

**83nd Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Branch,
Entomological Society of America
March 8-11, 2009, Montgomery, AL**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

1. Call to Order – Alvin Simmons, President SEB-ESA

Simmons called the meeting to order at 1:11 pm in the Alabama D-E Room of the Renaissance Hotel, Montgomery, AL on March 8, 2009. Nineteen were in attendance. Introductions for all in attendance

2. Comments from ESA President – Marlin Rice

Rice stated it was a pleasure to be at the meeting and offered thanks for the invitation to attend. Rice stated it was his first SE Branch meeting. In the February newsletter, he asked everyone to nominate someone from their branch for national offices; 10 of the last 12 presidents have been from Northcentral Branch. Rice encouraged the Executive Committee to put forth a candidate for ESA President. Rice and Robin Kriegel encourage any comment/opinions regarding ESA.

3. Comments from ESA Executive Director - Robin Kriegel

Kriegel offered thanks for the invitation to the meeting. Kriegel stated that last year the SEB meeting was the most energizing of all the branch meetings she attended. During the past year, they are beginning to make changes in the role of students; ESA will be increasing the number of student volunteers at the annual meeting in Indianapolis; also will be establishing an ESA YouTube; and students will be asked to be involved in interviewing, etc. ESA is moving forward on hosting the branch website at no charge. There needs to be one person in the branch as the contact person for the web. Although it has been looked into, ESA cannot currently handle meeting registration for the branch with the current system, but ESA is looking at other systems. It is possible there may be a charge associated with this to cover the fees for credit cards.

4. Comments from ESA Governing Board Representative - Michael L. Williams

Several motions were approved by the Board: AM online – eliminated from 2009 budget; childcare will be retained for 2009 budget; Student and Young Entomologist award – discontinued; and Nan Yal Su Award establishment. Sites for the 2013 meeting include Long Beach, Albuquerque, and Austin. The Board will be meeting in April for a planning session so please provide any suggestions/comments.

5. Comments from ESA Certification Board – James Cilek

The board is interested in increasing the presence of the Certification Program at the regional (i.e. Branch level). The Board will promote the formation of an annual BCE branch symposium. The Board also asks that SEB promote and recruit nominations for the 2009 BCE Student Award and Director-Elect of the Certification Board. The Board encourages SEB communication with the national Certification Board through the SEB Representative,

Roxanne Connelly or contact the Director, Stuart Mitchell. There will be information about the Certification Program in the poster area during the meeting. (Written report provided)

6. Comments from the Entomological Foundation – Gene Reagan

Not present. Cilek gave a brief report that the overall goal of the program is to raise \$400,000 with a \$5,000 goal for the branches through auctions, raffles, etc. The Branch with the largest contribution will get a financial award (up to 10%). An information sheet was passed out containing information on the Entomological foundation Challenge.

7. Reading of the Previous Year's Minutes - Catharine Mannion, Secretary Treasurer

Mannion stated that the minutes were posted on the website and were also available at the current meeting. Mannion stated any changes will be made and re-posted to the website. Stewart made a motion to suspend reading of the minutes. The motion was seconded by Williams.

8. Committee Reports

a. Local Arrangements Committee– Art Appel and Mike Williams

The committee chairs thanked the members of the Local Arrangements Committee. During the process, LAC worked closely with the Program Chair and would like to thank them. Hotel contact was made with Conference Direct which was a tremendous help. LAC met with hotel staff three times to make room and other arrangements. The room block was met in advance of the deadline, but created some problems, but were able to negotiate an additional 40 room nights. SEB received 6 comp room nights which will be used for the ESA president and Executive Director. Complimentary suites and upgrades were used by the LAC and Program Committee. The Associates' program will be handled by Carolyn Williams, however, there currently are only a total of 4 associates. Some plans have been made for them and there is a room for the Associates to meet. No food/drink is provided in the Associates room, however, they are free to attend the regular breaks/breakfasts/lunch. This meeting includes 4 breaks, 1 breakfast, and 1 lunch. There needs to be more thought given to the budget because it is getting more and more expensive every year and it was very difficult staying in the budget. LAC is also expected to get \$6000 from sponsors which has not happened. We need to evaluate what we really want to do. Also need to make changes to get better numbers for who attends the luncheon, but still have unknown numbers for on-site registration (50-75). There was an estimate of 215 luncheons for this meeting.

Mannion – the proposed budget has an increase of funds for LAC

Kriegel – could have some budget problems in the future because many companies are giving less

LAC needs to be aware of gratuity to be added in plus state tax. The state tax is something that needs to be investigated. This should be added to the SEB Guidelines. The LAC should pursue getting tax exempt status from the state but it needs to be done in advance of the meeting. Each state has its own rules.

Poster display boards (20) were brought to the meeting by Roger Leonard and student volunteers. The student volunteers received complimentary registration.
(Written report provided)

b. Meeting Location and Time Committee – 2010 – Stormy Sparks

Committee Members: Alton Sparks, GA (Chair); Phillip Roberts, GA; Wayne Gardner, GA; Catharine Mannion, FL, Ex-officio; and additional input from John Ruberson, GA (Chair of 2010 Program Committee)

Following the recommendation of the Executive Committee (and with the aid of Mike Williams) we contacted Conference Direct for aid in selection of the 2010 meeting site in Georgia. We worked with Kristin House and Heather Hartman at Conference Direct to outline our needs (meeting space, rooms, etc.) for the 2010 meeting and they solicited bids. Sixteen bids were received (13 in the Atlanta area, 2 in Augusta, 1 in Athens). The Committee reviewed these bids and narrowed the choice to one hotel in Athens and one in the Atlanta area (based on room costs, location, projected meeting costs, etc.). Site visits were conducted at both locations. The Athens location did not have adequate facilities for our meeting. Fortunately the Atlanta location is a very nice hotel in an upscale portion of Atlanta and fits our needs nicely. A second site visit was conducted with the Program Chair (John Ruberson) to verify this evaluation. Upon approval of the Committee, negotiations were completed to meet at the DoubleTree Hotel Atlanta Buckhead.

The dates for the meeting are March 6 - 10, 2010. The meeting will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Buckhead. Buckhead is an upscale area in north Atlanta. In addition to easy access by road (just north of I-85), the hotel is within walking distance of a MARTA train station (one-way from the airport currently costs \$1.75). The hotel is relatively small (230 guest rooms) so we should represent the majority of the guest during our stay. The hotel location provides abundant opportunities for dining and entertainment. Meeting space in the hotel is somewhat limited, but should adequately meet our needs and the entire space is available to us. It is anticipated that our meeting will primarily utilize two ballrooms (which can be separated into 5 meeting rooms) which share a common pre-function area.

Contracted room rates are \$125 per night for single, double, or triple occupancy. Parking is an additional \$20-\$25 per night. There is no charge for meeting space if a \$9,000 food and beverage minimum is met. Other concessions in the contract include one complimentary room for every 40 occupied rooms, one complimentary Presidential Suite, two Junior Suites and two upgrades. We will also receive a 20% discount on food and beverages and a 40% discount on audio visual rental (we can provide our own as well). All comps are based on 85% pick up of the room block (405 room nights blocked; 345 must be met). (Electronic written report provided)

c. Meeting Location and Time Committee – 2011 – Alvin Simmons

On January 7, 2009 SEB and APS-Caribbean Division representatives met at the University of Puerto Rico to discuss a proposed plan to have a joint meeting for 2011 in

Puerto Rico. SEB typically meets in late February/early March and APS-CD meets in May so it is proposed to meet in March or April. It is estimated that about 350 will be in attendance. Both groups hold an opening reception and awards luncheon. Many functions such as registration, paper submission, etc. can be done using joint forms with online links to both websites. Sponsor donation was also discussed to make a pool to support functions or pay directly for a function. It is anticipated that the meeting registration for SEB will be more than in the past, but would likely include more meals. The meeting may start on a Saturday and have one day free for other functions/tours. (Written report provided)

Discussion – Concerns about students being able to attend.

d. Program Committee – Nannan Liu and James Cilek

There are total of 199 presentations with 399 authors contributing to the meeting. Among these presentations, 151 are paper presentations and 48 are poster presentations,

There are total of 17 sessions, of which, there are 3 submitted paper sessions (Systematics, Evolution & Biodiversity session, Plant-Insect Ecosystems and Crop Pest Management session, Structural, Veterinary and Public Health Systems session) 4 student competition sessions (Ph.D. Paper Competition, M.S. Paper Competition, Ph.D. Student Poster Contest, M.S. Student Poster Contest), 8 symposia (Urban Insect Symposium, Education Symposium, Insect Molecular Biology and Biotechnology symposium, Student Symposium, Vegetable Symposium, Management of Flowers Thrips Symposium, Turf & Ornamental Symposium, Managing Cotton Insects Symposium), 1 Regular Poster Presentation session as well as the Opening Plenary Session and Business Meeting. Also again, this year, we will have the SEB Linnaean Games competition.

There are total of 29 moderators to assist in the paper presentation sessions, these volunteers help us tremendously in this capacity and ensure that our annual Branch meeting is a success. To that end we thank them.

Three new sessions are featured in the 2009 program, they are: Education Symposium, Insect Molecular Biology and Biotechnology symposium, and Management of Flowers Thrips Symposium. These sessions bring to the SEB membership new avenues of information to our meeting. We thank all the members in the program committee for their contributions to the program. We are grateful to Dr. Arthur Appel for his tremendous effort on editing the program. We thank Ting Li, a graduate student at Auburn University, for her assistance in the preparation of the program. We thank the Executive Committee and SEB leadership for their support during the year.

Also noted was that the Chairs used a Digital Mailbox so they could receive large files. This helps facilitate getting presentations. Only 1/3 of the presentations were received before the meeting started. The information on the Digital Mailbox was given to Kris Braman. (Written report provided)

e. Annual Meeting Sponsorship – Ed Snoddy

Not present; no report received. Simmons chose an adhoc committee last year made up of university, extension, and industry to assist in raising funds for the meeting. There was a late start on contacting sponsors and as a result less contributions. One sponsor (ChemAnova) was not listed in the program. It was suggested that recognition be given during the opening session.

f. Public Relations – Fudd Graham

Graham thanked his committee – Chazz Hesselein, Auburn, and Raymond Hix, FAMU. The committee discussed strategy for publicizing the SEB-ESA meeting to the general public by phone. This resulted in an email/press release being drafted and disseminated to the following news papers, TV news stations, and radio on Monday March, 2, 2009.

News Papers:

Montgomery Advertiser
Opelika-Auburn News

TV and Radio(Montgomery Area):

WSFA NBC 12	Fox 20	Troy State Public Radio
WNCF ABC 32	WAKA	CBS 8
APT7	WTVM ABC 9 (Columbus, GA)	

In addition, the release was forwarded to the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station and Alabama Cooperative Extension system media groups.

An article was placed in the February issue of the ESA Newsletter by Alvin Holmes. Also, a press release by the USDA-ARS was released documenting that Simmons is the first African-American president of our organization. A second email/press release was sent to the above organizations on Friday March 6, 2009 with the original information and incorporating the ARS press release. In addition, the email was sent to The Birmingham News, The Mobile Register (newspapers) and the local television affiliates in Mobile.

Bob Howell, local news anchor at WSFA 12 replied and expressed interest in doing a story on the meeting. He said he was “interested in doing a story...especially if we can find an angle that really interests a majority of our viewers...something they can relate to. And, some really “odd-ball” insects, facts about them, etc would be great, too.” I answered in the affirmative and indicated we would bring live insects and our ‘WOW’ collection of showy insects in hope of coverage. Mark Bullock, local news anchor at WSFA 12 and Fox 20, also replied. (Electronic written report provided)

g. Membership – Gus Lorenz

Not present; no report received.

h. Education Committee – Joe Culin

Culin stated that they have had problems in the last few years developing an educational program. Outreach is getting harder and harder to do for K2-9.

i. Member Awards – Roger Leonard

Leonard thanked the committee members: David Hall, FL (2009), David Riley, GA (2010), Ken Ward, AL (2010), Fiona Goggins, AR (2011), and Eric Riddick, MS (2011).

Leonard noted the SEB members who were 2008 national ESA winners:

- ESA Distinguished Achievement Award in Horticultural Entomology – Ron Oetting, University of Georgia
- ESA Fellow – W. Joe Lewis, IBPMRL, USDA ARS, Tifton, GA
- ESA Fellow – Jacqueline Miller, FL

Leonard reported on the award nominations processed in the summer and fall of 2008 for winners to be recognized at the current meeting. The committee generally followed the procedures outlined in the SEB-ESA Guidelines for Committees. The deadline for application was delayed approximately one month in order to increase the number of candidates submitted. The committee received a total of 11 nominees, 2 each in 4 categories and only 1 each in 3 categories. No nominations were received for Distinguished Service to the Certification Program. All candidates were considered high quality nominations. The committee hopes that all the unsuccessful candidates will consider re-submission of packets in future years.

All packages were forwarded to the committee for review. Leonard requested any member with a perceived conflict during the process to refrain from the review of candidates (which occurred for 2 awards). After receiving the ratings from each of the members, Leonard compiled the ratings for an average and a ranking. The highest potential rating for each candidate was a score of 35. In every case, the ratings between the two nominations was very close. The committee decided that in the cases where there was only one nominee, the nominee was still scored and the committee unanimously agreed that the candidates were worthy of recognition. The process was completed and the winner's names and abbreviated biographies were submitted to the Program Chair and Secretary-Treasurer.

Awards:

- Excellence in Integrated Pest Management – Dr. Timothy J. Kring, University of Arkansas
- Recognition Award in Entomology – Dr. John N. All, University of Georgia
- Distinguished Achievement Award in Teaching – Dr. Gene Reagan, LSU
- Distinguished Achievement Award in Extension – Dr. Alton (Stormy) Sparks, University of Georgia

- Distinguished Achievement Award in Horticultural Entomology – Dr. Kris Braman, University of Georgia
- Recognition Award in Urban Entomology – Dr. Ellen Thoms, Dow AgroSciences
- Recognition Award in Insect Physiology, Biochemistry, and Toxicology – Dr. Greg Henderson, LSU

Some of the award winners will be the SEB's representatives for competition in their respective categories at the National ESA level.

The committee received a request from Rosemary Halberg, Communications Specialist, Southern Region IPM Center, NC State University, to allow the presentation of an award titled: The Friends of IPM Award, "Bright Idea". This award recognizes a professional or team of professionals for an innovative and creative approach to IPM. The School of IPM Working Group formed after an initial meeting organized by the Southern Region IPM Center to introduce school IPM officials in the southern states to one another to share ideas. As a representative of that group, she wanted to recognize this team at our awards luncheon. This award is pertinent to the SEB because the 2008 group consists of school IPM university extension specialists in the southern region. Steve Toth (NCSU), the Associate Director of the Center, will present the award. With President Simmons approval, it will be the final announcement on the SEB member awards agenda at the luncheon.

Old business – the committee was asked to investigate an award for an industry representative. Leonard explored this with a number of agriculture industry representatives and SEB members and was unable to get a consensus of actually what we should be recognizing. Industry representatives are already eligible for the current SEB awards. Based on the comments, the committee is not clear on how to proceed and would like further suggestions from the Executive Committee. Leonard will assist next year's Member Award's chair if the decision is made to proceed with the development of this award.

Simmons commented that it would be for recognition of the individual for their contribution. Steward stated that it is hard for many of them to compete in other awards so it is primarily based on contribution to society. Leonard stated that there is a need for criteria for the award. Hall stated that FES has an award for private industry, but felt like it was not meaningful. Simmons stated that it is worthwhile but not sure how to proceed. He suggested that next year the committee should continue to pursue it. It was suggested that the committee comes up with a recommendation of what the award is for.

Recommendations from Leonard:

- Clarify the process for nomination at the National level versus the Branch level. Our request for nominations happens at the same time as those for the National Society and some nominees are lost in the process. In addition, some awards are not required to be processed through the Branch level.
- Consider establishing a "Team Award" (as they do in other societies and at the national level)

- It remains difficult to obtain nominations. Consider other ways from the Request for Nominations (i.e. send the announcements to previous year's candidates). Update the Guidelines.

Simmons charged the committee to explore the possibility of the two new awards (team award and industry rep award). Simmons also noted that the guidelines should be updated to send a letter to previous candidates to apply again. (Written report provided)

j. Student Awards – Scott Stewart

Stewart thanked the committee: Tara Smith (LA), Fred Musser (MS), William Moar (AL), Allen Szalanski (AR), Jack Bachelor (NC), Francis Reay-Jones (SC), Gary Leibee (FL) and Michael Toews (GA).

There were four candidates for the Comstock award and two nominations for the Hayes award. The winners are:

John Henry Comstock Award (outstanding Ph.D. student): Amit Sethi,
University of Florida

Kirby L. Hayes Memorial Award (outstanding M.S. student): Nathan Lord,
University of Georgia

Student poster and paper winners will be reported at the final business meeting. There are 27 Ph.D. papers, 25 M.S. papers, 12 Ph.D. posters and 5 M.S. posters.

The committee noticed some discrepancies in the awards guidelines, specifically the items below.

- Poster competition – criterion request display AND WRITTEN SUMMARY, but a written summary is generally not required. The committee suggests removing the written summary requirement.
- Poster Competition – Awards are given for first place in PhD and MS categories but this is inconsistently stated in the guidelines (i.e., correct on first page, incorrect on last page).
- The committee recommends that in cases of large participation in student paper competitions, particularly the oral competitions, that new guideline be implemented to recognize more award winners. For example when 18 or more are in a given competition, that competition could be divided into an A and B section with a 1st and 2nd place winner of each section. Second place winners may or may not receive a cash award but should be given a plaque or certificate. Thus, there would be a Gast or SEB Student Award for sections A and B.
- For next year, before new guidelines can be implemented, the committee suggests the following formula, and a motion to this effect will be made in the final business meeting.
 - If 12 or fewer individuals are in a competition, a first and second place award should be granted

- For 13-20 participants, awards should be granted for first, second and one honorable mention (certificate or plaque only)
- For 21 or more participants, awards should be granted for first, second and two honorable mentions

Discussion on the number of student papers: How should this be handled? It is also a problem for the judges. The Student Awards Committee should make a recommendation on the process of how this should be handled with the maximum number of students allowed and what to award. (Electronic written report provided)

k. Student Affairs – Ed Snoddy

No report

l. Resolutions – Jerome Grant

Not present. A full report will be presented at the final business meeting and will be posted 24 hours before the meeting .

m. Board Certification – Cynthia Connelly

Not present. No report.

n. Archives – Don Allemann

Not present. Report given by Simmons. The Archives of the Branch consist of 8 file boxes are in a safe storage in Don Allemann’s garage. There are discussions ongoing with the library of NC State University to archive the Branch records. A final decision is expected in a few weeks. Likely the initial archiving will simply be a listing of materials rather than a complete digitizing. Archiving within the Branch is strongly advised by library personnel. A modest donation to the library will help with supplies and labor. Allemann would like to propose a motion to the Branch to proceed to archive the SEB records with the library at NC State University and, if finally accepted, make a one-time \$1,000 donation to the library to process the records.

Second – Harper
Motion – passed

Discussion – What is to be archived? Harper stated that Allemann has asked all Universities as well as ESA about archiving. The NC State University library would put the records in an archive section which would be accessible.

o. By-Laws Revisions – Tim Kring

There are no revisions to constitution and bylaws. Kring had previously requested another member be added (and Simmons had responded by appointing 2 more members) and that the appointment to this committee not be a “life-time” appointment

p. Server Transition – Richard Sprenkel

Not present. Simmons stated he convened an adhoc committee to assist in the transition of the Branch website to the Center of IPM in Raleigh, but since then it was decided to be moved to ESA.

q. Nominating – Carl Jones

Not present. Rob Wiedenmann reported. All candidates were contacted. It was suggested that there be guidelines for the nominations which could be done through the revision of the Branch guidelines.

r. Nominations for National Office – James Harper

Tried to find nominations for the president-elect and the BCE representative. Asked for input for Department heads and from faculty and received a list of potential nominees. One individual was selected who in interested but not this year; will be good for next year. Harper asked for other suggestions.

9. Treasurer’s Report, Secretary-Treasurer – Catharine Mannion

Mannion passed out the Financial Summary for 2008-09 and a proposed budget for 2009-10.

2008-9 Financial Summary. The balance on March 3, 2008 was \$70,284.83. Most of the expenses for this meeting (hotel costs, food, awards) have not yet been paid. All funds were held in a Morgan Stanley Dean Witter Active Assets Account.

2009-10 Proposed Budget. The proposed budget for 2009-10 shows a \$750 net balance. The changes include: changing the income from registration based on the average income from the last 4 years; reduce the industry contribution by \$2,000; reduce the program budget by \$300; added the addition income to local arrangements.

Discussion: Use the lowest income for the past 4 meetings (2006) as the income instead of the average which of the last 4 years; do not change the industry support.

Williams made a motion to accept the proposed budget with the changes. It was seconded by Leonard. Passed on voice vote.

10. Comments from President-Elect – Braman

Braman commented that she appreciates the opportunity to serve the Society and is looking forward to carrying out the duties of the office.

- SEB guidelines - has received some changes which have been incorporated;
- Approval of nominating committee – Rob Wiedenmann, Nancy Hinkle, Doug Houseworth, Chip Anderson, Ted Cottrell, and Susie Legaspi.

Motion to accept – Harper

Second - Kring

Passed

11. Other Business Items

- Have been approached by both the NC (Grayson Brown) and SW Branches (not yet selected) to support their nominees for ESA Vice-President Elect. There is no candidate from this Branch. The Executive Committee will meet later to determine who the Branch will support once it is known who the nominee is for the SW Branch.
- Leonard mentioned to be aware of a group called Southern Field Crops Society. This group may affect our members and funding. May also be a group to interact with at the meeting.

12. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 5:11 pm was made by Harper, seconded by Leonard.