

**ESA Eastern Branch Summer Planning Meeting
July 18, 2019
Minutes**

Present: Daniel Frank, Brian Nault, Ryan Gott, Tracy Leskey, Anna Wallingford, Becky Anthony, Tom Kuhar, Brenna Traver, James Wilson, Cesar Rodriguez-Saona, George Hamilton, Erin Hitchner, Art Agnello, David Owens, Anne Nielsen, Lindsay Iglesias, Jim Steffel

Call to order: 9:05 am

2019 Meeting: The meeting in Blacksburg, VA was well attended (295 people registered, 288 attended). Registration for the meeting increased \$15 from the previous year. There were many symposia with a diversity of topics. Having it on a college campus drew in people who usually don't attend the Branch meetings. One negative was that the cost of the meeting was high. Catering costs were higher than expected, and the contract was renegotiated to allow a lower room block, so the Branch didn't get the deal that was originally anticipated. Furthermore, many registrants were students, which resulted in less funds coming in from registration.

Other branches are also struggling with meeting costs. ESA HQ would be happy to help with contracts so we don't get into trouble. In the future, it would be beneficial to use ESA HQ's expertise when developing contracts.

Executive Committee Reports

Secretary (Daniel Frank): Several committee vacancies are coming up (i.e. President-Elect, Program Committee Co-chair, Student Affairs Committee Co-chair). Elections for Executive Committee positions (President-elect) usually close in January and Program and Student Affairs Co-chairs are usually not selected until after the meeting, so we have time to recruit for these positions.

Treasurer (Erin Hitchner): The 2019 meeting generated \$44,000 from registration and sponsors. However, the cost of the meeting was \$54,000. The Branch currently has \$12,000 in its savings account.

Governing Board (Tracy Leskey): The ESA Policy Statement on Climate Change was approved. The Governing Board approved the appointment of Drs. Mike Brewer and Nan-Yao Su as co-editors to JEE to serve alongside Dr. Frank Zalom. The appointment of Drs. Melody Keena and Therese Poland as Co-editors of EE were also approved.

Summer Governing Board Meeting Summary:
ESA Publications and Publication Council

- Revenue from Oxford University Press will increase through 2024 based on guaranteed minimum payments in our contract. The final two years of the contract (2025 and 2026) are projected to deliver approximately \$400,000 less revenue each year compared to 2019 without any decrease in expenses. This represents

about 10% of the Society's budget. Moreover, recent studies have shown that researchers, on average, have significantly shorter careers in academia than in prior decades and that more PhDs are now going to fields other than traditional academia. This limits the growth potential of our current programs that are designed for traditional academic roles while also providing an opportunity to serve trained entomologists going into other career paths. Thus, ESA will be looking at strategic policies to shore up revenue from publications, look at new revenue streams, and establish services for members outside academia.

- Oxford University Press sent a proposal based on analyses of journal pricing for all its journals. Proposal for increasing open access fees to be in line with market rates (but with ESA members consistently receiving a 20% discount) was approved. Cost for open access to increase from 14% to 58% with most journals increasing 25%. Also, some additional increases for page charges for non-members and developing countries (6%), color charges (4%) and pay-per-view (5%).
- Publications Council – we will have a representative from each of our Sections (approved in November 2018 by GB). Council agreed to continue with current policy of encouraging author contribution statements, but not requiring them. 9/2183 papers submitted last year included statement from November 2017-November 2018. Also, based on a discussion of single vs double-blind reviews raised by JME Editorial Board, the Publication Council agreed to maintain current single blind review as its not something easily changed for a single journal, but also agreed to keep discussing the issue as a whole for all journals.

Early Career Professionals

- The Governing Board had a long discussion about adding an additional Governing Board slot for ECP. Discussions ongoing. The GB fully recognizes the need for ECP representation and participation.
- A proposal for ECP travel funding to ICE was not approved. The issues that emerged was that previous funds came from other sources in some cases (grants), the cycle of the meeting, and that this is not an ESA-sponsored event.

Motion for Science Communication Funds/Branch Meetings

- The proposal to make Science Communication Funds permanent for Branch meetings was not approved, as these are from strategic reserves and not meant to be permanent. The idea is that the funding was a specific strategic purpose, but not to be permanent.
- ESA Staff can assist us in developing a more sustainable model for our meetings. Not just EB but all the Branches have struggled.

There will be a modest 1.9% increase in dues for members to off-set rising costs taking place for FY2020. The last increase was in 2016.

The Governing Board has tasked the Ethics and Rules Committee to develop an “Awards and Honors Canvassing Committee” and “Leadership Development Committee” to ensure a well-qualified pool of nominees for Society leadership roles, awards and honors.

The Governing Board approved the recommendations of the Linnaean Games Task Force. The name of the Games will not change, and there will be a renewal of the games to ensure inclusivity and awareness.

Member-at-Large (Brenna Traver): No report.

Early Career Professional Representative (James Wilson and Ryan Gott): The National ECP Committee met in St Louis, MO in June of 2019. The branch representatives, and section representatives were present as well as the Chair and Vice Chair. The committee met with members of the ESA HQ staff and the ESA Executive Committee.

National ECP Committee Summary:

- The ECP Committee requested direct representation on the governing board, not the current liaison through the student committee representative.
- Suggestions were made to reinstate the ESA webinar series that will be led by ECP members with content related to ECP members.
- A welcome guide for ECP's was suggested, as well as further documentation to support ECP's on the National website.
- The National ECP Committee will also be working with the Headquarters staff to produce a committee policies and procedures manual to serve as a point of reference in the future and to solidify the mechanisms for the committee to remain a standing National Committee.
- Overall the meeting was productive and will be followed by successive monthly meetings throughout the year.

Eastern Branch ECP representatives are looking forward to working with the Southeastern Branch on the 2020 meeting.

There was discussion on how to promote branch award winners at the national level. Cesar will bring this topic up with the National Awards Committee.

Standing Committee Reports

Awards Committee (Tom Kuhar): Current members of the committee include Thomas P. Kuhar (Chair), past presidents Don Weber, Cesar Rodriguez-Saona, and Tracy Leskey, and also James Wilson, Early Career Professional Committee Chair

For the Graduate Student awards (Fitch and Comstock Awards), The Grad Student Committee Chair and members of the Graduate Student Committee, will evaluate applications and notify the Awards Committee Chair of the results.

As we did this past year, the Awards Committee will try to keep a pre-Christmas December deadline for the award packages. Applications will be submitted through the ESA-managed website. Tom will make an effort to personally promote these awards to entomology departments in early December.

Award nominations solicited include:

1. L.O. Howard Award (Eastern Branch)
2. Herbert T. Streu (Eastern Branch)
3. ESA Distinguished Achievement Award in Teaching
4. ESA Distinguished Achievement Award in Extension
5. Entomological Foundation Award for Excellence in IPM
6. Early Career Professional Award
7. John Henry Comstock Award for PhD student
8. Asa Fitch Award for Masters student

Program Committee (Art Agnello and Anna Wallingford): An initial planning meeting took place with the Southeastern Branch July 15. The 2020 theme is Diversity and Inclusion. Jessica Ware was selected as the plenary speaker. As part of the theme, there will be a Diversity and Inclusion breakfast. In addition, efforts will be made to invite symposia on a diversity of themes (e.g. insect diversity, aquatic entomology). There was also discussion about reaching out to 1890 land-grant universities to get more involvement.

The student competition will consist of oral and poster presentations with four sections under each: Ph.D, M.S., B.S., and Extension. Awards will consist of 1st (\$200) and 2nd (\$100) place.

The Confex contract is currently in the works, and ESA HQ will send a timeline for tasks soon.

ESA Committee Reports

Awards and Honors (Cesar Rodriguez-Saona): At the national meeting in Vancouver the committee discussed how branches nominate candidates for the national awards. Some branches nominate the same person for multiple years, while other branches do not. There was interest in standardizing the process, so a proposal was developed requesting that past branch nominees (up to 5 years) can be reconsidered at the national level. This proposal was rejected because it was thought that it would change the nature of the awards and increase committee workload. Each branch will thus decide if it will re-nominate previous awardees.

After discussion, it was decided that only the current year's award winner should go up for nomination at the national level. If an award was not issued by the Branch for that particular year, then the previous year's awardee could be re-nominated.

Diversity and Inclusion (Cesar Rodriguez-Saona): The D&I Committee would like to become more visible at the national level. To increase visibility at the national meeting they were considering sponsoring special events, stickers for members, and developing a survey (like the Eastern Branch) to gauge the impact of the committee and its mission.

Ad hoc Committee Reports

Archivist-Historian (George Hamilton): Please include George on emails for archive purposes

Student Competition (Brenna Traver and David Owens): During the 2019 meeting there were 11 Ph.D oral presentations, 17 M.S./B.S. oral presentations, 9 Ph.D poster presentations, and 8 M.S./B.S. poster presentations. This was the first time in many years that we separated the poster session into two sections. During the 2019 meeting, awards for 1st and 2nd place were \$300 and \$200, respectively. This will change to \$200 and \$100 for future meetings.

It was reiterated that the student competition will consist of oral and poster presentations with four sections under each: Ph.D, M.S., B.S., and Extension. The \$2,400 in total prize money would be split between branches. Judging will be going online, and the committee is actively working with Becky to have one judging sheet for each section. The Southeastern Branch has a six-person committee where all members act as judges for the student competition. We will continue to solicit judges by asking for volunteers during the registration process (Ph.D needed as a terminal degree). The rubrics were edited to be more like those at the national meeting. A copy of the rubric is posted below in the appendix.

There was discussion on what exactly is an extension presentation, and how will it be judged because the rubric is tailored to research presentations (e.g. scientific content). Amanda Hodges (SEB) can probably provide more insight. We will need to have this well-defined, so we can provide this information to our students, who will likely have questions too.

During discussions Brenna noticed that the Southeastern Branch's program from last year includes several sub-sections under each of the main student competition sections (i.e. Ph.D, M.S., B.S., and Extension). These sections (16 total) overlap and do not start until 10:30 am. We need to work with the Southeastern Branch to clarify how the student competition will be included in the program, how it will be judged, and how awards will be issued.

Corporate Support (Jim Steffel): Erin and Becky were a big help to Jim last year. The dilemma for the 2020 meeting is that there is a shrinking number of sponsors due to mergers, and it will likely not be possible to have current sponsors provide two contributions to a single meeting. If anyone has any ideas about who else to reach out to, please pass that information along. Jim will work with Alejandro Arevalo (SEB, BASF) to garner sponsorship.

It was discussed that we may want to have levels of sponsorship like the national meeting. It was also suggested that we consider smaller, non-traditional organizations and businesses (e.g. pollinator/beneficial insect groups) that may want more exposure, and state and other commodity groups (e.g. Cotton Inc.).

New Business: The 2020 meeting will begin Sunday, March 29 and end Wednesday, April 1. Unfortunately, the Sheraton Atlanta on Courtland Street (site of the 2020 meeting) has had an outbreak of Legionnaires disease. Hopefully, the 8 months we have until the meeting will be enough time to resolve the issue. Many of the highlights for the meeting were discussed above. Other activities will include our typical awards ceremonies, speech from the president of ESA, and keynote speaker presentation. Brian would also like to see the inclusion of the ED (Entomological Digest) talks like the 2019 meeting. Linnaean games will be separate for each Branch, however, if time allows it may be fun to have the winners from each Branch square off.

There was discussion on the availability of travel awards for members, particularly students and faculty from 1890 land-grant universities. It was suggested that we could also use travel awards to support faculty from 1890s, and involve them in a summit to discuss how to make the Branch more inclusive. If travel awards are issued to students or faculty we would need a small group to review applications, which could consist of Cesar (Diversity and Inclusion), Brian (President), Tom (Past President), and Anne (President-Elect). It was also suggested that we reach out to sponsors to support travel awards. This might allow sponsors to tap into different funding streams.

During discussions with the Southeastern Branch we will need to make sure that our Branch has a voice and are represented in the program. It would be a good idea to select symposia that represent the Eastern Branch and get our IDEP Committee involved on a special topic (e.g. spotted lanternfly).

It is currently unclear if there will be a Bug's World or similar event during the 2020 meeting.

Currently there hasn't been much progress with contracts for the 2021 meeting. Anne is considering Philadelphia, PA as the meeting location. She would like to make the meeting a little different by replacing some symposia with workshops and panels to increase ECP involvement. She would also like to have the meeting be a 2-day event like the 2018 Annapolis, MD meeting. Anne expressed interest in keeping the ED talks, and having a Bug's World event.

The ECP committee bylaws are not up to date on the Branch website. Daniel will work with Becky to get this and other information updated.

Adjourn: 10:53 am

