

**56<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
SOUTHWESTERN BRANCH OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF  
AMERICA**

**Marriott Hotel & Golf Resort  
Fort Worth, Texas  
23-26 February, 2008**

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### **Awards Committee**

Recognition at 2007 Annual Meeting of the ESA

During 2007, Dr. Marvin Harris (Texas A&M University, College Station, TX) received the Entomological Foundation Award for Excellence in Integrated Pest Management. Dr. Harris was recognized in the quarterly ESA Newsletter and at the Annual Meeting of the ESA in San Diego, CA, Dec. 10-13, 2007.

Student Member, Alejandro Calixto, was recognized at the 2007 Annual Meeting as the Southwestern Branch recipient of the John Henry Comstock Graduate Student Award for 2007.

The Southwestern Branch was also represented in the 10-Minute Oral and Poster Student Competition at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the ESA and the following four individuals were recognized:

- ❖ Christopher L. Jagge, Texas A&M University, Second Place in Oral Session B2;
- ❖ Joyce Parker, New Mexico State University, First Place in Oral Session Ca3;
- ❖ Joshua Jones, Texas A&M University, First Place in Poster Session A1; and
- ❖ Anita Smith, Oklahoma State University, Second Place in Poster Session F2-Fb.

John Henry Comstock Graduate Student Award, 2008

Robert Puckett was recognized as the recipient of the 2008 John Henry Comstock Graduate Student Award for the Southwestern Branch. Robert is a doctoral graduate student under Marvin Harris at Texas A&M University.

Linnaean Games, 2008

New Mexico State University Team #1 won the Linnaean Games competition, with Texas A&M University as the runner-up. New Mexico State University Team #1 will represent the Southwestern Branch in the Linnaean Games competition at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the ESA in Reno, NV.

So that the Awards Committee can recognize award recipients at the Branch meetings following the Fall Annual Meetings of the ESA, the Committee Chair respectfully requests that the Chair be notified of winners prior to the Branch Meeting.

Respectfully submitted: Norman Elliott, Brad Kard, Carol Sutherland, Carlos Bogran, Kris Giles, Ron Byford, Chris Sansone, Darrell Bay and Jesus Esquivel (Chair).

### **Preliminary Audit Report**

The Audit Committee of the Southwestern Branch of the Entomological Society of America met with Carlos Blanco, Secretary/Treasurer, on February 26, 2008, in Fort Worth, to conduct a preliminary audit of the financial records of the Society. Because this meeting occurred in association with the Branch meeting and at a time when most of the business of the Society was being conducted, only a preliminary audit was possible. The Audit Committee found the records in good condition and commended the current and

former treasurer on the condition of the records. A complete audit will be conducted at the time the records are turned over to the next Secretary/Treasurer, Dr. Tom Royer, later in 2008.

Grant Kinzer, Gary Puterka and Tom Fuchs, Chair

### **Branch Archivist**

Report

February 26, 2008

The following was sent to Dr. Chapman at the TAMU Archives

1. Presidential papers (100 + papers) from 2001 and 2002 from Pat Morrison
2. Final Business Agenda and notes from March 1, 2001
3. Program of the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting held at the Omni Hotel in Corpus Christi
4. Society fo SW Entomologist
  - a. Agenda February 19, 2007
  - b. Treasurers Report ending December 31, 2006
  - c. Minutes of 2006 Annual Meeting.

Greg Cronholm, Chair.

### **Insect Detection Committee**

While compiling the 2007-2008 IDEP report, the Chair suggested and the committee agreed to submit this report as a “10 minute paper.” Doing the identifications and compiling the state reports take quite a bit of work over the year by each of us, something we think more Branch members need to hear.

### **Oklahoma**

Weather induced problems have been our #1 concern this year. New records were set for 30 day rainfall (June, some isolated areas had >25”) as well as consecutive days (17) with rain. “Household pests” were very abundant this year, accounting for over 40% of all insects submitted. Most are normal pantry problems, but many others were trying to escape drowning in the rain.

**First report: Drosophilid fig fly (*Zaprionus indianus*)** was first detected in 2007 in OK. An alert homeowner submitted a sample to Florida for positive ID and then notified OSU when she received an answer. The fruit flies were found on rotting pears. This species has only been found in a few locations in the US (Florida, TX?).

**First report: Cottony Cushion Scale (*Icerya purchasi*)** was first detected in 2007 in OK. The scale insects were traced back to ornamental citrus and dwarf magnolia trees received from Monrovia Nursery in California.

**First report: Brown Widow Spider (*Latrodectus geometricus*)** was first detected in 2007 in OK. Person has been working in the Katrina zone. The small town where the individual lives is also less than 10 miles from Ft. Sill which was extensively deployed to the Katrina zone.

**Buffalograss Webworm (*Surattha identella*)** was detected in western OK for the first time in many years.

**Yellowmargined leaf beetle (*Microtheca ochroloma*)** was a serious problem on leafy greens this spring.

**Crane fly** larvae emerging from wet turf were very abundant this spring.

**Delia sp. root maggots** were a problem in several fields of canola.

**Winged euonymus scale** (*Lepidosaphes yanagicola*), ODAFF inspectors found at garden center.

**Africanized honey bees** (*Apis mellifera scutellata*) continue to be a high priority pest for the state with one new county added this past year. We now have DNA confirmed cases in 31 of 77 counties (40% of the state) in southwest and south central Oklahoma. To date, 223 bee samples have been received for analysis, with 57 testing DNA positive for AHB. We have 4 confirmed introgression cases where DNA and morphology conflict.

**Japanese beetles** (*Popillia japonica*) continue to be a very serious pest in Oklahoma. Almost 20,000 JB were trapped in 2007 by OK Dept of Ag (ODAFF) in 10 counties with the majority in 4 NE counties which have large commercial nursery operations.

**Red imported fire ants** (*Solenopsis invicta*). ODAFF personnel have been holding public hearings to expand the RIFA quarantine another 1 or 2 county layers northward from the currently recognized federal quarantine counties.

## **Texas**

**Chilli thrips**, *Scirtothrips dorsalis* (Hood) [Thysanoptera: Thripidae] has now been confirmed on ornamental plants in Harris County, Texas. This thrips is expected to become a major pest in the ornamental industry and even in field crops. For more on this species see: <http://chillithrips.tamu.edu/>

**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. 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://agriflifebookstore.org/publications\\_details.cfm?whichpublication=2517](http://agriflifebookstore.org/publications_details.cfm?whichpublication=2517)

**Cycad Aulacaspis scale**, *Aulacaspis yasumatsui* Takagi [Hemiptera: Diaspididae], was reported by Boris Castro causing outbreaks again on sago plants in the Lower Rio Grande Valley primarily from the Harlingen area. This pest is a concern for plant nurseries, commercial landscapes, and home yards. See:

[http://insects.tamu.edu/extension/publications/epubs/eee\\_00038.cfm](http://insects.tamu.edu/extension/publications/epubs/eee_00038.cfm)

**A crazy ant**, *Paratrechina longicornis* [Hymenoptera: Formicidae], is well established in the southeastern states and California. It is now established in Texas in Harris County where it is a nuisance and difficult to control. It seems to be expanding its range gradually and is expected to continue to be a problem for homeowners. For more information see: <http://urbanentomology.tamu.edu/ants/crazy.cfm>

**The banded elm bark beetle**, *Scolytus schevyrewi* Semenov [Coleoptera: Curculionidae], was reported by USDA-APHIS-PPQ from Austin, Travis County, Texas, on 4 October 2006 at a marble distributor. Ed Riley (personal communication) states that he has collected this species in the Texas Panhandle in 2002 but has not seen this or other Texas records published.

**Another scolytid beetle**, *Xyleborus californicus* Wood [Coleoptera: Curculionidae], was reported by USDA-APHIS-PPQ from Austin, Travis County, Texas, on 26 April 2006 at a marble distributor. The situation suggests that it was a hitchhiker in the packing material. Ed Riley states that this species is very common in Texas and

probably present across the state. The first records for the species are from Bastrop County in 1992.

**A long-jawed orbweaver**, *Tetragnatha guatemalensis* O. P.-Cambridge [Araneae: Tetragnathidae] was the main contributor to a large spider web covered several hundred feet of trees along a trail at Lake Tawakoni State Park, Mills Point, Texas in August. The size of the web captured the attention of the media and it was reported on CNN, BBC and many other newspapers, radio programs, and television programs. Several entomologists visited the site and returned with samples and observations. The most abundant spider was a longjawed orbweaver but there were over 20 other spiders reported from the web area. The tangled web mass was apparently triggered by an abundant supply of midges and mosquitoes for an extended period allowing the spiders to reproduce and the web to mat down. A time line of events was posted on the internet by Mike Quinn at: [http://www.texasento.net/Social\\_Spider.htm](http://www.texasento.net/Social_Spider.htm). A preliminary identification report was posted on the web at: [http://insects.tamu.edu/news\\_events/tawakonispiders/](http://insects.tamu.edu/news_events/tawakonispiders/). A journal article summarizing a sample of the spiders is now published: Jackman, J. A., A. Dean, and M Quinn. 2007. Spiders from a Large Web at Lake Tawakoni, Texas. *Southwestern Entomologist*, 32(4): 195-202.

### **New Mexico**

New Mexico seemed to be in a “holding pattern” in 2007 with respect to new records for arthropods. 2007 was considerably drier across the state than 2006.

**Africanized honey bees** were confirmed in just one more county in 2007---Guadalupe in northeastern New Mexico. Of the state’s 33 counties, 19 (57%) now have one or more “positive records” for this pest. (And I must acknowledge Richard Grantham’s assistance in identifying our bee samples in 2007, using DNA analysis. Thanks, again!)

**Colony collapse disorder** was described for the first time in early spring 2007 with (mostly) commercial beekeepers scattered around the continental U.S. reporting the sudden and mysterious disappearance of worker bees from previously active colonies. Initial field reports suggested workers left quickly, leaving honey stores and other resources untapped and apparently shunned by what should be a variety of colony raiders. Apiculturists and honey bee scientists from around the county began a thorough investigation of this mysterious situation while state regulatory agencies and apiculture organizations queried their clientele about symptoms (if any) and losses (again, if any). New Mexico beekeepers contacted during this survey did not report any situations that might be construed as CCD. To date, the scientific investigation of CCD has produced several possible culprits which may contribute to this problem, including a couple of pathogenic organisms, general stress and inconsistent bee maintenance practices, among other things. In New Mexico, honey bee hobbyists experiencing colony losses have been most commonly affected by previously undiagnosed varroa mite infestations, often accompanied by greater wax moths.

**Yellow jackets** excited numerous people in central and northern New Mexico in late summer and early fall this year. *Vespula pensylvanica* (Hymenoptera: Vespidae) was the most commonly submitted stinging pest this year---and it was often confused with Africanized honey bees by the public.

**A small looper caterpillar**, *Nepytia janetae* (Lepidoptera: Geometridae), drew attention from state and federal foresters, local government officials and residents of the

mountain community of Cloudcroft (central New Mexico, Otero County, elevation ca. 8600 feet) in late winter, 2007. These barely inch-long, cryptically colored caterpillars apparently were misidentified in 2005; since they persisted and conifer damage and defoliation increased in 2006, they were re-evaluated and finally determined as *Nepytia janetae*, a species previously experienced as a pest of high elevation spruce-fir forests in southeastern Arizona in 1996-98. These insects have one generation annually with adults flying ca. July through perhaps early September. Eggs laid on foliage of true fir and spruce hatch in early fall and the caterpillars actively feed throughout the winter as conditions permit. Larvae do not consume entire needles, but instead take small bites along the edges of needles, leaving them to turn bright red in late winter. Larvae may “balloon” from one host to another over the winter. Some trees may be completely defoliated by the pests. Stressed trees may die or become susceptible to other pest problems, especially bark beetles. Larvae mature in May and June, pupating and producing the first adults in July. Community and county leaders had become so worried over the actual and implied damage these pests were doing to forest conifers that they contracted an aerial insecticide application on community conifers hosting the pests. Treatments of these trees and adjacent areas administered by the U.S. Forest Service were completed in early November. This is the first time this species has been in an “outbreak” situation in New Mexico and only the third time---as far as is known---in the Southwestern U.S. since the species was described in the mid-1960s.

**A desert willow inchworm**, *Eucaterva variaria* (Lepidoptera: Geometridae), substantially defoliated desert willow trees (Bignoniaceae: *Chilopsis* sp.) planted in the highway medians in Albuquerque again in summer. They were previously key pests of the small shrub-tree in 2005 in the same city.

Early spring pheromone trap surveys by NM Department of Agriculture personnel in commercial pecan orchards caused some south-central NM growers great concern as well as confusion. Traps baited for pecan nut casebearer caught multitudes of small grayish-brown tortricids instead of pyralids. Originally suspected of being hickory shuckworm, *Cydia caryana*, the tortricids turned out to represent several other species of *Cydia*---*membrosa*, *candana* and *ninana* (maybe more) emerging from mesquite.

**Apple maggots**, *Rhagoletis pomonella*, and **Western cherry fruit flies**, *Rhagoletis indifferens*, continue to damage ripening apple and cherry fruit in north central New Mexico, especially in non-commercial plantings. Sticky trap surveys in commercial apple orchards of northern New Mexico have produced several other species of apparently native, non-economic tephritid flies.

Respectfully submitted: Dr. Richard A. Grantham (Oklahoma State University), Dr. John A. Jackman (Texas A&M University), Dr. Carol A. Sutherland, Chair, (New Mexico State University).

### **Insect Expo**

Insect Expo was canceled because of state testing at the elementary schools in the Fort Worth/Dallas area. Communicated via e-mail by Bonnie Pendleton on 01Aug08.

### **Linnaean Games**

The 24<sup>th</sup> Linnaean Games Competition for the Southwestern Branch of the ESA was held at the fifty-sixth annual meeting in Ft. Worth, Texas. Teams representing New

Mexico State University, Oklahoma State University, Texas A&M University (2), West Texas A&M University and Tarleton State University participated in the games. In six well-played matches, New Mexico State University won first place, whereas second place went to Texas A&M University. Members of all teams either received or will receive a Certificate of Outstanding participation, and the teams from New Mexico State University and Texas A&M University are eligible to represent the Southwestern Branch at the National competitions at the next Annual Meeting of the ESA in Reno, Nevada. New Mexico State University will receive financial (usually \$500) support for their travels to the those meetings, 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 and Trece, Inc. for their support of trophies and other awards provided to the winning teams.

Respectfully submitted: Scott Bundy, Ann Thurston, Richard Grantham, Marvin Harris, Mark Muegge, Kevin Shufran, Eric Rebek and Phil Mulder (Chair).

### **Local Arrangement Committee**

The 2008 Annual Meeting was held at the Doral Tesoro Hotel and Golf Club which was purchased by the Marriot Hotel Chain and was re-named the Dallas-Ft. Worth Marriot Hotel and Golf Club during the annual meeting. This change in ownership went smoothly and did not materially disrupt the meeting. President Cronholm and I initially visited several hotels in Ft. Worth but only two had sufficient meeting space and both greatly exceeded the \$99.00 room rate which was our target rate. We then visited the Doral and preferred this venue because of its location, meeting rooms, quality of facilities and recommendation. However, we could not negotiate a rate less than \$135 single/double for weekday stay. I then contacted Kristin House with Conference Direct which works with national ESA to locate and negotiate hotel rates. Ms. House provided me with several options for hotels/conference centers in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area, but all were as or more expensive than the Doral Tesoro. We returned to the Doral and finally negotiated a \$99.00 single or double IF we began the meeting on a Saturday. Holding the meeting during a weekend or paying a higher room rate was discussed by the SW Branch Executive Committee and the decision was made to provide the membership with the lower room rate and start the meeting on Saturday. We guaranteed 190 room nights and noted in the contract that this \$99.00 rate was good 1 day prior to and 1 day after the meeting dates. We made it very clear in the contract and to the hotel that members should receive the contract rate of \$99.00 even after the block minimum number of rooms was reached as long as they made their reservation before the cut off date. Failing to do this was the problem during the 2007 meeting. Despite this, a few members were told the \$99.00 rooms were sold out even though they called prior to the cut off date. Once we learned of this, we contacted the hotel and corrected the problem. Apparently, an off-site reservation service was handling the reservations and some of its employees were not informed of this policy. The actual number of rooms reserved prior to the deadline was 74 on Saturday, 76 on Sunday, 56 on Monday and 5 on Tuesday, for a total of 211 rooms. We received 1 free room night for each 50 rooms guaranteed, or a total of 3 room nights. These rooms were provided to the ESA President and Executive Director.

The contract required we purchase a minimum of \$8,500 for food to have access to the meeting rooms at no charge. A total of 159 were served at the banquet at \$37.00

per person for a total of \$7,200 (include 22% service fee). Breakfast Sunday and Monday and breaks totaled about \$2,200 and the student mixer was ca. \$1,000.00. We provided only a minimum breakfast and several members arriving late were disappointed that the food and coffee were gone and headed off to the hotel restaurant. The student mixer was well attended even though it came at the last evening of the meeting when students might have left earlier to return to classes. Rental of poster boards was ca. \$1,400 and rental of sound systems for the meeting rooms was ca. \$1,800. Computers and projectors were provided by several members to save costs.

We managed to save \$980 of state sales tax by using the tax exempt number from West Texas A&M. Fortunately, the hotel accepted this. The tax exempt status of the branches was later discussed with Robin Kriegel, Executive Director of ESA. She explained that the branches are exempt from federal taxes as they are part of ESA, but that each branch must obtain tax-exempt status from individual states, otherwise they are liable for state taxes. Thus, the Southwestern Branch must apply for tax-exempt status for Oklahoma, New Mexico and Texas.

Allen Knutson, Chair.

### Membership Committee

As of January 03, 2008, the membership of the Southwestern Branch of the ESA totaled 597 individuals, representing:

ESA Number	Membership Category	Paid through:	
		2007	2008
359	Regular Member	306	64
166	Student Member	119	13
12	Student Transition 1	7	2
11	Student Transition 2	8	3
23	Emeritus	22	3
5	Emeritus Gold	5	1
10	Honorary	7	7
1	Life Members	1	1
5	Family Member 1	5	2
3	Family Member 2	3	1
2	President's Circle	2	1
597	Total (as of Jan. 3, 2008)	485	98

The Membership Committee Chair and the Committee report the following activities by members of the Committee, including upcoming events of potential interest to the Branch Membership.

1. **2007 Annual ESA Meeting.** Committee Chair represented the Southwestern Branch at the meeting of the ESA Standing Committee on Membership on December 11, 2007, at the Annual Meeting of the ESA in San Diego, CA. Dr. Esquivel also served as Vice-Chair for the ESA Standing Committee on Membership and will be serving as Chair for this committee during 2008. Committee Chair reports the following items of interest to the Branch.

- a. **Membership rates.** ESA maintained the same rate as in 2007.

- b. **Established ‘Early Professional’ category in lieu of Student Transition II.** Enabled ESA to retain those members who are Post-Doctoral associates and others within 5 years of graduation from their highest educational degree.
  - c. **Online CV/resumé clearinghouse through ESA.** Some turnover in leadership but still plan on pursuing establishment of this clearinghouse as an added benefit for current and incoming members.
  - d. **Liaison with CEDA (Council of Entomology Department Administrators).** The Membership Committee visited with CEDA for a second time at the 2007 Annual Meeting to cultivate a relationship to help ESA maintain continuing contact with graduating entomologists.
2. **ESA Undergraduate Student Activity Award.** In collaboration with the Chair of the Standing Committee on Awards and Honors, this Committee Chair is drafting a proposal for establishing this Award to recognize undergraduate service to the Society. ESA does not currently have an award specifically for undergraduates.
  3. **2008 Annual ESA Meeting, Reno, NV, November 16-19, 2008.** Theme for the meeting is “Metamorphosis: A New Beginning,” and calls for program material are underway.
  4. **International Congress of Entomology is scheduled for July 6-11, 2008, in Durban, South Africa.** Interested individuals can visit the website, [www.ice2008.org.za](http://www.ice2008.org.za), for more details.

Respectfully submitted: Doug van Gundy (2008, Wellmark International), John Burd (2008, USDA, ARS), Charles Suh (2008, USDA, ARS), Bonnie Pendleton (2009, West Texas A&M University), Carol Sutherland (2009, New Mexico State University), Harlan Thorvilson (2009, Texas Tech University), Jeff Tomberlin (2009, Texas Cooperative Extension), Brad Hopkins (2009, Texas A&M University – Student Rep.) and Jesus Esquivel (Chair).

### **Necrology Report**

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of three of our distinguished colleagues (Dr. Nelson R. Powers, Dr. Pete D. Lingren and Dr. Owen H. Graham). These colleagues contributed significantly to the science and advancement of Entomology, the success of the Southwestern Branch of the Entomological Society of America and the defense of our Country.

#### **Peter Delano Lingren, Ph.D.** (17 September 1937 – 8 September 2007)

Pete D. Lingren, Ph.D. of College Station, TX passed away at his home on 8 September 2007 at the age of 69. He was born on 17 September 1937 in Chelsea, OK, to Pete and Pearl Lingren. Pete served as a Pfc. in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He then served three years as a Sgt. in the Army National Guard.

Pete graduated from Northeastern Oklahoma A&M in 1956, and then from Oklahoma State University with a B.S. in entomology in 1962 and with a M.S. in entomology in 1964. His Ph.D. was from Texas A&M University in 1967 in entomology. I first met Pete when he was working on his M.S. and I was pursuing my B.S. in entomology.

Dr. Lingren worked his entire career for the USDA Agricultural Research Service, where his research focused on nocturnal behavior of major agricultural crop pests. His career took him to the University of Florida's North Florida Research & Education Center, Quincy, FL, the Oklahoma State University Wes Watkins Agricultural Research and Extension Center/USDA-ARS- South Central Agricultural Laboratory, Lane, OK and the USDA-ARS Southern Plains Agricultural Research Center, College Station, TX. Pete retired from his position in College Station in 1995. He was author and coauthor of many significant scientific publications on insect flight and behavior. Dr. Lingren served as president (1996-97) of the Southwestern Branch of the Entomological Society for the meeting in Oklahoma City, OK.

In retirement, Pete spent most of his time gardening, canning, hunting and fishing. He took great joy in his grandsons and in sharing the bounties of his garden with friends and neighbors. He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Chuck Lingren; and his sister, Mary Lingren.

Dr. Lingren is survived by his wife of 47 years, Bonnie Lingren of College Station, TX; a son and daughter-in-law, Scott and Kim Lingren of Bryan, TX; grandsons, Connor and Parker Lingren of Bryan, TX; and his brothers, John Lingren of Claremore, OK., and Dick, Bill and Jerry Lingren, all of Chelsea, OK.

**Nelson R. Powers, Ph.D., M.P.H., LTC** (– 20 September 2007).

Nelson R. Powers, Ph.D., M.P.H., LTC U.S. Army (retired), passed away Wednesday, 20 September 2007, in Santa Fe, NM, after a brief illness. Nelson was born in San Diego, CA. He earned a B.S. in zoology and a M.S. in biology from San Diego State University, and received his Ph.D. in entomology from the University of California. He also held an M.P.H. from the University of Texas and was the recipient of the MacArthur Foundation Fellowship. While at school in San Diego, he served as an enlisted member of the U.S. Army Reserve. Upon completion of his Ph.D., he accepted a postdoctoral fellowship with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Nigeria where he was a member of a research team on the biological control of the cassava mealybug (*Phenacoccus manihoti*) in West Africa.

In 1980, Dr. Powers received a direct commission with the rank of Captain in the Army Medical Service Corps. His first assignment was at Letterman Army Institute of Research, the Presidio (San Francisco), where he was laboratory director for genetic toxicology. His next assigned was at Darnall Army Community Hospital, Fort Hood, TX, where he was deployed to Joint Task Force Bravo, Honduras, as staff entomologist, responsible for vector-borne disease surveillance and control. Upon returning to Fort Hood, he developed a cooperative agreement with the Texas Department of Health, Laboratory Services, to conduct surveillance for Lyme disease at various military training sites.

In 1988, Dr. Powers was assigned to the Republic of Korea, as commander of the LA Detachment in Yong San; he was responsible for surveillance and control of arthropods of medical importance. He also worked retrograde cargo issues with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. His next assignment was at Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, TX, as a medical entomologist and concurrently, he served as entomologist for the Joint Military Medical Command in San Antonio.

Dr. Nelson's next assignment was to the Republic of Panama (1992 to 1995), to serve as chief entomologist at the Gorgas Army Community Hospital. While there, he was a vector-borne disease threat advisor to the American Embassy in Costa Rica. He also worked with the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute on various joint entomological programs.

Upon returning to the States, Nelson was assigned to the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD, where he was chief of the Readiness and Planning Division and Chief of Operations, Mobilization and Security, for preventive medicine deployments in support of U.S. forces, and also served as the entomologist filler to the 920<sup>th</sup> Theater Army Medical Laboratory. He then assumed the position of senior staff entomologist for the Entomological Sciences Division, USACHPPM. His last tour was as staff entomologist, Environment and Safety, Defense Logistics Agency, Fort Belvoir, VA.

LTC Powers' awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Army Superior Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and the Overseas Service Ribbon with two Oak Leaf Clusters. He also was awarded the "A" Proficiency Designator for Entomology from the Surgeon General of the United States Army.

In 2003, Nelson retired from the Army and joined the Zoonoses team of the New Mexico Department of Health in Santa Fe, where he coordinated the state's West Nile virus mosquito surveillance and testing program and participated in plague and Hantavirus investigations. He was described as a gentleman, polite and approachable, and always a joy to know, whether as colleague or friend. He is survived by his wife, Graciela Thorpe-Powers, originally of Panama City, Panama, and by his brother Terry of San Diego, CA.

### **Owen Hugh Graham, Ph.D., LTC (18 April 1917 – 14 July 2007)**

Owen H. Graham, Ph.D., LTC U.S. Army (retired), of Laredo, TX passed away on 14 July 2007 after a brief illness at the age of 90. He was born on 18 April 1917 in Thorndale, TX, the oldest child of Judge O.D. Graham and Clara Clymore Graham, and the grandson of Archie and Rebecca Graham, early Milam County, TX pioneers.

Dr. Graham attended the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas (Texas A&M) at College Station and received his B.S. in entomology in 1938 and his Ph.D. in entomology in 1940. From 1939 to 1942, Owen worked as a junior entomologist for the U.S.D.A. Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine at Brownwood, TX, Menard, TX, and Yuma, AZ. His work with the U.S.D.A. was interrupted by the onset of WW II. He served his country in the U.S. Army in the Pacific as commanding officer and entomologist of the Fifth Malaria Survey Unit, in Australia, New Guinea and the Philippine Islands. Dr Graham remained with the Army Reserves and retired as a Lt. Colonel.

In 1945 at the termination of the war, he returned to the U.S.D.A. From 1946 to 1947 he worked as a research entomologist for the U.S.D.A. Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine at Menard, TX. Graham then joined the fly control unit for the U.S.D.A. Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine at Kerrville, TX from 1947-1950. In 1950 Owen worked as a civilian entomologist/ agro-economist for the U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers in Panama City, Panama. He then returned to Kerrville, TX as a research entomologist and assistant station leader at the U.S.D.A.-A.R.S. U.S. Livestock Insects Laboratory in 1956. In 1963 he became Investigations Leader and Director of Field Staff in 1970. During the balance of his career, he was the Laboratory Director for the U.S.D.A.-A.R.S. - U.S. Screwworm Research Laboratory at Tuxtula Gutierrez, Mexico and played an integral part in the construction of the screwworm rearing plant during a period when the screwworm fly was eradicated throughout Mexico and Central America. Dr. Graham retired from his position with the U.S.D.A. in 1984.

He received several international awards and was elected a fellow in the Entomological Society of America.

Upon retirement, he returned to a lifelong interest in beekeeping that began as a teenager working with his Uncle Horace and his cousins. He was active for many more years keeping bees throughout South Texas and the Hill Country.

Dr Graham is survived by Elodia (wife), and Georgia Brown and husband, Dennis of Canyon Lake, TX; Rosibel Graham of Kerrville, TX; Elena and Trent Williamson of Fredericksburg, TX; Andrew and Darlene Graham of Kerrville, TX; Teresa and Rudolfo Nava of Laredo, TX; Rebeca and Jorge Monsivais of Laredo, TX; and Erika and Carlos Munoz of Laredo, TX. He has 19 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Please join me as we remember both Pete and Nelson who served our science of entomology, society and our country.

Respectively submitted: Grant Kinzer (NM), Phil Mulder (OK) and Jim Reinert (TX), Chair ([j-reinert@tamu.edu](mailto:j-reinert@tamu.edu)).

### **Nominations Committee**

The Nominations Committee (current and three past Presidents: Greg Cronholm, David Thompson, Bastiaan 'Bart' M. Drees and Phil Mulder nominated Dr. Allen Knutson the Final Business meeting at the SWB-ESA meeting on February 26, 2008. President Cronholm called for a vote and Dr. Knutson was nominated as Secretary/Treasurer-Elect by majority vote of SWB members participating in the Final Business meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Nominations Committee.

David Thompson, Chair

### **Program Committee**

There were some real challenges this year regarding the program. The e-mail system at TAMU was filtering out some student e-mails so that their submissions for paper presentations were not received by Dr. Porter. This situation was discussed in some detail and some suggestions were made to change how we do business. Pat proposed that we either go back to the old paper submission system, or move forward to a complete electronic submission system. Dr. Harris indicated that we had a good meeting, and although there were a few glitches, it didn't detract from the overall excellence of the meeting. There were some comments made that the addition of new symposia was welcome. There was also some discussion about the timing of future meetings.

Pat Porter, Chair

### **Public Information Committee**

Members of the committee and other members of our Branch worked in various ways to provide information to the public and to promote an awareness of entomology.

Edmond Bonjour photographed many aspects of the 2007 meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas. A total of 203 images were taken during the Insect Expo and meeting for inclusion in the Branch Archives.

Many faculty, students, and staff at Texas A&M helped to educate the public on insects. Wizzie Brown gave six Master Gardener presentations covering topics such as Entomology & IPM, Fire Ant Biology & Management, Beneficial Insects, and Greenhouse Pest Management. Ten school groups and a Daisy troop were provided the opportunity to learn about arthropods with live specimens. The Food and Fiber Expo exposed 481 urban youth in the third and fourth grades to life on the farm through sessions on water, entomology, dairy, swine, poultry, sheep and goats, beef, corn, cotton, and horticulture. Garden clubs and homeowner groups were provided trainings on IPM & beneficial insects, vegetable insects, and fire ant management. Pest management professionals were trained on using IPM in schools for managing ants at the PCO Workshop held in College Station. The housing staff at the University of Texas was trained on IPM and structural pest biology & management. Three groups were provided training on less toxic pest management. Two community-wide fire ant management programs occurred in Central Texas. One, WoodGlen, has been ongoing since 2005 and a new community, Belterra, started in 2007. Both communities participated in broadcast baiting in front yards, greenbelts, and common areas and then residents picked up bait for the backyard in a common area of the neighborhood. WoodGlen had 101 participants and Belterra had 97 participants. Eleven live and taped television spots were utilized to reach a variety of outlets covering numerous entomological topics. Most spots were either live or taped segments for local news stations covering pest problems that were occurring at the time of the news segment. One segment was for Central Texas Gardener, a gardening show on PBS and is aired in Austin, San Antonio, Waco, Killeen, and College Station, and Portales, NM. One radio interview taped with TDA Radio talked about control methods of red imported fire ants. Peter Krauter presented an outreach program to 60 fourth graders at Sul Ross Elementary, Bryan, Texas covering general entomology and biological classification.

At West Texas A&M University, Bonnie Pendleton and Michal Roberts prepared insect specimens and administered and graded examinations for 72 high school students at the FFA entomology contest during the West Texas A&M University Career Development Day at Canyon. They also helped small groups of FFA and 4-H students study for the regional and state entomology contests. They also had hands-on activities using aquatic insects for "What's in the Pond?" for 380 fourth graders at the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District Water Wonders Festival in Dumas, and for 167 fourth graders at the Water Wonders Festival in Perryton, Texas. They developed and presented a workshop on arthropods for 50 teachers at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Panhandle Area Mathematics and Science Conference at West Texas A&M University. Roxanne Bowling and Bonnie Pendleton had 4-H Summer Fun with Insects activities for 50 children at the Moore County Extension Office. Bowling had entomology exhibits and activities for 350 fourth graders at the Farm Bureau Ag. Day and sponsored a Bug Out: Bug Origami session for 19 children at the Moore County Extension Office.

At New Mexico State University, over 25 grade, middle and high school classes from southern New Mexico (and El Paso, Texas) were represented among the visitors for the NMSU Arthropod Museum in 2007; at least 3,145 students were given presentations on arthropods and had the opportunity to view some of the extensive “Oh My” collection during their visits. The American Indian Program on the NMSU campus visited the collection with 32 students. In April, over 100 FFA students at the high school level attended a one-day insect identification workshop preceding their annual competition. Approximately 120 students competed as both individuals and teams. In July, nearly 30 4-H students, mostly high school age, competed in an insect identification competition held at NMSU. A local health fair recruited Dave Richman to bring an arthropod collection for display which served approximately 600 people. In association with the Chihuahuan Desert Expo, Dave hosted 700 students, grades 1-3, at the Arthropod Collection. Carol worked with the same Expo at the Downtown Mall where nearly 2000 students, teachers and chaperones were instructed on various arthropods found in our desert ecosystem. These same students were also exercised by Carol’s Insect Olympics - flapping, jumping and running like various insects. Between two exhibits at the Southern New Mexico Fair, an estimated 6200 students and adults were served with various arthropod displays. Carol also exhibited arthropods at the Southwestern New Mexico Fair for 1000 people. Dave hosted 500 adults and children at a Halloween Party for NMSU faculty and staff. Carol exhibited 12-15 drawers of various arthropods at the state’s Master Gardener classes on Entomology. These classes are currently held in at least 13 locations around the state with an audience of approximately 225 adults. She also exhibited 12-15 drawers of arthropods at six different Ornamental and Turf Workshops for approximately 500 pesticide applicators.

At Oklahoma State University, Andrine Morrison, the Outreach Program Coordinator, with assistance from others reached 789 students and 64 adults by giving presentations for 16 schools. She also hosted three family groups totaling 37 people. Morrison, along with assistance from other students and faculty, gave programs to Ag Round Up, 4-H groups, OSU Day at the State Fair Grounds, River Bend Nature Park Bugfest!, Graduate Student Research Symposium at the state capitol, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts, Kids Under Construction, Copesan Technical Committee, Stillwater Children’s Museum, Ag Ambassadors, and Extension Educators that reached nearly 1,600 students and adults. Morrison also gave class presentations to 520 students at OSU courses in Insects and Society and Introduction to Science Careers for a Zoology class.

Several OSU personnel helped host Outdoor Classroom on two days at Frontier City, and Morrison and Greg Broussard hosted the Insect Zoo at the Oklahoma City State Fair. These events attracted 12,000 and 350,000 persons, respectively. Carmen Greenwood spoke to 100 students about Career Paths 2007 and Tracey Payton gave 4-H presentations to 120 students during the Environmental Days in Yukon. Andrine Morrison also did a special segment on Fox 25 News called “Dirty Jobs.”

Don Arnold and Richard Grantham judged entomology entries at the Oklahoma City and Tulsa State Fairs. Arnold and Grantham helped conduct the regional and state Insect Identification Contests for FFA and 4-H at Okmulgee, Stillwater, and Oklahoma City. Arnold also hosted a few elementary classes in tours of the K.C. Emerson Entomology Museum on campus.

During 2007, about 500 students completed the Insects and Society class which was taught by Carmen Greenwood. This class has a waiting list of students wanting to take it.

All of these activities and events help promote entomology in a very positive way to students and the general public.

Respectfully submitted: Charles Chilcutt, Forrest Mitchell, Bonnie Pendleton, Carol Sutherland and Edmond Bonjour, Chair

### **Resolutions Committee**

Resolution No. 1.- **Whereas**, the **56th** 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: **Greg Cronholm, David Thompson, Bonnie Pendleton, Carlos Blanco, Tom Royer and Marvin Harris**, **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 Chaired by **Pat Porter**, the Local Arrangements Committee chaired by **Allen Knutson** 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. Michael Gray** and Southwestern Branch Governing Board Representative **Marvin Harris** 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**; Trece, Sygenta, Pioneer, FMC, DuPont, Dow, D&PL Bayer CropScience, Dr. Ann Thurston and Dr. David Pledger provided funds for Branch Functions; **Be it resolved** that the Branch membership express thanks and appreciation to the sponsors.

Resolution No. 6. **Whereas**, the accommodations, service, and hospitality for this meeting contributed to the success of the meeting; **Be it resolved** that President **Greg Cronholm** express written appreciation to the management and staff of the **Marriott**.

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 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 by headquarters, **Be it resolved** that the Southwestern Branch request the Southwestern Branch representative to the ESA governing board to pursue use of the ESA website for the SW Branch meeting in 2009.

Committee Members: Robert Miller, Stan Carroll, Allen Knutson and Bill Ree, Chair.

### **Spouses Guests and Retirees Committee**

No report submitted

### **Student Affairs Committee**

Alejandro Calixto **PLEASE ADD**

### **Student Research Paper and Poster Awards Committee**

The Committee communicated by e-mail several times during the year.

A total of 39 presentations was entered in the competition:

17 oral presentations – 11 Master’s including 2 undergraduates; 6 Ph.D. students

22 poster presentations – 19 Master’s including 5 undergraduates; 3 Ph.D.

students

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

Information on judging forms completed by the judges will be typed and given to each student.

First-, second-, and third-places were awarded \$200, 100, and 50, respectively. Student award winners for 2008 were:

Master’s Oral Presentation First Place – Joyce Parker, New Mexico State University

Master’s Oral Presentation Second Place – Danielle M. Tufts, University of Texas at Tyler

Master’s Oral Presentation Third Place – Natalie Vitovsky, University of Texas at Tyler

Ph.D. Oral Presentation First Place – Ngan Nguyen, Oklahoma State University

Ph.D. Oral Presentation Second Place – Robert T. Puckett, Texas A&M University

Ph.D. Oral Presentation Third Place – Alejandro Calixto, Texas A&M University

Master’s Poster Presentation First Place – Ik Ju Park, New Mexico State University

Master’s Poster Presentation Second Place – Citlali Chacon-Cardosa, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, San Nicolás, Nuevo León, México

Master’s Poster Presentation Third Place – Paulina Vega-Aquino, Universidad Autónoma Agraria Antonio Narro, Saltillo

Ph.D. Poster Presentation First Place – Siwei Liu, Oklahoma State University

Ph.D. Poster Presentation Second Place – not given

Ph.D. Poster Presentation Third Place – not given

Committee members for 2008 were: Scott Armstrong, Richard Berberet, Roxanne Bowling, Scott Bundy, Jack Dillwith, Jerry Michels, Megha Parajulee, Jane Breen Pierce, Justin Talley, Jeff Tomberlin and Bonnie Pendleton, Chair.

#### **Youth Science Committee**

Noel Troxclair **PLEASE ADD REPORT**

#### **Preliminary Finances Report**

Before the finances are audited, this is a preliminary report as of 21Aug08:

Dr. Bonnie Pendleton left \$12,000 in the saving account and \$1,390.40 on checking's account. After all the bills were paid (except for 2 student volunteer's refunds for \$25.00 each), there is \$10,532.14 left in the savings account (-\$1,467.86) and \$2,790.72 in the checking account (+\$1,400.32). The Southwestern Branch 'lost' \$67.54 on this year. Breaking down into major expenses and revenues this is what happened financially this year:

The meeting obtained 153 paid registrations amounting to \$10,800. We obtained donations for \$6,327. We paid \$13,992.80 for meeting arrangements and we gave \$1,800 for awards to student competitions and Linnaean games and \$1,400 for the maintenance of the website.

This report has not been audited yet.

Respectfully, Carlos A. Blanco, Secretary-Treasurer 2007-2008.