

ESA Eastern Branch Summer Planning Meeting
June 21, 2016
Minutes

Present: Daniel Frank, Tracy Leskey, George Hamilton, Mark Taylor, Cesar Rodriguez-Saona, Doug Pfeiffer, Ashley Kennedy, Brenna Traver, Yong-Lak Park, Dick Casagrande, Don Weber, Geoff Attardo, Greg Krawczyk, Faith Kuehn

Call to Order: 9:06 am

Old Business

Overall, the 2016 joint meeting in Philadelphia, PA went well. There were many positive comments about the meeting location and facilities. However, attendance from our membership was down compared with previous years; likely because of the early January meeting date. Although it was advertised as a joint meeting with the other scientific societies, there did not appear to be much mixing of the societies. The Weed Science Society's template that was used for the meeting did not work in all cases. If a joint meeting is pursued again in the future, planning must begin from the ground up. Overall, responses from the 2016 Eastern Branch membership and attendee survey indicated that members were evenly split about having a joint meeting every other year, every 3-5 years, or not interested in another joint meeting.

Executive Committee Reports

Past President (Tracy): No additional comments raised at this time.

Secretary (Daniel): According to responses from the 2016 Eastern Branch membership and attendee survey, Annapolis or Philadelphia are the preferred locations to host the 2018 meeting. Don leans toward having the meeting in Annapolis because of previous good attendance and its location. Philadelphia may be an expensive city to have the meeting in March.

Treasurer (Mark): Mark presents the current financial statement (see attached). During the joint meeting in Philadelphia the Eastern Branch did not do a lot of the things it normally does for its meetings (e.g. banquet, Bug's World, student volunteers, hotel deposit), so there is more money in checking; almost double from what it is normally. A check for a little over \$8,000 was sent to Erin Hitchner (Weed Science Society, Treasurer) for our portion of the meeting costs.

Our reserve fund is currently located in a CD. ESA-HQ has a blanket insurance policy for if anything goes wrong at the meetings. The various ESA Branches are covered for \$100,000 if any problems arise. Other branches no longer have their reserves in a CD; interest is currently at 1.25%. Mark would like to put our reserve in an account with ESA HQ that gets 3-5%, which is available within a day if funds are needed. Cesar would like to bring this topic up at the next Executive Committee meeting and put the measure up for a vote. The maturity date on the CD is 12-9-18. Mark will look at any penalties for an early withdrawal of the CD.

There is currently ~\$19,000 in checking (Wells Fargo), and ~\$12,000 in Money Market available on hand as a cushion.

Governing Board Representative (Paula): Nothing to report.

Member-at-Large (Brena): Nothing to report. Penn State had low attendance at the joint meeting in Philadelphia due to its timing in January.

Standing Committee Reports

Awards Committee: Tracy is moving forward with the L.O. Howard and Streau awards.

Screening for ESA Awards Committee: This is Geoff's first year as chair with Brian Weiss as co-chair. There were candidates nominated for the ESA Distinguished Achievement Award in Teaching and Entomological Foundation Award for Excellence in IPM. Teaching went to Linda Rayor, and IPM to Greg Loeb. There were no candidates nominated for the ESA Distinguished Achievement Award in Extension. All nominations were submitted to ESA HQ and the nominees notified.

IDEP Committee: Lisa is discussing plans for the next meeting. There is currently no biological control symposium planned, so the topic may slip into the IDEP symposium.

Meeting Site Selection Committee: Mark will start a search for venues in Philadelphia, PA and Annapolis, MD.

Nominations Committee: Nothing to report. Greg will work with Daniel to get upcoming vacancies filled.

Program Committee: Doug and Dan are currently developing the upcoming program.

Student Affairs Committee: Student engagement for the upcoming ICE meeting has been excellent. Delaware will compete in the student debates, and seven teams will be competing in the Linnaean games. There have been no nominations for the STEP Teaching Awards. These are new awards and maybe not on people's radar this year; we need to make sure our membership is aware for the next year.

Education and Outreach: Doug and Cesar haven't spoken with Faith yet about Bug's World. Doug will contact her shortly. The site for the 2017 meeting has an open area atrium for the banquet and Bug's World

Eastern Branch Ad Hoc Committee Reports

Historian: Keep George in the loop, so that he can include any materials in the archive at Penn State.

Local Arrangements: Nothing to report. Cesar visited the site for the 2017 meeting and will be in touch with Dick Casagrande.

Student Paper Competition Committee: During the joint meeting in Philadelphia there were 39 Eastern Branch ESA student submissions. Poster submissions were low (13 posters), so they were combined into one poster session with separate awards. Low student poster submissions appear to be a pattern, and the Eastern Branch needs to think about how it will distribute awards; combine, keep separate, or see what each year yields. It was discussed to combine student poster awards next year if a threshold of 6 submissions per category (undergraduate/M.S. and PhD) is not exceeded, then see how it goes from there and if poster submissions continue to be low. It was suggested to encourage student poster submissions in an email to members.

Linnaean Games: There were no international teams submitted for ICE, so there will not be a separate international Linnaean games according to an email Doug received. The Virginia Tech and Maryland teams were submitted to ESA HQ, and the Linnaean games are in the ICE program.

Corporate Support: Nothing to report.

New Business

There are several officer vacancies coming up this year that need to be filled (Member-at-Large, President Elect). There is currently no one on the Student Affairs Committee. Daniel will send Kevin Cloonan an email to see if he would like to continue in this role for one more year. Ashley Kennedy is interested in volunteering and serving as co-chair. The student symposium will be organized by the Student Affairs Committee, so commitments from these people should be pursued soon.

The STEP award proposed by Rob Morrison at the last Executive Committee Meeting was given the green light. At the last governing board meeting in March the award was approved, and renamed the Early Career Professionals (ECP) award. The 2017 meeting will be its first year. The winner of the ECP award will be chosen by the Eastern Branch Awards Committee.

The Eastern Branch Bylaws Committee has reviewed the proposed changes to its bylaws. The changes are intended to keep the Branch bylaws more in line with the national bylaws. ESA HQ has reviewed the changes too and have no further comments. Cesar will follow up with Becky to coordinate an email to bring these changes up with membership and carry out an online vote for approval.

Next year's annual meeting will be March 17-21 at the Newport Marriott in Newport, RI. It is a beautiful location, and is central to a lot of restaurants. The banquet speaker will be Bernd Heinrich (University of Vermont). The theme of the meeting will be "Challenges in a Changing World". The meeting will start on Friday, but the bulk of symposiums will occur Sunday, Monday, and the morning of Tuesday.

Doug will work out the details of the program at a later date. However, right now the program consists of:

IDEP – Lisa Tewksbury

Student – Kevin Cloonan and Ashley Kennedy; need to communicate with them.

Veg/field crop – Tom Kuhar

There will probably be no biological control symposium. The regional biological control group will meet in Annapolis, MD and Orlando, FL this year; not sure if there will be sufficient interest. Ann Hajek may be interested in organizing the symposium if there is enough interest. There has been no response from Jim about an industry sponsored symposium. An evening Linnaean Games are being considered for Sunday. Bug's World will be coordinated with Faith.

Daniel will send the 2016 Eastern Branch membership and attendee survey results to Doug. The survey has the names and email addresses of people interested in organizing symposia for the next meeting.

Cesar will receive a budget soon and can discuss what refreshments will be offered during breaks at a later date.

The hotel has 3 rooms with 50 person occupancy, and 2 rooms with 90 people occupancy. All rooms are on a single floor and will be newly remodeled. It should be very nice. The 90 person room may need audio speakers/microphone and a podium, which are an extra charge. The student oral competition will likely be in one of the larger rooms. We will need easels for the poster presentations, which are also an extra charge. Again, Cesar will receive a budget soon and send it to everyone. Our own projectors could be used to help bring down costs.

Mark has usually budgeted between \$700 and \$800 dollars for Bug's World. Because we did not have the event in 2016 he has budgeted \$1,000 for the 2017 meeting. Because the meeting will be in Rhode Island, the event can potentially cooperate with URI and the city zoo.

Cesar has requested a room for ICE on Friday, Sept 23 from 2-3 pm. More discussion about the 2017 meeting can be brought up at that time.

Meeting Adjourns: 10:34 am