas A&M University before serving in the U.S. Army. He returned to Texas A&M in College Station and earned both his M.S. in 1960 and his Ph.D. degree in 1962 also in entomology. He is one of only 18 entomologists to have received all three post-graduate degrees for Texas A&M University. After graduation he began his career as an Agricultural Research Scientist with the USDA-ARS in College Station, TX where he served the Agency until his retirement in 1995.

Dr. Bull earned worldwide acclaim for his work in insect toxicology, with particular focus on insect pests of cotton. He developed foundational information on the chemistry, metabolism, kinetics, insect resistance mechanisms and mode-of-action of organic pesticides. His work contributed substantially to the safe and effective utilization of these products in environmentally-friendly cotton pest insect control. During the last decade of his career, his work focused on arthropods of veterinary importance, including the cattle fever tick. Don published well over 100 articles in the refereed scientific literature and was widely sought out by colleagues throughout the world as a source of valued expertise and counsel.

Don was an effective leader and motivator of other scientists. For most of his ARS career, he served as Research leader, first in the Cotton Insect Research Unit, then in the Veterinary Entomology Research Unit. He also served as primary mentor to many M.S. and Ph.D. students who got their professional careers started through his guidance.

Dr. Bull served as president of the Southwestern Branch of the Entomological Society of America from 1991-1992 and presided at the annual meeting Tulsa, OK. He also served as editor of the Southwestern Entomologist for several years.

Don is survived by his daughter, Judge Diane Spjut (husband John) of Houston; a brother David Bull of Rangerville, TX; and three grandchildren.

Harry N. Howell

28 Aug. 1944 - 23 June 2005

Dr. Harry Howell, Jr., was 60 when he died 23 June 2005. He was born in Uvalde, TX and grew up in west Texas. He graduated from Cooper High School, Abilene, TX in its first graduating class in 1962. He served three years in the U.S. Army and attained the rank of Sergeant. He returned to El Paso and married Mary Lin Martin in 1966. He earned his B.S. in Entomology from the University of Arkansas in 1969, his M.S. from Texas Tech University in 1972 and Ph.D. from Texas A&M University in 1997.

He joined the US Peace Corps where he and Mary volunteered for 7 years during which he became a professor at the Pan American Agricultural School.

Dr. Howell moved to College Station in 1979 when he started his career in the Urban Entomology Lab at Texas A&M University and with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

Harry was a past master of Sul Ross Masonic Lodge and a charter member of St. Alban's Masonic Lodge, both in College Station and was a 32nd Degree Mason in the Houston Scottish Rite. He was president Descendants of Austin's Old 300 and participated in the MENSA organization. He enjoyed photography, competitive shooting, sailing, woodworking, writing short stories, dancing with Mary and telling stories of his many adventures to anyone who would listen.

Harry is survived by his wife Mary Lin Howell; a daughter, Teresa Lin of Austin; a son, James Jones of Austin; and his sister, Dr. Sherry Howell-Brown of Albany, IN.

Paul Eugene Pulley

14 Nov. 1924 - 29 July 2005

Dr. Gene Pulley was 81 when he died on 29 July 2005. He was born in Oklahoma City, OK and grew up loving the great outdoors and developed an affinity for hunting and fishing that continued throughout his life. At age 13, Gene lost most of his sight in a hunting accident, which marked a turning point in his life as he began to accomplish things that most would have thought entirely unattainable, even without his handicap.

In high school, he mastered his classroom lessons with the help of a devoted classmate who read the textbooks to him each day. Gene excelled in academics and was also a natural musician. He was drum major of the military band at Classen High School in Oklahoma City and also played tenor sax in the Oklahoma City Symphony.

In lieu of being able to participate in military service due to his limited eyesight, he worked at an ordnance plant all through high school.

Gene loved the intellectual challenges of mathematics and engineering. While still an undergraduate, Gene was asked to teach graduate classes in applied mathematics at Oklahoma

City University. He was legendary as an instructor for filling the blackboard with complex formulas in one class and then being able to reproduce the full blackboard's contents in the next class, entirely from memory. He received his initial degrees in applied mathematics and ultimately achieved his Ph.D. in statistics.

Throughout his career, his research and teaching included the academic areas of entomology, biostatistics and computer science. One of his greatest joys was solving the complex formulas required to design the Houston Astrodome. Gene was also one of the researchers who helped install the first supercomputer in the southwest at Oklahoma State University.

Dr. Pulley retired from Texas A&M University after 38 years of teaching and research in the Departments of Entomology and Industrial Engineering. He delighted in serving on the doctoral committees of many Aggies.

Gene was a member of the College Station Noon Lions Club and the DMA (Don't Mention Age) Group at his Church. Gene's hobbies focused on anything mechanical. It was not unusual to find cars in various state of disassembly on his driveway, and he was extremely proud of his custom-built 1958 Ford. He enjoyed deep-sea fishing and acquired his own saltwater boat despite being unable to pilot it, just to increase the likelihood of being able to go. He also loved listening to books on tape. As an 80th birthday gift from his children, he flew a vintage 1940s T-6 trainer airplane in San Marcos.

Dr. Pulley is survived by his wife of 47 years, Jane Hawkins Pulley of College Station; a son, Paul W. Pulley (wife Tina) of Round Rock, TX; a daughter Janene Elizabeth Fowler (husband Bruce) of Oak Ridge North, TX; a daughter Emily Ann Pulley of New York City, NY; and five grand daughters.

George Ellis Spates, Jr.
6 Dec. 1933 – 25 Feb. 2005

George Spates, Jr. (Sonny) was 72 when he died on 25 Feb. 2005. He was born and raised in Eagle Lake, TX, and graduated from E. H. Henry High School. He served honorably in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1951 – 1954. He then attended Texas Southern University from 1954 – 1958 and received a B.S. degree in Biology. He met his wife, Faye Campbell Spates while at Texas Southern and they were married for 45 years. George and Faye had 7 children, George E. Spates, III (Chicago, Ill); C. Jannene Spates (Round Rock, TX); Wanda F. Spates-Whitley (Washington, TX); Kathryn D. Spates (Houston, TX); Gail A. Spates (Round Rock, TX); Gerald L. Spates (San Diego, CA) and Nicole R. Spates (Round Rock, TX).

George lived in Bryan, TX, and worked at the ARS-USDA Veterinary, Entomology Toxicology Research Lab. for 31 years before retirement. He received his M.S. from Texas A&M University in 1974 in Entomology while working at the USDA Lab.

He is survived by two brothers Alec Spates (wife-Lily), Joe Spates; three sisters Gladys Spann (husband-Steve), Sandra Price and Mary Gordon; and one grandchild Erin Spates.

Please join me in remembering these entomologists who served our science and society.

PROGRAM CHAIR

Noel Troxclair

The program had 142 posters and presentations. Some of the problems this year is that submitters did not follow instructions. When submitters did not fill out all fields a paper could be lost. The standard format for presentations should be Power Point. Papers should be brought in 24 hours prior to presentations and no changes to slides after submitted. We need student volunteers for presentation rooms. We may have student symposia in the future. Marvin Harris indicated that Power Point should be the standard for submission and that video clips would be at your own risk.

PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Edmond Bonjour

One hundred and fifteen images were take during the annual meeting which will be forwarded to the Archivist after labeled.

SITE SELECTION COMMITTEE

**Bonnie Pendleton, Chair, Scott Bundy, Gregory Cronholm, Scott Ludwig
James Reinert, Tom Royer**

The Site Selection Committee members met in Austin, Texas on Monday evening, 27 February 2006.

Sites for upcoming Annual Meetings of the Southwestern Branch of the Entomological Society of America were discussed. The meeting in 2007 will be in Corpus Christi. Arrangements ware being made to have the 2008 meeting in Fort Worth. It is hoped the Annual Meeting in 2010 will be in Mexico.

It was decided to have the meeting in 2009 in Oklahoma City or Tulsa, Oklahoma, depending on which city has facilities available, is least expensive, and is most convenient for transportation. Tom Royer tentatively volunteered to serve as local Arrangements Chair for the 2009 meeting in Oklahoma.

SPOUSES/GUEST/RETIREES COMMITTEE

Ann Thurston and Russ Wright

The committee thanks Wizzee Brown for arrangements with the hotel for breakfast and for preparation of tour packages. Thanks to Mrs. Wright for driving. Thanks to sponsors for providing funds for the SWBESA.

STUDENT RESEARCH PAPER and POSTER AWARDS COMMITTEE

Bonnie Pendleton, Chair , Richard Berberet, Robert Bowling, Roxanne Bowling
Scott Bundy, Jack Dillwith, Miles Karner, Jerry Michels, Megha Parajulee, Jane Pierce
Jeff Tomberlein
The Committee

members met on Monday evening 27 February 2006 and were sent e-mails by the Committee Chair at other times during the year.

A total of 31 presentations was entered in the competition

Oral Presentations - 11 Master's and 3 Ph.D. students

Poster Presentations - 10 Master's and undergraduate and 7 Ph.D. students

Each student was required to write an abstract of his research, which was printed.

Judging forms completed by the judges will be given to each student.

Student award winners for 2006 were:

Master's Oral Presentation First Place - Matthew Smith

Master's Oral Presentation Second Place - Glene Mynhardt

Master's Oral Presentation Third Place - W. Justin Cordill

Ph.D. Oral Presentation First Place - C.J. Bowen

Ph.D. Oral Presentation Second Place - not given

Ph.D. Oral Presentation Third Place - not given

Master's Poster Presentation First Place - Charles Konemann

Master's Poster Presentation Second Place - Stacey Bealmear

Master's Poster Presentation Third Place - Jake Dorskocil

Ph.D. Poster Presentation First Place - Mukti Ghimire

Ph.D. Poster Presentation Second Place - Greg H. Broussard

Ph.D. Poster Presentation Third Place - Tebkew Damte Belete

YOUTH SCIENCE COMMITTEE

Noel Troxclair

Noel reviewed recent Science Fairs and indicated we did not have as many Science Fair Awards this year. We may need to re-institute cash awards for students to increase interest.

REPORT OF RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Bill Ree - Chair

Robert Miller, Stan Carroll, Allen Knutson

Resolution No. 1 **Whereas**, the 54th 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 executive officers: **Bastiaan Drees, David Thompson, Greg Cronholm, Bonnie Pendleton, Phil Mulder** and **Marvin Harris**. **Be it resolved**, that the members of the Branch recognized and express their gratitude to all those involved in this pleasurable meeting.

Resolution No. 2 **Whereas**, the Program Committee Chaired by **Noel Troxclair**, the Local Arrangements Committee chaired by **Elizabeth “Wizzie” Brown** 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 meetings; **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. Frank Gilstrap**, and Southwestern Branch Governing Board Representative **Marvin Harris** have contributed to the success of this meeting through their perspective 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 teams of the Linnaean Games.

Resolution No. 5 **Whereas**; BASF, Bayer Crop Science, Dow AgroSciences, FMC Corporation, Monsanto, Trece Inc. (Bill and Donna Lingren) and Dr. Ann Thurston provided funds for Branch Functions; **Be it resolved** that the Branch membership express thanks and appreciation to sponsors.

Resolution No. 6 **Whereas**, the accommodations, service, and hospitality for this meeting contributed to the success of the meeting; **Be it resolved** the President **Bastiaan “Bart” Drees** express written appreciation to the management and staff of the Omni Austin Hotel at South Park.

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.

Resolution No. 8 **Whereas**, the Necrology report given by Dr. Jim Reinert reported the passing of: Don Lee Bull, Harry Howell, Paul Eugene Pulley and George Ellis Spates. Be it resolved that the Society members pay their respect with a moment of silence.

Resolution No. 9 **Whereas** the Southwest Branch has a strong commitment to routine use of the web to transact Branch business and where as the ESA headquarters office is revising the ESA website and **Whereas** the ESA Governing Board at the SLC meeting inquired of ESA Branch leadership regarding Branch needs that might be met at headquarters, **Be it resolved** that the Southwestern Branch requests the Southwestern Branch representative to the ESA governing board pursue use of the ESA website for SW Branch meeting E-Commerce in 2006.

May it be resolved that the 2006 Linnaean Games be dedicated to the memory of Harry Howell.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Phil Mulder

The committee met and proposes that Carlos Blanco be considered for the position of Secretary Treasurer elect. Marvin Harris moves that nominations cease and that Dr. Carlos Blanco be elected by acclamation. Bill Ree seconded this motion and Dr. Blanco was elected by a unanimous yes vote.

New Business was next with President Bart Drees passing the gavel to our new President Dave Thompson. President Thompson announced the next Annual Meeting would be held at Corpus Christi, Texas, February 19 - 22, 2007. It will be at either the Omni or Holiday Inn. Roy Parker and Chuck Chilcut will be our Local Arrangements Co-Chairs and Scott Armstrong will be our Program Chair. David will get dates of the SWB meeting to the National Office as soon as possible. David announced that an Executive Committee Meeting would follow this meeting.

Marvin Harris moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Bill Ree. The membership voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,
Greg Cronholm
Sec./Tres. SWB-ESA