

**Chapter Officers:**

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**Spring 2003 Chapter Meeting in Washington D.C.:** Our section sponsored a symposium "Forest fragmentation and biodiversity in the Southeastern United States" coordinated by Scott Franklin, University of Memphis at the annual meeting of the Association of Southeastern Biologists (ASB). We held our chapter business meeting April 11, 2003 in Washington D.C. Meeting minutes will be posted on the chapter website.

**2003 Elections:** Congratulations to Joan Walker, who was elected as our next vice-chair for a 2-year term beginning in August 2003. Joan L. Walker is a research plant ecologist for the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station. We thank Pat Parr for her service as vice-chair during the past two years.

**2003 Odum Award.** The Chapter's Odum Award for 2003 was presented to Stephanie B. Jeffries, North Carolina State University, for the paper "How do short rotations and intensive management affect plant communities in a loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*) plantation? The paper was coauthored by T.R. Wentworth and H.L. Allen.

Students are encouraged to submit their papers for consideration as best ecological paper presented at the ASB meeting. Please be sure to check the ASB web site, , for details on the submission process . Abstracts must be submitted properly to be considered. Thanks to Mike Held for chairing the committee, and to Debbie Moore, Joe Winstead, and Paul Schmalzer for judging nominations. Nicole Welch has been appointed to the committee for next year.

The Chapter is developing a bylaws amendment to establish a poster award for the best student poster in ecology presented at the ASB meetings.

**Upcoming Meetings and Symposia:** The 2003 ESA Meeting will be held August 3-8 in Savannah, Georgia, <http://www.esa.org/savannah/>. There is still an opportunity to submit abstracts of the Late-breaking variety. The SE Chapter will have an informal brown-bag lunch at the ESA meeting. The Society of Wetland Scientists will hold their 24th Annual Meeting, June 8-13, 2003, in New Orleans.

**Future Symposia.** Ideas and proposals are need for symposia topics at the 2004 ASB meeting in Memphis, TN and the 2004 ESA meeting in Portland, OR. Please send topics and proposals to Paul Schmalzer. We will plan to discuss them at ESA in Savannah in August.

**Political Events in the Southeast:** Water scarcity has become a problem in the east. The Georgia senate votes next week on House Bill 237, which institutes water laws similar to those in western states. Farmers, industries, and municipalities will be allowed to own and trade water permits. The alternative, Senate Bill 180, sponsored by State Sen. Rene Kemp, D-Hinesville, would recognize water as a public resource managed by the state Environmental Protection Division, which is answerable to the public.

**Keeping in touch:** Join the Southeastern Chapter of ESA LISTSERVER: To join the ListServer, send a message to <majordomo@mail.auburn.edu> with the following command in the body of your email message: subscribe scesa. If you use a signature file, it's best to turn it off. Please send any news or announcements for the next newsletter or for the Southeastern Chapter's Homepage to me.

Respectfully,  
Yetta Jager, Newsletter Editor