

Chapter Officers:

Chair: Paul Schmalzer (2002-2004) Paul.Schmalzer-1@ksc.nasa.gov

Vice-Chair: Joan Walker (2003-2005) joanwalker@fs.fed.us

Secretary/Treasurer: Yetta Jager (2002-2004) jagerhi@ornl.gov

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Chapter Homepage: <http://www.auburn.edu/seesa/>

Spring 2004 Chapter Meeting in Memphis: The chapter will meet with the Association of Southeastern Biologists (ASB) in Memphis, Tennessee April 14-17, 2004. Scott Franklin, an ESA-SE member from the University of Memphis, will be one of our hosts. Dan Simberloff will give the ASB keynote address the evening of Wednesday, April 14 and a social will be held at the Gibson guitar factory April 15th. For more information, visit the meeting website: <http://www.people.memphis.edu/~biology/asb/>.

The ESA Southeast Chapter will co-host with the TN Exotic Pest Plant Council a symposium, "Invasive Plant Awareness and Research: Priority Status". The invasive plant symposium, coordinated by Pat Parr and Jack Ranney, will be held Thursday morning, April 15. The symposium will also celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Council.

Appeal for 2004 Odum Award: We are within \$1,250 of our goal of \$10,000, which is the amount needed to make the fund sustainable. To help us reach this goal this year, please consider sending a check, made out to ESA-SE Chapter, to the treasurer with a note.

2004 Elections: Elections for chair and secretary/treasurer will be held at the Spring 2004 meeting for the term beginning in August, 2004. If you have a nomination, or if you are interested in finding out more about these positions, contact Joan Walker or Paul Schmalzer soon.

Membership Renewal: Please remember to renew your membership in the SE chapter when you renew your ESA membership. Your donations to the Eugene P. Odum Fund support the 2004 best student paper award.

A proposed bylaws amendment to establish a poster award for the best student poster will be posted on the Chapter web site and voted on at our April 2004 meeting. Please read the amendment below and submit any comments to Paul.

Proposed Bylaws Amendment: Sub-article 2d. QUARTERMAN-KEEVER AWARD. Annually, the Chapter shall present an award supported by the Elsie Quarterman-Catherine Keever Award fund. The purpose of the fund is to encourage excellence in research by young ecologists. The fund shall be administered and invested by the Business Manager of the Ecological Society of America. Income from the fund shall be used each year to finance a suitable plaque and cash award to be given to the student (from those who have applied) judged to have presented the best poster on a clearly ecological topic at the annual meeting of the Association of Southeastern Biologists. The amount of the cash award will be set initially at \$300. The amount of the award may change as income from the Award fund increases, at the recommendation of the Awards Committee, and with approval of the executive board.

The award recipient may be an undergraduate or graduate student, must be the sole or senior author of the poster, must be present at the meeting, and does not have to be a member of ESA. The poster must be presented in a regular contributed poster session. The poster must represent original work and should present a substantially completed project.

Each year the Chairperson shall appoint one person to the three-person judging panel. It is expected that each member of the panel will serve three years and in the third year will serve as the Quarterman-Keever Award Coordinator for the panel. The Chairperson shall appoint additional persons to the judging panel if any serving panel member is unable to serve the entire three-year term. The panel of judges shall evaluate the poster using the following criteria: significance of ideas, creativity, quality of methodology, validity of results, and clarity of presentation. The award shall be presented at the ASB banquet, and the recipient shall be announced in the summer newsletter.

Upcoming Meetings and Symposia: The 1st Annual Southeastern Ecology and Evolution Conference will be held in Atlanta, GA, March 5-7, 2004 (Abstract submission deadline, January 31, 2004).

Keeping in touch: Check the Chapter Homepage: <http://www.auburn.edu/seesa/> for updates and additional information. Join the Southeastern Chapter of ESA LISTSERV: To join the ListServer, send a message to majordomo@mail.auburn.edu with "subscribe scesa" in the body of the message. Please send news or announcements to scesa@mail.auburn.edu for distribution to the listserv, or to jagerhi@ornl.gov for inclusion in the next quarterly newsletter.

Respectfully,
Yetta Jager, Newsletter Editor