

EB ESA Summer Planning Meeting
July 6, 2015
Minutes

Present: Daniel Frank, Paula Shrewsbury, Tracy Leskey, Anne Nielsen, Mark Taylor, George Hamilton, Lisa Tewksbury, Cesar Rodriquez-Saona, Rosina Romano, Melody Keena

Call to Order: 1:00 pm

Old Business

Overall, the 2015 meeting in Rehoboth, DE was successful with almost 200 attendees. Based on the survey emailed to attendees after the meeting approximately 75% were satisfied or very satisfied with their overall experience at the meeting. In addition, attendees indicated that the most important factors in their decision to attend the meeting were relevant scientific research being presented, networking opportunities with colleagues and friends, and the opportunity to present their research. The meeting location was not as an important a factor for the attendee's decision to attend.

Overall responses from Eastern Branch membership to the survey indicated that March would be the best month to have future meetings, and Sunday would be the best day of the week to start the meeting. Based on these responses the Eastern Branch will continue to hold the annual meeting in March with the meeting starting on Sunday and concluding on Tuesday. Results from the survey also indicated that the top cities that membership would like to hold the 2017 meeting would be either Burlington, VT or Providence, RI. Based on the availability of mass transportation, (airports/Amtrak trains) and weather during March, participants of the summer planning meeting lean toward holding the 2017 meeting in Providence, RI. Mark will work with Conference Direct to get meeting cost estimates for Providence, RI as well as Hartford, CT (the number three choice).

Minutes from the 2015 Executive Committee Meeting and Final Business Meeting were approved for posting on the website.

Executive Committee Reports

Past President (Paula) – Overall, the 2015 meeting went well. Meeting participants seemed to enjoy the meeting and location, but not the hotel. One problem noted by participants of the summer planning meeting was the discrepancy in room prices at Atlantic Sands. Currently there has been no follow-up; Mark has been playing phone tag with Conference Direct. It is agreed that in the future there should be a standard clause in the next contract that if the hotel offers lower rates on the internet during the meeting then our contract rate should likewise drop.

If the 2017 meeting is held in Providence, RI Eastern Branch ESA can apply for tax exempt status as a non-profit.

Secretary (Daniel) – Information on Comstock awardee has been given to ESA HQ. Likewise, the Screening Committee for ESA awards has given the names and information for its selections (i.e. Distinguished Achievement Awards in Extension, Teaching, and IPM).

The frame for our Comstock awardee, Mia Park, broke when it was mailed to her. Tracy agrees to present her with a new frame and award certificate at the national meeting in Minneapolis, MN.

Currently, the Eastern Branch needs a volunteer to serve as Governing Board Representative. Tracy nominated Paula Shrewsbury who has agreed to fill this role. Because this is an elected position, ESA HQ will create a ballot with Paula's name and allow the Eastern Branch membership to vote. Other committees that need volunteers include, Screening for ESA Award Committee co-chair (John Losey is now chair) and Student Affairs Committee (vacancies for both chair and co-chair). Tracy will talk with John to select a co-chair. Anne is working on selecting volunteers for the Student Affairs Committee and is interested in reinvigorating this group; every university with an entomology department should have a student contact, but this is currently not the case. There is also no one on the Local Arrangements Committee for the 2016 Philadelphia, PA meeting. Cesar agrees to assist in this capacity.

Treasurer (Mark) – Mark emailed a copy of the financial statement (money market, checking, CD) to everyone before the meeting (see attached). Mark notes that \$5,000 was transferred to checking from money market because the Atlantic Sands billed the Eastern Branch the day after the meeting and not all of the sponsor money had come in yet. Most of the time the hotel will give you 30 days to pay the bill, but this was not the case with Atlantic Sands.

Student awards increased; student oral and poster competition awards are \$300 and \$200 for first and second place, respectively, for winners in undergraduate/Masters and PhD competitions; Comstock and Howard awards raised to \$250 each; and Linnaean games awards raised to \$1,000 and \$500 for the winning and second place team, respectively.

Governing Board – No important issues raised at this time.

Member-at-large (Melody) – Melody notes that in future meetings we need to make sure that the Student Competition Committee does not identify judges during the competition. This occurred during the oral presentations and feedback from both students and judges after the event were overwhelmingly negative about this occurring. Also, feedback from the competition (i.e. score sheets) has not yet been received by student competition participants. Daniel will contact Yong-Lak to see if/when score sheets will be mailed.

Standing Committee Reports

LO Howard and Herbert Streu (Paula) – Award information has been revised/updated and placed on the Eastern Branch website. Paula will send out a solicitation for nominations to Daniel during the first week of August.

Screening Awards Committee – John Losey is now chair of this committee. Tracy will contact him to find a co-chair. Descriptions for ESA awards are out of date on the website and should be updated as well as the committee position description.

IDEP Committee (Lisa) – There will be an IDEP symposium at the 2016 joint meeting. Currently, it is planned for a Monday morning slot. Normally this symposium has 7-8 presentations that are 20-30 minutes each. For 2016 we have the opportunity to expand the IDEP symposium to include more presentations (scheduled from 8-11:45am).

Meeting Site Selection Committee (Mark) – We will be in Philadelphia, PA for 2016. Mark has not had much involvement for the 2016 meeting, but will be working on Providence, RI or Hartford, CT for the 2017 meeting.

Nominations Committee – No important issues raised at this time.

Program Committee (Anne) – Anne has been working with the other societies for the 2016 joint meeting. They are expecting a big meeting. Presentations will be more commodity oriented with few of our traditional symposia. However, the Program Committee will try to steer presentations into groups within a session. If anyone has suggestions or ideas they should let Anne know.

Currently, the meeting agenda is as follows:

Sunday – Executive Committee Meeting scheduled for the afternoon. There is space available to have specialized meetings during this time and perhaps a tour of the Drexel University insect collection. Bug's World will not occur this year; time of year not conducive and other societies are not pitching in to help.

Monday - Key note address and Ben Franklin impersonator. Medical/Urban and IDEP symposia scheduled for the morning. There is also potential for one more symposium. Industry symposia scheduled for the afternoon as well as the intersociety Quiz Bowl.

Tuesday – Student presentations are scheduled all day (posters in morning). Weed Science Society tried to limit student papers, but we objected; any student that wants to present can (one oral or poster presentation allowed). We still need to work out how they will be judged by representative societies; will try to group in some way. Linnaean games are scheduled for the evening (7-9 pm). There is time between the student presentations and Linnaean games where nothing is currently scheduled. An Industry sponsored dessert social is scheduled after the Linnaean games (9-11 pm).

Wednesday and Thursday morning – Commodity specific submitted presentations (agronomic crops, turf/ornamental, etc.). Eastern Branch ESA will have no sit-down reception or invited speaker. Instead we will have time Wednesday evening for the ESA president to speak and hand out our awards; heavy hors d'oeuvres will be provided.

We need to find moderators for several of the commodity specific symposia (chair/co-chair); Forestry, Medical/Urban, and Vegetation Management and Restoration.

The other societies were not agreeable to the symposia idea. We will have our IDEP symposium on the first day, but the rest will be commodity specific submitted presentations.

The next Linnaean team will be going to the ICE meeting in Orlando, FL, so we need to get teams together early.

Student Affairs Committee – Anne is actively recruiting volunteers.

Adhoc Committee Reports

Auditing Committee – There was no official audit within the Eastern Branch. However the Director of Finance of ESA has audited Mark's statements on a quarterly basis. When ESA HQ was audited he was also audited.

Local Arrangements Committee – Cesar will fill this slot for 2016. He will attend the planning meeting August 3-4 with Tracy and Anne.

Education and Outreach – There will be no Bug's World or public outreach event for the 2016 meeting. However, Cesar will need to touch bases with Faith for the next meeting. A museum trip to view the Drexel University insect collection may happen on Sunday afternoon; still waiting to hear from Faith.

Student Paper Competition Committee – Yong-Lak and Carlyle will serve on this committee again. Tracy and Anne will work with the other societies to organize student presentations in a way that they can be judged proficiently.

Linnaean Games - Doug has agreed to lead the event again. There was a lot of positive feedback on returning the Linnaean games to an evening slot.

Corporate Support – Industry cannot give one lump sum donation for the meeting; they need to include each society as a line item in their budget. Donations will likely be representative of what they have normally been. Industry will sponsor a dessert social for the 2016 meeting.

New Business

Eastern Branch positions filled since March 2015 include President elect (Cesar Rodriguez-Saona) and Governing Board Representative (Paula Shrewsbury). Melody Keena is also on the ballot for ESA president.

Website updates for officer/committee guidelines (e.g. Screening Committee, and Meeting Site Selection) are needed. Tracy and Mark will update the Meeting Site Selection guidelines. Paula will work with Tracy and Daniel to get the others updated.

There is no room in the 2016 meeting schedule for a banquet speaker, but Tracy and Anne will try to work with the other societies to get someone good, and that has a broad appeal, for the key note address scheduled for Monday.

There is no student symposium on the agenda for the 2016 meeting. Because we don't have a set Student Affairs Committee at this time we likely will not have the symposium.

The deadline for submission of presentation titles is October 2, with abstracts due November 27. Abstracts are optional for us, but other societies will publish this information. We still need to find out if the abstracts will be integrated into one publication. Specific information about the meeting agenda and other topics (e.g. judging student competition) will likely be clearer after the planning meeting scheduled for August 3-4.

The ICE meeting is coming up in 2016. Symposia have now been selected. Organizers have limited presentations to one per person.

For our 2017 meeting Providence, RI may be a better sale; more family friendly activities.

For the Eastern Branch report Tracy will highlight that we had a successful 2015 meeting, and highlight our outreach event by Faith, increased prize money for Linnaean games teams, increased Comstock and Fitch awards, and post-meeting survey. She will also note that we are participating in a joint meeting for 2016, number of attendees for the 2015 meeting, and a financial statement.

After the 2016 meeting we should get feedback with another post-meeting survey.

Meeting is adjourned at 3:08 pm