

**83<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Branch,  
Entomological Society of America  
March 7-10, 2009, Montgomery, AL**

**FINAL BUSINESS MEETING**

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

Pres. Simmons called the meeting to order at 5:00pm in the Alabama C room of the Wyndham Jacksonville Riverwalk Hotel in Jacksonville, Florida, Tuesday, March 10, 2008. There were 41 in attendance when the meeting was called; there was a quorum. Simmons welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Reading of 2008 Minutes - Catharine Mannion, Secretary-Treasurer**

Mannion stated that the minutes were posted on the website and were also available at the current meeting. Cottrell made a motion to suspend reading of the minutes and to adopt the minutes as published. Hinkle seconded the motion and it passed unanimously on voice vote.

**3. Financial Report – Catharine Mannion, Secretary Treasurer**

Mannion passed out the Financial Summary for 2008-09. The balance on March 3, 2009 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.

Williams made a motion to accept the Financial Summary. The motion was seconded by Hodges and passed on voice vote.

**4. Auditing Committee Report – David Held, Chair**

The Auditing Committee reviewed deposits and disbursements from February 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008. The account was balanced with \$53,834.78 on Dec 31, 2008. We asked the Secretary-Treasurer to provide the following information for the society records. In April 2008, cash received at the branch meeting in the amount of \$2,185 was deposited into the Secretary-Treasurer's account and a check from that account for that same amount was deposited into the society's Morgan Stanley account. The records provided by the Secretary-Treasurer did not have a copy of that check. The Committee requested a copy be placed in the file as supporting documentation.

Hodges made a motion to accept the Auditing Committee Report. The motion was seconded by Williams and it passed on voice vote.

**5. Budget Report – Catharine Mannion, Secretary Treasurer**

Mannion passed out a proposed budget for 2009-10. The proposed budget for 2009-10 shows a \$250 net balance. The changes to this budget include:

- changing the income from registration to \$25,500.00 which is based on the lowest income received in the last 4 years (2006);
- reduce the program budget by \$300;
- added the additional income to local arrangements.

Riley made a motion to accept the proposed budget. The motion was seconded by Kring and

it passed on voice vote.

## **6. Committee Reports**

### **a. Local Arrangements – Art Appel and Mike Williams**

Williams acknowledged the members of the Committee and stated that they are listed in the program. Special thanks were given to Fudd Graham and the people who helped him [Kelly Ridley and Krystal Waltman with loading talks and handling all the AV.

The hotel facilities have been very nice as far as facilities and rooms and the hotel staff has been outstanding to work with. A shuttle service was provided but there were some problems because the hotel wanted Williams to provide all the flight information which did not happen but everyone was picked up; those that used the service complimented the service; so it worked well in the end. The room block was met; there were 247 registered.

The Committee encourages everyone to pre-register because there is still difficulty in planning for meals and beverages. There was room for everyone at the luncheon, but it was very close.

There has been a steady decline of associates at the meeting over the last 10 years. Carolyn Williams was available to take the associates to various sites or activities, but there were not enough associates to put in the time and effort to have an Associates Program. All associates can attend any of the functions of the meeting including lunch and breaks. The Committee recommends not having an Associates Program. Food for the Associates' room was eliminated. The low turnout for associates may be partly due to late planning, however, most associates seem to prefer to go out on their own.

Hinkle made a motion that there not be an Associates Program for the Atlanta meeting. The motion was seconded by Shelton.

Discussion – should we just leave it up to each Local Arrangements Committee to decide whether or not to have an Associates Program?

Hinkle removed her motion.

Williams asked if anyone experienced any problems with the hotel or meeting. It was noted that there was some noise and music from other rooms.

There was more discussion on pre-registration and determining the number of meals/beverages. Mannion commented that the pre-registration form currently has a box to check if they plan to attend the luncheon, to help with this matter. But there are still fairly high numbers of registrations on site. It is suggested that it be required to pre-register if you plan to attend the luncheon. Some thought this would be too strict.

### **b. Annual Meeting Sponsorship – Ed Snoddy**

Not present. All sponsors (except one) were listed in the program; all were acknowledged during the Opening Session and recognized on the video loop at the luncheon; thanks were given to them by Simmons.

**c. Program Committee – Nannan Liu and James Cilek**

Not present. No final report – see minutes for Executive Committee meeting for report.

**d. Membership Committee – Gus Lorenz**

No report.

**e. Resolutions Committee – Jerome Grant**

Committee is Jerome Grant, Chair, Gary Leibee, and Dakshina Seal. Report given by Seal.

Whereas, we have been saddened by the passing of the following member of this Branch during the past year: Dr. Robert Burger

Therefore,

**(Resolution #1)**

Be it resolved, that we stand for a moment of silence in memory of this friend and colleague, and that the Branch President send a letter of condolence to his family.

Whereas the success of the 83<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America is due to the efforts of officers and committees and other members of the Branch, therefore,

**(Resolution #2)**

Be it resolved, that the members of the Branch express gratitude to the Branch President, Alvin M. Simmons; President-Elect, S. Kristine Braman; Past-President, James Harper; Secretary-Treasurer, Catharine Mannion; Secretary-Treasurer Elect David Hall; Governing Board Representative, Michael L. Williams, and Members-at-Large, James Dutcher, Rogers Leonard and Ralph Bagwell, for their leadership in and management of the affairs of the Branch during the year; and

**(Resolution #3)**

Be it resolved, that the members of the Branch recognize the excellent and important efforts of the Program Committee, co-chaired by Nannan Liu and James Cilek, for developing an excellent, appropriate, timely and informative program; and

**(Resolution #4)**

Be it resolved, that the members of the Branch recognize the efforts of the Local Arrangements Committee, co-chaired by Art Appel and Michael Williams, for arrangements prior to and during this meeting; and

**(Resolution #5)**

Be it resolved, that the members of the Branch recognize the efforts of the Program and Local Arrangements Committees for organizing and loading electronic presentations on laptop computers for meeting sessions; and

**(Resolution #6)**

Be it resolved, that the members of the Branch recognize the efforts of Mike Caprio for his continued contributions to the automation of the SEB-ESA website for submission of presentation titles for inclusion in the meeting program; and

**(Resolution #7)**

Be it resolved, that the members of the Branch recognize the continued efforts of Melissa Thorp for development and management of the SEB-ESA website, and

**(Resolution #8)**

Be it resolved, that the members of the Branch express our appreciation to Ronald Smith for his informative and historical plenary lecture on “The History of the Boll Weevil in Alabama and its Impact on the Discipline of Entomology,”

**(Resolution #9)**

Be it resolved, that Secretary-Treasurer, David Hall, on behalf of the members of the Branch, be instructed to express written appreciation to the management and staff of the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa for their cooperation, services and hospitality, which contributed to the completion of a successful and outstanding 83<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting.

**(Resolution #10)**

Be it resolved, that the members of the Branch recognize and express our appreciation for the financial contributions of Bayer CropScience, Bayer Environmental Science, Cheminova, Dow AgroSciences, DuPont, FMC, Monsanto Corporation, Omni Agri Trade Group, Syngenta Corporation, Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology Auburn University and College of Agriculture of Auburn University for providing support for the mixer, continental breakfast, and coffee breaks at this meeting.

Whereas, the members of the Southeastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America are proud of the accomplishments and recognition of their fellow members who were nominated by the Branch for national awards by the parent society, therefore,

**(Resolution #11)**

Be it resolved, that the members of the Branch commend the following members for their respective awards and nominations:

- Timothy J. Kring, Univ. of AR                      SEB-ESA Award for Excellence in IPM
- John All, Univ. of GA.                              ESA Recognition Award in Entomology
- Alton Sparks, Jr., Univ. of GA                      SEB-ESA Distinguished Achievement Award in Extension

- Thomas E. Reagan, LSU SEB-ESA Distinguished Achievement Award in Teaching
- Ellen Thoms, Dow AgroScience SEB-ESA Recognition Award in Urban Entomology
- Kristine Braman, Univ. of GA SEB-ESA Distinguished Achievement Award in Horticultural Entomology
- Gregg Henderson, LSU SEB-ESA Recognition Award in Insect Physiology, Biochemistry & Toxicology

Whereas, the members of the Southeastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America are very proud of the accomplishments of their student members, therefore,

**(Resolution #12)**

Be it resolved, that the members of the Branch commend the following Student Members for their respective awards:

- Amit Sethi, Univ. of Florida – 2009 John Henry Comstock Award
- Nathan Lord, Univ. of Georgia – 2009 Kirby L. Hays Memorial Award
- J. B. Pitzer, Univ. of FL – 2009 Robert T. Gast Award
- P. F. Smith, Univ. of Georgia – 2009 Runner Up – Ph.D. Presentation
- Kyle Fontenot, Louisiana State Univ. - 2009 Outstanding M.S. Presentation Award
- Richard Reeves, Clemson – 2009 Runner Up – M.S. Presentation
- E. R. Carr, Univ. of Georgia – 2009 Outstanding M.S. Student Display Award
- Frank Wessel, Univ. of Florida, 2009 Outstanding Ph.D. Student Display Award.

Whereas, the Linnaean Games have been enjoyable for both the participants and the audience due to the excellent moderating style of the Games Master Raymond Hix, and the fair and knowledgeable presence of the judges (Alvin Simmons, S. Kristine Braman, and Marlin Rice) and the preparation and good sportsmanship exhibited by the Linnaean Games Teams, therefore,

**(Resolution #13)**

Be it resolved, that the members of the Branch express their appreciation to the participating teams and congratulate the winning team from North Carolina State University and the second place team from Louisiana State University.

Whereas, the members of the Southeastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America are grateful for the superior service, leadership and representation of the Branch by Michael L. Williams on the ESA Governing Board, therefore,

**(Resolution #14)**

Be it resolved, that the members of the Branch express their appreciation to Michael Williams for his service as Governing Board Representative.

Appel made a motion to accept the Resolutions as read. Harper seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**f. Member Awards Committee – Roger Leonard**

Leonard thanked the committee members listed in the program. David Riley will be the chair for 2010 and he will assist him to submit names.

Leonard offered congratulations to 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, CPMRU (formerly IBPMRL), USDA ARS, Tifton, GA
- ESA Fellow – Jacqueline Miller, FL

SEB member awards were presented at the Awards Luncheon. A total of 11 nominations were received but one category (Distinguished Service to Certification Program) had no nominations. The 2009 SEB member award winners recognized are:

- 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. Gregg Henderson, LSU

It remains difficult to obtain nominations to recognize Branch members. Please assist the next (2010) committee in soliciting more nominees so that all categories can be represented.

**g. Student Awards Committee – Scott Stewart**

Stewart thanked the judges and volunteers. The committee has made recommendations that have been included in report submitted to the Executive Committee (see minutes).

A motion was made that the Student Awards Committee put together guidelines on measures to take at a meeting when numbers of students competing for awards is unusually large. The motion was seconded by Leonard. The motion was dismissed after discussion.

Discussion – Williams stated that the committee must look at the endowment which pays for the student awards to see how it can be handled.

Stewart stated that the committee would follow up with that in their development of the guidelines.

The motion was made for the committee to work on the guidelines to include a mechanism on what to do when there are a high numbers of students competing in the paper competition. Simmons stated that the poster competition is not a problem because judges have more flexibility. Motion carried. A second motion was made that in the interim that if there are more than 12 students that there be 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place awards.

No vote necessary. The Student Awards Committee needs to make suggestions to change the guidelines and present to the Executive Committee before the next meeting so that they can be implemented at the next meeting

**h. Meeting Location/Time: Georgia 2010 – A. Stormy Sparks**

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 guests 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) that 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.

**i. Meeting Location/Time: Puerto Rico 2011 – Alvin Simmons**

On January 7, 2009 SEB-ESA 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-ESA 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.

Leonard stated that the Southern Weed Science Society will also be meeting in PR around the same time of year and that maybe we should contact them. There are also concerns for student attendance due to the cost.

Simmons stated that he talked to numerous students and they have shown interest in going and at least as of last year, all of the department chairs have expressed support to get their

students there. The students in PR do not normally attend this meeting, so this gives them an opportunity. There has been some discussion on travel grants to help with student travel as well. Simmons is not aware of any funds through ESA. A suggestion was made that if the membership could be asked to donate money, then a fund could be started to be used for student travel. Hale suggested that it be started now. Also suggested was a raise in membership fees to help support travel grants.

Suggested that the next registration form include a place for donations for the PR meeting.

**j. Public Relations Committee – L. Fudd Graham**

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. The Committee disseminated the release to the following newspapers, TV news stations, and radio on Monday March, 2, 2009.

**Newspapers:**

Montgomery Advertiser  
Opelika-Auburn News

**TV and Radio (Montgomery Area):**

WSFA NBC 12	Fox 20	Troy State Public Radio
WNCFABC 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.

On Monday morning, a story on the meeting aired on Troy State Public Radio. No local TV or newspapers were present for the meeting, even though WSAF 12 did show interest. Attendance by these organizations may have been hampered by the local mayoral election on Tuesday March 9.

**k. Meeting Selection for 2012**

Wiedenmann stated on behalf of the entomologists of Arkansas, they invite SEB to meet in 2012 in Arkansas. Motion to accept was made, seconded and passed.

**l. Nominations Committee – Carl Jones**

The committee members were thanked. The winners from the elections:

Member at large – Nancy Hinkle  
President Elect – Frank Hale

**m. Nominations Committee – Carl Jones**

**n. National Office Nominations Committee – Jim Harper**

An adhoc committee was formed to assist in finding SEB nominees for national offices. The committee members include Joe Culin, Wayne Gardner, Gary Mullen, Richard Sprenkle and Jim Harper as chair. The membership and department heads were canvassed for potential nominees for the national BCE and president-elect offices. Although there were a few recommendations, no one committed for this year, but have names for next year's committee. Harper asked the membership to consider nominating candidates for national offices. Rice indicated that 9 out of 12 have come from the NC branch.

**7. Old Business**

President Simmons thanked Mike Williams and Art Appel for their service as local arrangements co-chairs and presented them with plaques.

President Simmons thanked Nannan Liu and James Cilek for their service as program co-chairs and presented James Cilek with a plaque (Liu not present).

President Simmons thanked Catharine Mannion for her service as Secretary-Treasurer and presented her with a plaque.

Simmons asked for any past presidents in attendance to escort Kris Braman to the podium. Williams and Harper escorted Braman. Simmons presented the gavel to Braman. Braman stated she appreciated the opportunity to be president and was looking forward to the upcoming duties.

Braman presented Simmons with a gavel and thanked him for his service as president of the branch.

Braman offered thanks to everyone for the excellent meeting. Braman is seeking nominations for President-Elect and Member-at-Large. She asked if anyone is interested or knows anyone to nominate, to please let the Nominating Committee know which consists of Rob Wiedenmann, Nancy Hinkle, Doug Houseworth, Ted Cottrell, Susie Legaspi and Chip

Anderson. Braman thanked all that have served on committees and asked anyone interested in serving on a committee to let her or one of the committee chairs know:

Stormy Sparks – Local Arrangements  
John Ruberson – Program  
Eileen Buss – Membership  
David Riley – Member Awards  
Gary Leabee – Student Awards  
Pat Zungoli – Education Committee.

Braman anticipates moving the Branch website from Florida to the National ESA website within the next few weeks and will keep the membership informed.

## **8. New Business**

A new member to the branch (previously from the NC Branch) has been associated with the Linnaean Games with the NC Branch suggested creating a Linnaean Games Committee to give a big push to the games and increase visibility and impact of the games. He suggested that the committee be separate from the Student Affairs Committee and suggested inviting sponsorship to support the teams. The Branch may want to consider sending more than one team to ESA.

A motion was made to create a committee for the Linnaean Games. Hesselein seconded the motion.

Discussion – Simmons stated that the participation has been very good but stated there would need to be additional time to discuss additional teams. Currently, there is one student from each state on the Student Affairs Committee and maybe it would be better to expand the committee instead of creating a new committee.

Comments from the Student Affairs Committee - An adhoc committee could be formed to see how a separate committee would work. The adhoc committee would need to interact with the Student Affairs Committee. Need to get input from the National Games Committee. There is a need for someone to streamline the questions. There may need to be some support (funds) to make the games better; improve equipment. The adhoc committee would be charged with making the games more entertaining.

Call for the question. Passed.

## **9. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.