

Minutes of the Business Meeting of the Southeastern Chapter of the Ecological Society of America, April 16, 2004 in Memphis, TN

The meeting was called to order by Chair Paul Schmalzer. Twenty-eight members were present.

Vice-chair Joan Walker provided biographical sketches of two candidates, James Luken for chair and Nicole Turrill Welch for secretary/treasurer. Nominations were solicited from the floor. We passed a move to accept the slate as is, and elected the two candidates to their respected positions. Thanks were expressed to Joan for recruiting such well-qualified candidates.

Report of the Chair (Paul Schmalzer)

Pat Parr organized a symposium at ASB yesterday, "Invasive Plant Awareness and Research: Priority Status" The symposium was co-sponsored by the Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council.

The symposium "Ecological Forces and Land Management Challenges for the Southeastern Landscape" organized by Diane De Steven and Beverly Collins, which was supported by our chapter, was presented at the 2003 ESA meeting in Savannah, GA.

The symposium proposal "Understanding and Incorporating Disturbance Regimes in Planning and Management at Bio-Regional Scales" organized by Gary L. Benson (U.S. Forest Service) with Donald Boesch, Frank Mazzotti, and Peter Stine for the 2004 ESA meeting in Portland, Oregon was not among those that made it to the final screening by ESA. This is not surprising given the intense competition for symposia at ESA.

We contributed \$200 to the 1st Annual Southeastern Ecology and Evolution Conference in March at Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. The meeting was a success and the 2nd annual conference is planned for March 11-13, 2005 at the U. Georgia in Athens.

Thanks are due to Yetta Jager for serving as secretary-treasurer for the past two years. We also thank Jim Fralish for his service on the Odum Committee.

The ESA 2004 meeting will be held in Portland, Oregon August 1-6. Our brown bag lunch will be held on Tuesday, August 3. There will be 24 symposia and 37 organized oral sessions. The 2005 ASB meeting will be April 13-16 at the University of Northern Alabama, Florence. Proposals for symposia are due early in September. Terry Richardson, co-organizer of the ASB meeting, indicated that a limited number of symposia will be accepted and symposium ideas will be voted on as they come in, so the sooner ideas are submitted the better.

The 2005 ESA meeting will be held August 7-12 in Montreal in coordination with Intecol. Proposals for symposia and organized oral sessions are due June 1-September 15, 2004.

The ASB standing committees request members for a list of committees. Please see Claudia Jolls if you are interested in participating on one of these: Committee on Women, Minorities and Persons with Disabilities, Conservation Committee, Education Committee, Finance Committee, Graduate Student Support Award Committee, Local Arrangements Committee, Meritorious Teaching Award Committee, Nominating Committee, Patron Member and Exhibitor Committee, Place of Meeting Committee, Poster Award Committee, Senior Research Award Committee, Student Research Award Committee, Resolutions Committee.

Report of the Treasurer

We thank Paul Schmalzer for serving in the capacity of chair of SE-ESA for the past 2 years.

Financial report: A budget summary was passed out. We had an average of 465 members over the past 3 years. Both the General fund and Odum Award fund have grown. The Odum Award fund was \$9,672 at the end of 2003. Two gentlemen, Bill Martin and Joe Winstead, made generous contributions to bring the fund to a sustainable level of \$10,000 -- thank you. Comments on the budget: (1) expenses for award plaques included two years - \$277, (2) when possible, the treasurer asks Elizabeth Biggs (ESA) to pay the Odum award of \$500 out of the general fund, and (3) until we asked Elizabeth, the interest on the Odum award was not reported.

Report of the Odum Award Committee

Jim Fralish chaired the committee. There were 14 papers in competition; each was judged by at least 2 and in most cases 3 judges. He indicated that they judged between 5 and 8 student papers each. Papers reporting research that is near completion were ranked higher than those still in the planning stages. There was general agreement that this is consistent with the description of the award on the Chapter website, although perhaps it is not worded that way in the by-laws. Next year, the chair of the committee is Jake Weltzin from the University of Tennessee. The new member of the committee is Danny Gustafson from The Citadel.

Report of the Committee to compile Biographies of SE Naturalist

Howie Neufield indicated that he has not, and probably will not, have time to make progress on this idea in the near future. He encouraged others to pick up the ball and run with it. Dean Cocking expressed an interest in helping with the effort and will solicit help from Mark McKenzie and others in proceeding with development of a web-based document.

Old Business –Quarterman-Keever Poster Award

We voted to accept the proposed amendment to the by-laws establishing this award fund. The annual award of \$300 will be made to the best student poster. It was decided that the treasurer's report will have a new column for the income and expenses associated with the new award fund. Joan reported that ESA is no-longer willing to maintain award funds unless they reach the target of \$10,000 within three years. After that time, the funds would have to be merged into the general operating account.

New Business

A new committee was formed to oversee the Quarterman-Keever award consisting of Howie Neufeld (chair), Andy Ash, and Cliff Hupp.

Joan Walker proposed to head a one-time fund-raising solicitation for the Quarterman-Keever award, with help from James Fralish. The thought is that women ecologists, and others including those in the Quarterman-Keever scholastic lineage, may be very interested in contributing. The idea of suggesting an organized session of their students was also raised.

Terry Richardson was approached by Brooks-Cole Publishers. In coordination with the release of a new edition of Odum's Ecology textbook, they would like to help sponsor the Odum Award by donating \$100. He will pursue this with them.

List of 28 Attendees:

First name	Last name	Institution	Email
Andy	Ash	UNC Pembroke	Andy.Ash@uncp.edu
Matthew	Biggerstaff	Emory U.	Mbigger@emory.edu
Steve	Baker	Oxford College	sbaker@emory.edu
Mike	Baranski	Catawba College	mbaransk@catawba.edu
Neil	Billington	Troy State U.	uskdrb@troyst.edu
Dean	Cocking	James Madison U., VA	cockingd@jmo.edu
Eloise	Carter	Oxford College	ecarter@emory.edu
Jim	Fralish	Southern Illinois U	jfralish@gte.net
Danny	Gustafson	The Citadel	danny.gustafson@citadel.edu
Jim	Hull	Towson U	jhull@towson.edu
Mike	Held	St. Peter's College	mheld@spc.edu
Cliff	Hupp	USGS	crhupp@usgs.gov
Yetta	Jager	ORNL	jagerhi@ornl.gov
Claudia	Jolls	East Carolina U.	jollscemail@ecu.edu
William	Martin	East Kentucky U.	bill.martin@eku.edu
Mark	MacKenzie	Auburn U	mackemd@auburn.edu
Howie	Neufeld	Appalachian State U.	neufeldhs@appstate.edu
Harold	Keller	Central Missouri State U.	keller@cmsu1.cmsu.edu
Pat	Parr	ORNL	parrpd@ornl.gov
Carole A.	Ritchie	USDA-ARSSBML	jcritchie@erols.com
Jerrie C.	Ritchie	USDA-ARS	jritchie@hydrolab.ansusda.gov
Kristen	Rosenfeld	N.C. State U	dkrosenfeld@yahoo.com
Terry	Richardson	U. North Alabama	tdrichardson@una.edu
Paul	Schmalzer	Dynamac	schmapa@kscems.ksc.nasa.gov
Joan	Walker	USDAFS-SRS	joanwalker@fs.fed.gov
Jake	Weltzin	University of Tennessee, Knoxville	jweltzin@utk.edu
Tom	Wentworth	NC State U.	Tom-wentworth@ncsu.edu
Joe	Winstead	Southern Arkansas U.	jewinstead@sarkans.edu