

Notes from Portland

The brown bag lunch meeting of the Southeastern Chapter was held Tuesday August 3, 2004 at the annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America in Portland, Oregon. There were 13 members present (list attached).

ESA Council

Paul Schmalzer (outgoing chair) presented a summary of the ESA Council meeting, which was held Sunday August 1. 1) The Council approved the formation of a Canada Chapter. This is the second international chapter of ESA; the Mexico Chapter formed last year. Previously, there was a Quebec Chapter but it was disbanded due to lack of interest. 2) The finances of ESA are in much improved condition. 3) The primary subject of discussion was the ESA Vision Report. This report was presented to the Governing Board in April 2004 (see www.esa.org/ecovisions for details). There are 26 action items in it grouped in three categories: I. Informing decision makers with ecological knowledge, II. Advancing innovative and anticipatory ecological research, and III. Stimulate cultural changes for a forward-looking, international ecology. The Board has chosen two items to try to implement first; both are from Category I. The first of these is to develop rapid response teams to provide ecological science information relevant to policy issues on a rapid basis (i.e., hours to a few days). These teams would assist the ESA Public Affairs Office in responding to legislation, executive decisions, and requests from Congressional staff, etc. The teams might also provide input or testimony at legislative hearings. Team members would serve a term of 2-3 years and be committed to providing rapid response. There was some discussion of providing training perhaps based on a short version of that provided to Leopold fellows. The second initiative being discussed is a public information campaign to provide improved public understanding of ecological issues, for example ecosystem services. Such a campaign is expected to be expensive, requiring foundation or other support. ESA has begun a dialog with other scientific societies and non-governmental organizations.

The details of both of these initiatives are still being determined. There was discussion at the Council meeting, in a special session, and at the Chapter meeting. There are a variety of concerns including the difficulty of providing information without it being considered advocacy and determining what information to provide on a rapid basis with little or no opportunity for review. Other scientific societies are struggling with similar issues, e.g., Society of Wetland Scientists.

Quarterman-Keever Award Funding

Joan Walker, Vice-Chair, discussed the funding campaign for the Elsie Quarterman-Catherine Keever Award. This award was established by the Chapter in April 2004 and will be awarded for the first time at the Association of Southeastern Biologists Meeting in April 2005. ESA has requested that the award fund reach a sustainable level (\$10,000) within 2 years. The formal fund raising campaign will begin soon. The first contribution to the award was made by Elsie Quarterman. Contributions can be made by checks payable to the Ecological Society of America (Quarterman-Keever award) and sent to

Ecological Society of America, Elizabeth Biggs, CFO, 1707 H Street, NW – Suite 400, Washington, DC 20006-3915.

Symposia for Future Meetings

Symposia proposals for the 2005 ESA meeting (joint with INTECOL) are due September 15, 2004. Chapter (or section) endorsement may assist getting a symposium proposal adopted. Symposia at the ESA meetings are quite competitive; this year there were more than 60 proposals for 24 slots. There were no proposals at the Chapter lunch for the 2005 ESA meeting.

The 2006 ESA meeting will be held in Memphis, Tennessee. This would be a good opportunity for a symposium or organized paper session related to Southeastern ecosystems or ecological issues. Scott Franklin, University of Memphis, (sfrankli@memphis.edu) is Chair of the Local Host Committee for this meeting. He is requesting ideas and leaders for field trips for this meeting.

The 2005 ASB meetings will be held in Florence, Alabama April 13-16, 2005. Symposia for this meeting will be determined at the ASB Executive Committee meeting September 11, 2004 in Knoxville, TN. This will be the first meeting at which the Quarterman-Keever award is presented. Joan Walker suggested a symposium honoring Drs. Quarterman and Keever perhaps with contributions from their former students or dealing with topics they studied. There was support for this proposal. It was also suggested that Dr. Quarterman be invited to the meeting, if it was feasible for her to travel.

Announcements

2005 ASB Meeting. The 2005 meeting of the Association of Southeastern Biologists will be held April 13-16, 2005 in Florence, Alabama hosted by the University of North Alabama. Abstracts are due November 12, 2004. See the September 2004 issue of *Southeastern Biology* for details and check the web site at www.asb.appstate.edu/Preliminary2005.

2005 ESA Meeting. The 2005 meeting of the Ecological Society of America will be a joint meeting with International Association for Ecology (INTECOL) held in Montreal, Canada, August 7-12, 2005. Check the web sites at www.esa.org and www.intecol.net for further information.

2005 SEEC Meeting. The second annual Southeastern Ecology and Evolution Conference (SEEC) will be hosted by the Institute of Ecology at the University of Georgia, Athens, GA, March 11-13, 2005. This meeting is intended for graduate and undergraduate students and post-docs. For more information contact Tom Luhring at tluhring@uga.edu.

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