

**ESA Eastern Branch Final Business Meeting**  
**January 7, 2016**  
**Minutes**

Present: Daniel Frank, Mark Taylor, Tracy Leskey, Becky Anthony, David Gammel, Anne Nielsen, Cesar Rodriguez-Saona, Ely Vea, Carlyle Brewster, George Hamilton, Tom Kuhar, Brenna Traver

**Call to order: 8:00 am**

**Committee Reports:**

**President (Tracy Leskey):** Thoughts on this year's joint meeting from Final Business Meeting attendees included:

- Good host city and hotel. Everyone at the hotel was great to work with and it doesn't appear that rates in March would be much different from those in January. It would be a good idea to have the Sheraton in mind again when looking for a meeting location in the future.
- Some liked the joint aspect of the meeting (especially those who are a part of multiple societies); particularly industry.
- Eastern Branch ESA would need more control of overall program and access to materials (i.e. student presentation abstracts) for future joint meetings. The entomology component was diluted, and there was less diversity of presentations/symposia compared to a stand-alone meeting. We would need to keep diversity when planning a future program (heavy focus on applied research with few opportunities for taxonomy and systematics). In addition, chairs would need to be appointed immediately if a joint meeting is pursued.
- Timing for the meeting was bad. Overall turnout was low and there were a lot of cancellations.
- Overall, the meeting went well, but each society needs equal weight in the decision making process. If a joint meeting is pursued in the future we would likely need more than one year for planning.

Overall, the student competition went well. There were few posters this year, so they were not separated by degree program this year; normally there should be a 1st and 2nd place for both MS and PhD.

The IDEP Committee held its annual IDEP Symposium on Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 - 4:30 pm. There were seven speakers on topics ranging from winter moth and gypsy moth to southern pine beetle, emerald ash borer, and spotted lanternfly. Approximately 60 people attended the symposium. Current membership for the IDEP Committee includes Elizabeth Tewksbury (chair), Bob Trumbule (co-chair), Jim Young, Mark Taylor, Dan Gilrein, Eric Day, Hannah Broadley, and Karen Walker. The IDEP committee is actively recruiting new membership and intends to organize another symposium for the 2017 meeting.

Virginia Tech and Maryland placed 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, respectively, in the Linnaean games competition, and will be representing the Eastern Branch at ICE.

Overall, it appears that the meeting made a profit, so we should have a little money coming back to the Eastern Branch. There were some last minute needs incurred during the meeting that the profits should cover.

The total number of attendees for the meeting will need to be sent to Becky Anthony.

Erin Hitchner (Syngenta) and Nicolas Ellis (Norden Agricultural LLC) have expressed interest in becoming more active within the Eastern Branch. When committee vacancies open up we should consider contacting them.

George Hamilton and Rob Morrison volunteered for the Adhoc Bylaws Committee. They will move forward with looking into the proposed changes to the Eastern Branch bylaws recommended by ESA headquarters.

If anyone has any thoughts about the Eastern Branch STEP program, which was discussed during the Executive Committee meeting, please contact Rob Morrison.

According to the Eastern Branch bylaws the Executive Committee can vote to appoint someone to finish Melody's term as Member-at-Large. Melody had to step down from this role. The committee votes and approves Brenna Traver (Penn State) as the new Eastern Branch Member-at-Large; she will finish Melody's term.

**Secretary (Daniel Frank):** Daniel and Becky suggest sending a post-meeting survey to the Eastern Branch membership to get feedback. Potential survey questions include:

- Did you attend the 2016 ESA Eastern Branch Meeting in Philadelphia, PA?
- How many ESA Eastern Branch Meetings have you attended?
- How would you rate your overall experience at the 2016 ESA Eastern Branch Meeting?
- Please indicate how important each of the following factors was in your decision to attend the 2016 ESA Eastern Branch Meeting.
  - Opportunity to hear research being presented from other disciplines
  - Opportunity to present my research to scientists from other disciplines
  - Relevant scientific research being presented
  - The opportunity to present my research
  - To participate in business/committee meetings
  - The opportunity to compete (Linnaean games, student competition)
  - Location of the Branch Meeting
  - Meeting dates
  - Overall costs
  - Networking opportunities
  - Funding availability
  - Opportunities for professional development
  - Other
- The ESA Eastern Branch Meeting rotates among cities located in the north, central, and southern region of the Branch. The 2018 meeting is scheduled to occur in the central

region (i.e. PA, DL, MD, NJ). In your opinion, what city in the central region would you like to have the 2018 ESA Eastern Branch Meeting?

- Philadelphia, PA
- Annapolis, MD
- New Brunswick, NJ
- Rehoboth, DE
- Other (please specify city and state/province)
- Would you like the ESA Eastern Branch to participate in another joint meeting with other peer scientific societies?
  - Yes, every year.
  - Yes, every other year.
  - Yes, every three to five years
  - No, never again
- Please list any symposia topics you would like to see in future ESA Eastern Branch Meeting programs. If you are you willing to help organize a symposium on one of these topics, please include your name and email address.
- Please share any additional feedback that you may have about the 2016 ESA Eastern Branch Meeting.

Final Business meeting attendees agree that thoughts on a plenary session vs. traditional banquet should be added to the survey.

David Gammel mentions that the 2023 national meeting will be held in National Harbor, MD. We should get a good turnout from the Eastern Branch.

**Treasurer (Mark Taylor):** Mark presents the Eastern Branch ESA financial statement (attachment included in Executive Committee Minutes). Money for student competition winners, Eastern Branch student awards, and other miscellaneous expenses have not yet been included in the statement. Mark will pursue acquisition of a credit card for the Eastern Branch. This should make payment of meeting expenses easier in the future.

#### **New Business:**

Don Weber will become the new President-Elect and Richard Casagrande has agreed to serve as chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for the 2017 Eastern Branch meeting.

**Meeting Adjourns: 8:40 am**