



Plant-Insect Ecosystems Section

JANUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER

In this issue...

Section symposia open.....	1
Biological control field tour.....	2
New GC members.....	2
Nominations needed.....	3
Invasive species webinar.....	3
Congrats to DEI P-IE winner.....	3

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Section Symposia Submissions for 2022 are Open!

Submission guidelines and the submission website can be found here: <https://www.entsoc.org/events/annual-meeting/2022-jam>. The P-IE Governing Council will use the following guidelines to evaluate the submissions. High-ranking symposia not selected as Section Symposia may be recommended as Member Symposia. Relating symposia submissions to the meeting's theme, "Entomology as Inspiration: Insects through art, science, and culture", is encouraged, but not required.

- We encourage organizers to be innovative, wildly creative, and thoughtful in proposing sessions that are engaging and visionary. Proposals that cover a diversity of topics, such as concepts, disciplines, ecosystems, taxa and others are highly encouraged.
- Proposals are strongly encouraged that include collaborations and feature speakers from a variety of geographic regions and backgrounds (including gender, ethnicity, career stage, and organization/affiliation), reflecting the diversity of our members and members of the Entomological Society of Canada and the Entomological Society of British Columbia. It is highly encouraged for organizers to include Indigenous speakers and perspectives where appropriate. Submitters should indicate how they have made an effort to ensure their proposal is inclusive and representative of the diversity of scientists that work on plant-insect ecosystems.
- Proposals should clearly define symposia objective(s), statement of purpose, speakers, and presentation topics.
- Symposia proposals must provide an indication of speaker confirmation, and not just an 'idea list.
- Inclusion of an ESA P-IE member as a symposium organizer is encouraged, but not required.

Biological Control Field Tour Dates Set!

There will be a P-IE field tour based out of the Wenatchee, WA area 8-10 May 2022. The tour will focus on biological control in perennial crops (tree fruit and grapes) and will include demonstrations of predator releases by drone, floral plantings, and classical bio-control releases. Attendees will include commodity stakeholders,

Biological Control Field Tour Dates set [cont.]

biocontrol practitioners, biocontrol agent producers, and ESA members. There will be ample opportunities to describe current challenges in biological control and brainstorm potential solutions through group discussions. We anticipate space for ~20 ESA members to attend. The application process to attend will be competitive and will open in January. As part of this process, student and early career applications will compete for waived registration, covered hotel expenses, and up to \$500 in airfare. Registration costs will cover tour bus seating, meals, and facilities; applicants selected to attend will need to book their own hotels (a block of rooms is reserved) and air travel. Additional details will be provided when registration opens. In the meantime, if you have any questions, contact the organizers: rebecca.schmidt@usda.gov, dalton.ludwick@ag.tamu.edu, and alix.whitener@fmc.com.

Meet the New P-IE GC Members!

P-IE Vice-President Elect

Dr. **Cesar Rodriguez-Saona** has been an ESA member for 29 years. He is a Professor and Extension Specialist in the Department of Entomology at Rutgers University, where his research focuses on the development and implementation of cost-effective and reduced-risk IPM practices for blueberries and cranberries. Cesar obtained his bachelor's degree in Biology in 1991 from the Universidad Nacional Agraria (Lima, Peru), his Master's degree in Entomology (Biological Control) in 1994 from Oregon State University, and his PhD in Entomology (IPM and Insect-Plant Interactions) in 1999 from the University of California, Riverside. Before joining Rutgers University in 2005, Cesar worked as a research entomologist (post-doc) for the USDA Cotton Research Lab. (Arizona), University of Toronto, and Michigan State University. His past leadership roles at ESA include serving as president of the ESA Eastern Branch (2016-2017), chair of the ESA Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Committee (2020-2021), chair of the ESA Awards and Honors (A&H) Committee (2019-2020), and as member of the ESA A&H Canvassing Committee (2019-2020). He is currently serving as a member of the ESA A&H and D&I Committees. Cesar has also been a member of the Editorial Board for the Journal of Economic Entomology (JEE) since 2019, and a Subject Editor for JEE and the Journal of Insect Science since 2014. As newly elected P-IE Vice-President Elect, Cesar plans to make increasing diversity of our members, as well as helping young professionals become leaders in our discipline, his priorities.



Cesar Rodriguez-Saona

P-IE Early Career Professional Representative

Nicole Quinn is a postdoctoral research Associate at the USDA-ARS Beneficial Insects Introduction Unit and University of Massachusetts. Nicole graduated from Gettysburg College in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science in biology and a minor in English. In 2015, she completed her M.S. at Michigan State University on habitat management for beneficial insects in cucurbit agroecosystems. She completed her PhD in Entomology in December 2019 at Virginia Tech, where she studied the behavior and biological control of the brown marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha halys*). Currently, she is studying the classical biological control of emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*). Nicole has been an active member of ESA since 2013. As P-IE Section ECP Representative, Nicole looks forward to serving ECPs by developing relevant programming and supporting DEI initiatives.



Nicole Quinn

Nominations Needed for Committee Vacancies!

The P-IE GC is looking for nominations to fill vacancies in both the [Nominations Committee](#) and the [Awards Committee](#). To nominate yourself or a colleague for either position, send the candidate's contact information and one paragraph describing their background and interest in the position. For the Nominations Committee, we need one representative from each of the following branches: Southwestern, Pacific, and Eastern; please indicate the nominee's branch in the application. For the Awards Committee, we need one representative from each of the following sectors: academia, industry, and government; please indicate the nominee's sector in the application. Send nominations to Surendra Dara (surendra.dara@oregonstate.edu). **Deadline for nominations for both committees is January 31, 2022.**

P-IE Invasive Species Webinars Now Archived

The P-IE Section Invasive Species Wildly Important Goals Team worked with USDA APHIS to assemble and host a four-part webinar series on invasive species detection, risk assessment, regulation, and science communication from October through December 2021. The first webinar, "PPQ Authority and Regulatory Process – The Cornerstones of Safe Trade," was on October 6th and provided an introduction to the safeguarding continuum, as well as information on USDA APHIS organization, legal and regulatory authority, federal laws, and the process that occurs when a new insect pest is found. The second and third webinars, "The PPQ Safeguarding Continuum" (Parts 1 and 2), were hosted on November 10th and 16th, respectively. Part 1 concentrated on the pest risk assessment process, risk reduction and management strategies, and inspection protocols at ports-of-entry, while Part 2 shed light on the action/no action decision making process based on the commodity, organism quarantine status, and pathways of arrival, as well as objective prioritization of exotic pests, and the four pillars of pest surveillance. The fourth and final webinar, "Communication: A Critical Tool for Combating Invasive Pests," was hosted on December 1st and focused on communication with stakeholders and cooperators about invasive species, and how to get notifications about the Plant Protection Act 7721 through the stakeholder registry. If you are interested in learning more about how USDA APHIS detects, assesses, regulates, and communicates about invasive species, check out these webinars, which are now archived under the "Learning and Educational Webinars" on the Entomological Society of America website. Also, keep an eye out for four forthcoming infographics that summarize the key takeaways from each of the webinars. The infographics will be available on the P-IE Section website.



Congratulations to the First-ever Winner of the DEI Plant-Insect Ecosystems Undergraduate Travel Award!

Courtney Smith is an undergraduate student at North Carolina State University studying Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology with minors in Entomology and Forest Management. She is from Bostic, a small town near the mountains of North Carolina. At NC State, she is a Goodnight Scholar, co-president of the Xi Sigma Pi Mu Chapter, and co-founder and secretary of the Bee Campus USA Committee. Previously, she was a research assistant in the Youngsteadt Urban Ecology lab studying carpenter bee nesting and bee movement. She is currently a research and extension assistant in the Forest Health Lab where she has studied emerald ash borer phenology, biocontrol of the elongate hemlock scale, and more. Upon graduation in May of 2022, she hopes to attend graduate school to pursue forestry and entomology and eventually obtain a PhD. *Courtney will receive free registration, transportation, lodging, and meals to attend the 2022 ESA Southeastern Branch Meeting, a free ESA membership for one year and membership in P-IE. A senior member of P-IE and SEB will serve as her mentor during the meeting.*

