



NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Howard Frank

The 85th annual meeting was held on July 28-31 at the Hilton Clearwater Beach Resort. (In Clearwater Beach, Florida, of course). Although Florida's rainy season made itself evident after two years of lower than normal rainfall, this had little effect on our events. Yes, the Monday evening reception/mixer was moved indoors, just in case rain might blow under the deck awning.

Attendance, at 106 registrants, could have been better. Perhaps Florida's economic downturn was having an effect. There were fewer submitted papers and fewer symposia than in recent years. Although these reductions were a shame, they had an advantage -- there was no need for concurrent sessions, so nobody was torn between attending one or the other of two interesting sessions. However, there were more posters, and the posters were of excellent quality. The salon that the hotel management reassigned (at the 12th hour) to the poster session was not ideal, in that lighting for some of the posters was inadequate, and there was no way that duct tape and candles could repair that problem; the hotel must provide a well-lit room in future. The termite workshop, capably organized and run by Rudi Scheffrahn, Brian Cabrera, and Bill Kern, **was** concurrent with other Tuesday morning events, but its participants were there to be trained. Such was its effect that several casual discussions ended with the thought that there should be more workshops, and additional workshops, at future FES annual meetings.

The pioneer lecture, presented by Harold Denmark and honoring Reece Sailer was well-attended. The major event for many was the student contest, in which the students show that by planning and practice they can outperform 'more experienced' speakers. None of the students was ever threatened by forcible eviction from the podium for running overtime. Some of their seniors

were threatened by action from Guido and Luigi (two large Italian gentlemen who once carried away Will Whitcomb, still talking) to do just that, and had their question/answer time curtailed. The **winner** in the student contest was Yasmin Cardoza who was the only student to use slides (the rest used PowerPoint) which showcased a remarkably beautiful slide, and she was unflappable. Then, on Tuesday afternoon, J.P. Michaud introduced his biocontrol symposium. It attracted a large audience (despite some registrants who may have been at the beach), evidencing a lot of interest in biocontrol.

Ara Manukian and Rudy Strohschein of Analytical Research Systems made a splash. Not only did they (together with Jim White of Entomos) win the FES Award for Industry. Not only did they bring an eye-catching display of their company's work. But they also brought door prizes of three kinds. First, there were two craft glass items that Rudy, a talented glassblower, made. Second, there was a boxful of bottles of wine and packets of gnocchi. Third, there were coupons for ice cream at a specialty shop adjoining the hotel. It could not get much better because the chances of winning a prize were so high. Many of the prizes were won at the awards luncheon. But the craft glass items and many others were held back until the biocontrol symposium. When names were picked and called, the audience recognized who was there and who might have gone to the beach (and become ineligible). Winners of the craft glass items were RM and LR. A few prizes were even held back until the Wednesday morning session, when one was awarded to the first speaker and one to the last.

There were other heroes: first, Betty Weaver and Everett Foreman, who ran the audiovisual equipment flawlessly. And then there was Richard Mankin who did triple duty. He was the local event organizer, and

worked behind the scenes with hotel management. He and Everett accepted PowerPoint presentations as e-mail attachments or on discs, and organized them on a laptop computer. As webmaster, he also had the job of installing on our website all the information about the meeting including program and abstracts. Teresa DuChene ran the registration desk and was backed up by amiable husband Steve.

Reader comments are solicited about the following: (1) what workshops do you think could be usefully held at FES annual meetings, and who would organize and run them? (2) please ask entomologist colleagues who did not attend the meeting **why** they did not attend, and write down the responses -- perhaps the executive committee will learn from these responses how to entice the stayaways. Please send this information by e-mail to me (jhf@mail.ifas.ufl.edu) and to Richard Mankin (rmankin@gainesville.usda.ufl.edu) simultaneously because I may be away for weeks.

PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John Capinera

Looking back – lessons for the future?

The Florida Entomological Society (FES) was founded January 5, 1916 when a group of entomologists met in Gainesville and discussed the need for further and continuing education in entomology. This was to become the first entomological society formed in the South. The stated purpose of the society was “to stimulate an active interest in entomology on the part of Floridians. There is at present a dearth of amateur entomologists in the state.” To advance this goal, they began publication of the Florida Buggist, beginning June 21, 1917. In the early days of the society, annual dues were only 50 cents, meetings were held monthly, and branches of the society were chartered because travel was far difficult, time consuming and expensive for the average person. The FES and its journal (the name of the Florida Buggist was changed to the Florida Entomologist after a few years) have grown and prospered.

From its original membership of 11 men, FES has grown into a 400-member entomological society. Possibly the largest and most active regional entomological society in the United States, FES continues its pioneer spirit. It was, for example, the first entomology journal to put all its issues on WWW. It continues to change in many important ways. For example, the number of women continues to grow. Currently about 15% of the

membership are women, and with women comprising about 40% of the graduate student body, this proportion is destined to increase.

Not all of the changes have been entirely beneficial. Virtually all members are, or aspire to be, professional entomologists. This is clearly reflected in the journal, which has become national and international scope, but which has nothing of interest to amateurs interested in some aspect of entomology such as butterfly gardening, or to middle school and high school teachers who are looking for material on insects, or to professionals in allied fields such as landscape maintenance and urban pest control. Perhaps the journal should not provide information for such an audience, but it is not simply the journal that ignores amateur entomologists. It is also our society's general activities, including the annual meeting, that neglects amateurs. The situation is perhaps not as dismal as I have stated, because several of the state's urban entomologists have taken the initiative to provide workshops in conjunction with our annual meeting, but generally speaking we have done a poor job of encouraging interest by amateurs in the science of entomology.

Some segments of the field are already being serviced. Magazines devoted to butterflies, and to urban pest control and landscape management, already exist. Florida's urban pest control industry associations, as well as the cooperative extension service, already service the industries quite effectively. However, Florida's teachers have not had much support. Can we not provide better support for this large and important group of professionals, who also have a continuing need for certifiable continuing education?

We can debate the wisdom of changing the Florida Entomologist format to accommodate the needs of teachers. As envisioned by the Society's founders, the journal would contain items of local and timely interest, items that would help with the educational process from grades K-12. Obviously we have chosen not to continue with this type of publishing, though in the early years of the journal it was quite a bit more “newsy.” And perhaps it is best left as is; I am easily persuaded to leave alone a successful format. On the other hand, we may want to give active consideration to teacher workshops, held in conjunction of with the FES annual meeting. It would not be terribly disruptive to the meeting, potentially would expand our base of support, and perhaps make for a more interesting meeting.

The need to reach out and to stimulate interest in entomology is as great today as it was in 1917, perhaps greater. Perhaps we should make a more concerted

effort, and by working with teachers we can magnify our individual and collective efforts many-fold. Give this some thought, and if you think it a worthy endeavor, let your society officers know your feelings. And be prepared to volunteer!

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES**

The last meeting of the Executive Committee was August 28, 2002, held at the Hilton Clearwater Beach Resort during the Annual Meeting. The agenda matches that of the Annual Business Meeting, August 30th. Those minutes will be published in the Florida Entomologist, March 2003, and should also be available soon on the FES website, flaentsoc.org. Minutes prepared by R. Meagher, Secretary.

The **next Executive Committee Meeting is Sept. 17th** at 1 PM at the USDA-CMAVE. All members are welcome and Committee Chairpeople are encouraged to attend.

**STUDENT TRAVEL GRANTS FOR
2002 ESA ANNUAL MEETING**

The Florida Entomological Society invites student members to apply for travel grants to assist them with attending and presenting a paper/poster at the Entomological Society of America annual meeting in Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Application packets should include: cover letter (including email address for reply), paper title and abstract, statement of expected expenses and potential funding sources (including faculty, student government, Department and other organizational travel funding), curriculum vitae (including presentations) and letter of support from major professor.

Send materials postmarked by **October 4, 2002** to:

Gregg Nuessly, Chair, Student Activities Committee
Everglades Research and Education Center
3200 E. Palm Beach Rd.
Belle Glade, FL 33430-4702
Phone: 561-993-1500
FAX: 561-993-1582
Email: gsn@mail.ifas.ufl.edu

HELP FOR RUSSIA

Julieta Brambila (FDACS, DPI, Gainesville) recently visited the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg, Russia. There, Dr. I.M. Kerzhner told her how much the institute wants back issues of Florida Entomologist, but it has no funds to buy them. For most readers of this Newsletter, back issues on paper are not very important because we have free WWW access to all volumes and issues at <http://www.fcla.edu/FlaEnt/>. But at the Zoological Institute, WWW access may work slowly or not at all. The journal volumes (and issues) that Dr. Kerzhner wants are: 1-38, 52-62, 65 No.3, 67-70. If you can spare any of those volumes (and issues), there are two routes to Russia: (A) mail directly to: Dr. I. M. Kerzhner, Department of Insect Taxonomy, Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, Universitetskaya nab. 1, St. Petersburg 199034, Russia; OR, (B) mail to: Julieta Brambila, Division of Plant Industry/Entomology, 1911 SW 34th Street, Gainesville, FL 32608. If you mail them directly to Russia, please let Julieta know by e-mail (brambij@doacs.state.fl.us) so that she can keep track of volumes (and issues) still needed.

**XI IBEROAMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN
WORKSHOP ON WHITEFLIES AND
GEMINIVIRUS
26-29 November 2002
Hotel Principe, Barquisimeto, VENEZUELA**

Posters will be the only type of presentation. Deadline for abstracts is September 30. Authors should submit a 200-word maximum abstract for each poster, in Spanish or English, on a 3.5" diskette and as a hard copy, or as an email attachment, using Word 6.0 or higher. It should contain: 1. Title (upper case), 2. Author(s) name(s), and 3. Name and address of institution/company. Format required is single-spaced, in font type "Times New Roman", size 12. Poster dimensions are 1x1 m. REGISTRATION FEES: Foreign attendants: US \$200; Foreign students : US \$100. Students must provide a letter signed by their committee chairperson verifying student status. For more information please contact: xitallermbgeminivirus@hotmail.com, xitallermb@hotmail.com, or Dr. Jorge Salas: salasjl@hotmail.com.

MEMBERS AND EVENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW OFFICERS

Please welcome and support our new Executive Committee Members!!!

President Howard Frank
President-Elect Richard Mankin
Vice-President Stephen Lapoint
Member-at-Large Kenneth Bloem
Secretary Robert Meagher

HONORS AND AWARDS

This year the Entomological Society recognized 11 individuals for achievement, contribution to the discipline of entomology, and/or service to the Society.

Annual Achievement Award for Teaching:
Judy Nova, for her innovative use of insects as teaching tools.

Annual Achievement Award for Extension:
Adrian Hunsberger, for her enthusiastic work with the public concerning pest management for homeowners.

Annual Achievement Award for Industry and Team Research (combined):
James White, Entomos, LLC; **Ara Manukian** and **Rudy Strohschein**, Analytical Research Systems, for their technological improvements in the mass rearing and commercialization of biological control agents.

Annual Achievement Award for Research:
Ru Nguyen, for his research on mass rearing and release of important biological control agents.

Entomologist of the Year:
Rudolf H. Scheffrahn, for his internationally recognized contributions to urban entomology.

Presidential Recognition Awards:
Jeffrey P. Shapiro, for dedicated service to The Florida Entomological Society as Chair of the Education Committee, 2000-2002, and **Stephanie Bloem**, for dedicated service to The Florida Entomological Society as Secretary, 2000-2002.

Outgoing President Award: **John L. Capinera**

2002 Pioneer Honoree and Lecturer: **Harold A. Denmark**, for his extensive work on mites, in regulatory entomology and with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and in commemoration of the contributions of Dr. Reece I. Sailer.

STUDENT AWARD WINNERS

Scholarships of \$500 were awarded to **Rebecca Baldwin**, **Kathryn Barbara**, and **Erin Flynn**, all students in the Dept. of Entomology and Nematology, University of Florida.

Minigrants of \$100 were awarded to **Rebecca Baldwin**, **Kathryn Barbara**, **James Dunford**, and **Erin Flynn**. All students are from UF.

Travel Grants of \$100, to attend the FES Annual Meeting, were awarded to **Rebecca Baldwin**, **Kathryn Barbara**, **Dina Richman**, **Erin Flynn**, **Mirian Medina Hay-Roe**, and **Jeffrey White**, all from UF.

Travel Grants of \$200, to attend the 2001 ESA Meeting in San Diego, CA, were awarded to **Rebecca Baldwin**, **Dina Richman**, and **Raul Villanueva**, all from UF, and **Andrew Cline**, Louisiana State University.

Student Paper Competition 2002: The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prize monies are \$200, \$150, and \$125, respectively. **Yasmin Cardoza** won 1st place, with her paper, "Fungus-induced plant-insect interactions in peanut". **Erin Flynn** won 2nd place, with her paper, "Evaluation of monitoring techniques for detecting blueberry gall midge". **L. Scotty Long** won 3rd place with his paper, "Evaluation of a novel bio-rational compound for the control of various economic and medically important insect pests".

Please take a chance to personally congratulate these students for their outstanding efforts and activities within the Florida Entomological Society.

PRAISES TO FES FROM DOWN-UNDER

This was an e-mail that John Capinera received earlier this year:

Hi John,

I don't think we have met. I currently lead the research program on Red Imported Fire Ants in Brisbane, Australia. The last 12 months or so have been very hectic as you can imagine. Up until now myrmecology has not been a popular discipline here and our combined national knowledge on fire ants was zero.

Now that the frenzy of the last few months has settled down a little, it's time for me to thank all those who helped us in our "hour of need". Close to the top of this list is the Florida Entomological Society for providing your journal, the Florida Entomologist, on-line. As you can imagine, this journal is not readily available in Australia. Not only does it contain many key papers on *S. invicta*, I have been able to download all of them and therefore have had instant access to the best information on fire ants. To all those responsible for such a proactive move as to provide these reprints on-line: a big thanks from Down-under!

Cheers,
Cas Vanderwoude

WEED BIO-CONTROL SHORT-COURSE: A Complete Success

The University of Florida, in cooperation with the Universidad Nacional Agraria of Nicaragua, the USDA-ARS South American Biological Control Laboratory in Argentina, and the INIA-Carrillanca of Chile, conducted the 'First Latin-American Short-Course on Biological Control of Weeds' in Montelimar, Nicaragua, June 24-28, 2002. The course was organized by Dr. Julio Medal (UF), and was attended by 78 trainees from 17 Latin-American countries, and 15 speakers with widely recognized international experience on all aspects of weed control using insects and/or pathogens. Participants evaluated the course, rating it good to excellent, and indicated they can apply what they learned. A second course is planned for 2004 in Brazil.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Help!! We need dedicated, enthusiastic people to serve on Society committees. Commitments aren't very time consuming, and are dynamic ways to provide input and motivate change. Please contact President Howard Frank (352-392-1901, jhf@mail.ifas.ufl.edu).

This newsletter is published irregularly between issues of the Journal of the Society, *The Florida Entomologist*. It is intended for the publication of subjects of interest to the members of the Florida Entomological Society. Articles, announcements, awards and other news about FES members are solicited from the membership and should be addressed to the co-editors Lois Wood or Eileen Buss.

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CALL FOR MEMBERS AND EVENTS

In the Newsletter, we would occasionally like to include information about FES members. Please refer to the requested items for each category and let your colleagues know what you have been up to lately. This information should be sent to Lois Wood or Eileen Buss.

1. Invitational talks, keynote speeches etc...: Speaker, organization, meeting, date, location and title of talk.
2. Honors & Awards: Recipient, title of award, given for and given by.
3. International Activities: Person, date, activity and funding source.
4. Grants/Contracts: Principal investigator(s), project title, funding source and project description.
5. Major Publications (Books, Monographs, Chapters): Authors, title and citation.
6. National or Branch Offices: Person, office held, organization and dates.
7. Moving up: Person on the move, old position, new position, location, date of change and responsibilities.
8. Visiting Entomologists: Visitor(s), visiting from, dates, purpose of visit, host and location.
9. On Leave: Person, new location, dates and activity.
10. Community Activities: Person, project description, organization, location and dates.