



NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

www.flaentsoc.org

Volume 20, No. 3

Gainesville, Florida

October 2005

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rudi Scheffrahn

Our 88th annual meeting was held on July 24-27 at the Sanibel Harbour Resort & Spa in Fort Myers. The meeting attracted 126 registrants, including 33 students, and three exhibitors. My thanks go to all the speakers, symposium and workshop organizers, exhibitors, and attendees for making our yearly event a success. The 2005 award winners deserve special congratulations. I am still looking for a site for our 2006 meeting. (A thought for next year. Timely submission of titles and abstracts allows the program chair to compile the program quickly so that the appropriate meeting rooms can be reserved and that the program can be posted on our website quickly. This also allows speakers to make reservations and meeting plans accordingly. Submissions of PowerPoint presentations before the meeting makes it possible for the program chair to have talks preloaded and tested.)

As incoming president, I am concerned about the Society's fiscal stability in the years to come. Again FES suffered a net loss of nearly \$2,800 at our annual meeting. This loss and other costs are balanced by revenues from page and reprint charges from Florida Entomologist as well as from membership dues. For now, the Society's cost and revenues are maintaining a precarious balance.

Greater turnout at our annual meetings is one way of reducing losses. Past president Steve Lapointe and I believe that greater industry participation would not only bolster registration but would also enhance corporate

memberships and underwriting of the Society. On July 26, Scott Ferguson of Syngenta presided over an informal meeting of FES industry affiliates which yielded several ideas to attract more industry colleagues to play active roles in FES.

In another positive move for the Society, Tom Walker submitted a proposal to me requesting inclusion of Florida Entomologist in JSTOR, a scholarly journal archive organization. The executive committee voted unanimously to join. This will result in greater exposure of our journal's articles among some 2,200 institutions worldwide. JSTOR will pay FES \$2K annually in addition to a share of a "Publisher Revenue Pool" which could amount to a yearly sum of \$1K. Please call (954-577-6312) or e-mail me (rhsc@ufl.edu) if you have any suggestions, questions, or concerns about FES.

I applaud all the volunteers that make the Society function. Soon, I will be contacting our chairpersons to ask that their vital participation continue in 2006. Several persons, in particular, make FES an active and dynamic society including Jim Nation, editor of Florida Entomologist, Teresa DuChene, our treasurer/business manager, Richard Mankin, our site webmaster, and Cara Congdon, Ron Cave, and Bill Overholt, our newsletter editors. Thanks to all.

PAST-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Stephen Lapointe

It has been an honor to have served the society as president over the past year. I was particularly pleased by the excellent 2005 meeting. The outstanding facilities and attendance (126 total attendees) combined to make a successful meeting. Rudi Scheffrahn, Geri Cashion and Teresa DuChene did a superb job and it's comforting to know the society is in good hands for the coming years.

Those of you that attended the awards luncheon this year will recall that I conducted an informal poll of members who would be supportive of having our 2007 annual meeting in conjunction with the Colombian Entomological Society (SOCOLEN) at Cartagena, Colombia in July of that year. The response was ambivalent but I feel it was sufficiently supportive of the idea to justify further consideration. I remain convinced this represents an opportunity for meaningful scientific and cultural exchange that will strengthen the society and benefit our membership. Since the meeting, I have received several strong messages of encouragement from FES members who were unable to attend our 2005 meeting and several pledges to assist with the organization of the meeting. The response from SOCOLEN has been exceedingly positive and they have already named an organizing committee to pursue the idea and manage coordination with FES. The proposal was made at their annual meeting in July and was received enthusiastically by their membership. I encourage you to look at the website http://www.cartagenatravel.com/index_english.htm and look in particular at the convention center link. The Cartagena convention center, the most likely venue, offers excellent facilities and is host to many national and international meetings throughout the year. Cartagena is a major tourist attraction and is close to resorts on various Caribbean islands. Hotel accommodations are diverse, from large modern high-rise hotels to many small and quaint inns.

There have been two major concerns expressed to me related to the Colombian location. First is the cost of travel. For those on a limited budget, this will be partly offset by the lower cost of lodging and food during the stay. As a society, we can also pursue the possibility of

a group rate through a travel agency. For students, the excellent financial position of FES will allow us to provide significantly higher travel grants for students. I will pursue this in the coming months. Second is personal security. While I cannot guarantee anyone's safety, I would suggest that Cartagena is no more dangerous a locale than many U.S. cities. The long list of successful meetings and the level of international tourism at Cartagena suggest that concern for safety, while justifiable and not to be taken lightly, is not sufficient reason to reject this opportunity.

SOCOLEN is a large and vibrant community of diverse and capable entomologists. Colombia and the Caribbean are within the geographic area of interest of our society and journal. This opportunity to connect, share, and explore collaboration with SOCOLEN seems to me to be an excellent opportunity for exchange and growth. I hope you agree. Regardless, please let me know your thoughts at SLL13@cornell.edu. I look forward to hearing from you.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Edited minutes of the July 25, 2005 Annual Business Meeting held at the Sanibel Harbour Resort & Spa, Fort Myers, Florida, are as follows:

Pioneer Award (David Hall)

The 2005 Pioneer Lecture was presented by Al Selhime (USDA-ARS, retired) in honor of pioneer entomologist Mr. William Walter Yothers. Mr. Selhime's presentation was entitled 'W. W. Yothers: A Pioneer in Citrus Entomology'. This was our Society's tenth Pioneer Lecture. With respect to Pioneer Lecture manuscripts, a manuscript for each lecture has either been published, submitted or is in preparation for all ten Pioneer Lectures. The Pioneer Lecture Series Committee generally tries to rotate the lecture among university, government and private sector pioneers and speakers.

The committee recognizes and thanks Honors and Awards Committee members Ken Bloem and Stuart Reitz for their contributions to this year's Pioneer Lecture. The committee extends thanks to Business

Manager Teresa DuChene for organizing the student luncheon with Mr. Selhime and to Dow AgroSciences for funding the luncheon.

After many years as a member of our committee, Howard Weems resigned from the committee during 2005. We acknowledge and extend a special thanks to Howard for his many contributions to the Pioneer Lecture Series.

Business Manager Report (Teresa DuChene)

Financial report is current through June 30, 2005: Morgan Stanley \$68,349.30, Bank of America \$40,730.67, for total assets of \$109,079.97.

Current member numbers are:

Students	48
Full	275
Subscription	126
Sustaining	17
Corporate	6

Nominating Committee (Richard Mankin)

Nancy Epsky was elected as Member-At-Large and Robert Meagher was elected as Vice-President. Congratulations to both.

Public Relations (Oscar Liburd)

Local newspapers were contacted about the Annual Meeting. Also, meeting announcements were made in the ESA Newsletter and provided to County Officials. At the University of Florida, an announcement was placed on the IFAS webpage. Amanda Hodges will be Chair of the Committee next year.

Managing Invasive Species (Jim Cuda)

During this past year, Jim Cuda replaced Norm Leppla as the Chair of the FES Committee on Managing Invasive Species. The Invasive Species Committee currently consists of 10 members. These individuals were recruited from academia and private industry as well as federal and state agencies, and represent a broad range of research and regulatory expertise. Current members of the FES Invasive Species Committee include: Jim Cuda (Chair), Brian Cabrera, Keith Griffith, Norm Leppla, Catherine Mannion, George O'Meara,

Connie Riherd, Amy Roda, Rudi Scheffrahn, and Mike Thomas.

Committee members were asked to review the 2004 FES Invasive Species Committee Report drafted by Past-Chair Norm Leppla. The report contained 10 action items to be considered by the Society (see page 2). Cuda requested that members review these 10 items and identify 3 that they considered the highest priority for action by FES. The results of this internal survey were as follows:

Item Number 1 (“Continue the Florida Entomological Society Committee on Managing Invasive Species”) received the highest ranking based on the number of responses received (6). Norm Leppla noted that this action item was probably the most critical because of the wealth of expertise in FES and the fact the Committee could operate effectively without being influenced by external political forces.

Item Number 7 (“Request that an FES member be on the agenda of a future meeting of the Florida Invasive Species Committee to discuss a partnership between FES and the Committee”) was ranked second as it received the next highest response total (4). Norm Leppla recommended the current Chair of the FES Invasive Species Committee (aka Cuda) also should be a member of the Florida Invasive Species Committee (Working Group?) to maintain communication and coordinate activities to avoid duplication of effort. Jim Cuda will contact the FISWG Chair Brian Nelson, SWFWMD, to pursue partnering with the FISWG and report his findings at the next FES Executive Committee meeting.

Item Numbers 3, 5 and 6 – were tied for third with 3 responses each. Of the three action items, **Number 5** (“Provide biological information to the regulatory community on emerging invasive species, particularly new information resulting from scientist’s trips in the U.S. and foreign countries”) would probably be the most useful from a regulatory perspective but would require considerable coordination. One approach would be to require traveling scientists to report emerging invasive species to the Southern Plant Diagnostic Network (SPDN) imme-

diately upon returning from interstate and international travel. Scientists and other professionals who travel extensively should be required to receive “First Detector” training that is available through the SPDN. Details about the SPDN are available at <http://spdn.ifas.ufl.edu/>.

In July, three FES Invasive Species Committee members (Jim Cuda, Norm Leppa, and Amy Roda) attended the 41st Annual Meeting of the Caribbean Food Crops Society held in Gosier, Guadeloupe, French West Indies. One of the highlights of the meeting was the T-STAR¹ Invasive Species Symposium. The theme of the symposium was “Embedding a Caribbean Invasive Species Safeguarding Strategy Within a Regional Integration Framework: Institutional and Technical Dimensions.” Of particular importance to the FES Committee was the presentation by APHIS PPQ on their new Offshore Pest Information System (OPIS). The recent implementation of OPIS will provide the knowledge necessary to combat offshore plant pest enemies and will enable APHIS to meet its mission element of “safeguarding resources from exotic invasive pests and diseases”. Details about this new program designed to prevent pests from arriving in the US are available at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/biosecurity/opis.html>.

Actions to be considered for the Florida Entomological Society:

1. Continue the Florida Entomological Society Committee on Managing Invasive Species.
2. Continue providing a forum for sharing information on invasive species.
3. Publish a “new invasive species profile” in each issue of the Florida Entomologist to augment “pest alerts” produced primarily for agriculture and urban pests.
4. Disseminate information on invasive species to assist “first detectors” (e.g., growers, crop consultants, extension agents, scientists, agricultural inspectors).

5. Provide biological information to the regulatory community on emerging invasive species, particularly new information resulting from scientist’s trips in the U.S. and foreign countries.
6. Prepare a registry of FES members who are willing to make independent recommendations about dealing with invasive species issues, e.g., review action plans.
7. Request that an FES member be on the agenda of a future meeting of the Florida Invasive Species Committee to discuss a partnership between FES and the Committee.
8. Continue the FES award for excellence in regulatory entomology.
9. Assemble pertinent scientific literature on invasive species to help develop new strategies and actions for mitigating the problem.
10. Maintain an up-to-date list of qualified specialists willing to rapidly identify specimens of presumptive invasive species (in cooperation with FDACS, Division of Plant Industry).

¹T-STAR is a special grants research program of the USDA, CSREES that funds projects in tropical and subtropical research of participating universities. In the Caribbean Basin, the University of Florida, the University of Puerto Rico and the University of the Virgin Islands are the participants. One of the focus areas of the T-STAR program involves research on controlling alien pests and weeds in the Caribbean Basin.

Caribbean Conference

Stephen Lapointe discussed meeting with the Sociedad Colombiana de Entomologia (SOCOLEN) in July 2007 at Cartagena, Colombia. Several items were discussed such as security, the city, and the meeting site. Also, Rosa A. Franqui, University of Puerto Rico, invited us to San Juan, Puerto Rico for the Caribbean Conference in 2007.

REPORT ON THE INVASIVE PESTS SYMPOSIUM HELD AT THE FES ANNUAL MEETING

The Symposium on Regulatory/Government Programs on Invasive Pests held the 2005 FES Annual Meeting in Fort Meyers, FL., was a great success. Several FES members met to discuss issues that were brought up at the meeting.

ROUND TABLE PARTICIPANTS: Dr. Lance Osborne, Dr. Adam Silagyi, Dr. Waldy Klassen, Mr. Jim Spratt, Mr. Mike Shannon, Moderator – Dr. Amy Roda.

The following edited summary was prepared by Paul Hornby, State Operations Support Officer, USDA/APHIS/PPQ.

ISSUES:

- Several examples of successful planning and coordination efforts in dealing with invasive species issues were given such as the pink hibiscus mealybug, tropical soda apple, brown citrus aphid, exotic citrus disease working group, and the melaleuca project. Many of these issues were successful due to the interaction between the regulatory, research, and industry communities.
- The regulatory community is generally good at responding to emergency invasive threats. There are times when cooperation with the industry is needed however, not always obtained as large industry associations may represent only a majority of specific growers.
- Concerns exist about APHIS-PPQ's safeguarding system which remains to some extent a reactionary system, despite the 1999 PPQ Safeguarding Review that emphasized the need to have a risk based strategy mitigating safeguarding issues at the point of origin. Along these lines, a great deal of effort has been focused on establishing a Caribbean basin safeguarding system to address the movement of invasive species moving to and from that region.
- Emerging offshore invasive species problems need to be addressed at the point of origin through training, trapping/surveillance, and employing pest mitigation and quarantine strategies. Great care must be given in dealing with these issues and gaining foreign country cooperation given potential quarantine and trade/market access ramifications.
- Although many new invasive species are being addressed through bio-control initiatives, pesticide strategies need to be developed as well, given the immediate impact these pests have on the industry. Perhaps a quarantine facility to evaluate alternative chemical applications or a mechanism through the industry or cooperating foreign governments could be developed to conduct this work offshore.
- Researchers are having difficulty in working through the Federal permit system in importing and gaining approval for release of off-shore bio-control agents. Since the majority of the new invasive species are being addressed through bio-control initiatives, an improved permit review/import process is needed.
- One private sector entity that has not been adequately networked regarding invasive species is the pest control industry. The Florida Pest Pro, an industry magazine, could serve as an excellent conduit to relay educational and outreach materials.
- The "Dirty 13" initiative through the FNGLA was a successful collaboration with the regulatory and research community, however, follow through on pest alerts and mini-PRA's needs to be improved. Action plans also need to be developed for these high profile pests to ensure an adequate response if and when they become introduced. Furthermore, additional "Dirty 13" lists, pest alerts, mini-PRA's, and action plans need to be created to address the priority concerns of the fruit and vegetable industry, tropical fruit industry, forest industry, and household/structural pests.
- Outcomes of the recent IFAS invasive species summit in Kissimmee will be forthcoming and shared with interested parties. It will be important to determine how the IFAS initiative fits with the State Invasive Species Working Group.

- Greater emphasis needs to be placed on invasive species education/outreach efforts to the general public. This group can wield either positive or negative political influence given their inclusion or exclusion of a particular issue, i.e. citrus canker. IFAS County Extension Agents/Specialists have played a key role in disseminating information to the public, however, should be utilized to a greater extent.
- The SPDN First Detector training modules are an excellent tool that could be utilized with various public/private sector entities to raise awareness and promote the early detection of invasive species.
- Utilize a list serve already in place through UF to disseminate key invasive species information to the research, regulatory and industry communities.
- The FES Invasive Species Committee or designees were invited by APHIS to review inspection and identification operations at the Miami Inspection Station.

MEMBERS AND EVENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW OFFICERS

Please welcome and support our 2005-2006 Executive Committee Members!!!

- President Rudy Scheffrahn
- President-Elect Geri Cashion
- Vice-President Rob Meagher
- Member-at-Large Nancy Epsky

HONORS AND AWARDS

This year the Entomological Society recognized 14 individuals for achievement, contribution to the discipline of entomology, and/or service to the Society.

2005 Pioneer Honoree and Lecturer Award:
Florida Entomological Society Pioneer Lecturer **Dr. Allen G. Selhime** honoring **Dr. W. W. Yothers**

Annual Achievement Award for Regulatory Entomology:
Michael Shannon, USDA-APHIS, for his leadership in biological control and offshore pest safeguarding programs.

Annual Achievement Award for Teaching in Higher Education:

Ken Bloem, USDA-APHIS, for fostering the entomology program at Florida A & M University.

Annual Achievement Award for Research:

Joe Funderburk, University of Florida, North Florida Research and Education Center, for his innovative research on thrips biology and management.

Annual Achievement Award for Team Research:

Steven Valles, Charles Strong, Phat Dang, Wayne Hunter, Roberto Pereira, David Oi, Alexandra Shapiro, and David Williams, for their discovery of the first virus to infect fire ants.

Entomologist of the Year:

Wayner Hunter, USDA-ARS, U. S. Horticultural Research Laboratory, for his internationally recognized contributions to insect genetics.

Outgoing President Award:

Stephen Lapointe, USDA-ARS U.S. Horticultural Research Laboratory.

2005 STUDENT AWARD WINNERS

The Student Activities Committee for 2005, Marco Toapanta (Chair), Wayne Hunter, and David Schuster, organized and coordinated all activities related to scholarships, travel grants, mini-grants, student paper competition, and awards ceremony at the annual meeting.

We would like to thank the students who actively participated at the annual meeting held at the Sanibel Harbour Resort & Spa in Fort Meyers, FL. Student participation at this meeting was higher than previous years and the contributions in the student paper competition were outstanding. The committee would like to encourage a similar or stronger participation for next year's meeting by offering new prizes, to be announced later.

Scholarships

The committee received ten applications for the 2005 Student Scholarship Award and three students received an award. Each award consisted of \$500.00 in cash and a certificate from the Society. This year, the FES student scholarship winners were **James Dunford, Cynthia Tucker, and Ricky Vazquez**, students in the Entomology and Nematology Dept., University of Florida.

Minigrants

The committee received 13 applications for a Mini Grant Award. Each award consisted of \$100.00 in cash. The student awardees were **Karla Adesso, James Dunford, Luis Matos, Jason Meyer, Rui Pereira, Murugesan Rangasamy, Elena Rhodes, Amit Sethi, Joe Smith, and Ricky Vazquez**. All students are from the University of Florida.

Travel Grants

The committee received 14 applications for a Travel Grant Award. Each award consisted of \$100.00 in cash. The student awardees were **Karla Adesso, Crystal Kelts, Luis Matos, Murugesan Rangasamy, Elena Rhodes, Amit Sethi, Joe Smith, Charles Stuhl, Ricky Vazquez, and Frank Wessels**, all from the University of Florida.

STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION

The student paper competition was a great success with tremendous participation from students from the University of Florida, as well as from Florida A & M. In addition, the competition was well attended by meeting participants for both sessions. This year we had a total of 20 students presenting papers in the competition. All the participants did a great job presenting their papers and all deserve congratulations. With the increased number of awards, active collaboration of professors and dynamic participation from other FES members, we could increase the number of participants for next year's competition.

For the competition, students were divided according to the degree being pursued, Ph.D. or M.S. degree, following a format implemented last year which was very successful and well accepted by students and meeting participants.

This year we had nine submissions to the M.S. student competition. The winners in the M.S. category were **Linda NcHerne** (University of Florida) with 1st place and \$200.00, **Antonio Francis** (Florida A & M) with 2nd place and \$150.00, and **Frank Wessels** (University of Florida) with 3rd place and \$125.00.

We had eleven students who participated in the Ph.D. student competition. The winners were **Joseph Smith** with 1st place and \$200.00, **Matt Aubuchon** with 2nd place and \$150.00, and **Amit Sethi** with 3rd place and \$125.00. All students are from the University of Florida.

POSSIBLE STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEXT YEAR'S ANNUAL MEETING

A group of FES members from the agricultural chemical industry met at the 2005 Florida Entomological Society Annual Meeting to discuss ideas on how the society can improve participation by industry researchers and thus attract more industry members. An idea was put forward to organize an industry symposium for the 2006 meeting where industry members would present information on new products, new information on existing products, or new research. Additionally, it was suggested that the industry members sponsor a Tuesday evening student mixer, the goal of which would be to introduce graduate students to the opportunities available to professionals outside of academia and government.

STUDENT TRAVEL GRANTS FOR 2005 ESA ANNUAL MEETING

The Florida Entomological Society invites current student members to apply for travel grants to assist them with attending and presenting a paper/poster at the 2005 Entomological Society of America annual meeting in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

Application packets should include:

1. A cover letter including stating the reasons to obtain this Travel Grant including email address for reply.
2. A copy of the actual transmittal of the request (electronic receipt) to ESA to submit a paper/poster
3. An abstract of the presentation (include day and time if available).
4. A detailed statement of expected expenses and potential funding sources (including faculty, student government, department and other organizational travel funding).
5. A letter of support from two of your committee members supporting the travel to present a paper/poster at the meeting.

All materials should be mailed in ONE envelope (not separate) and postmarked by **October 19, 2005** to:

Marco A. Toapanta, Chair,
Student Activities Committee
Bayer CropScience
19046 Bruce B. Downs Blvd. PMB 221
Tampa, FL 33647

Email: marco.toapanta@bayercropscience.com

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 Cara Congdon, Ron Cave, or Bill Overholt.

Cara Congdon, Entomology & Nematology Dept., P.O. Box 110620, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611-0620. Phone: (352)-392-1901 Ext. 164, F A X : (3 5 2) - 3 9 2 - 0 1 9 0 , E M A I L : C1SQUIRREL@AOL.COM.

Ron Cave, Indian River Research and Education Center, University of Florida, 2199 South Rock Road, Fort Pierce, FL 34945-3138. Phone: (772) 468-3922 Ext. 145, F A X : (7 7 2) 4 6 8 - 3 9 7 3 E m a i l : RDCAVE@IFAS.UFL.EDU.

Bill Overholt, Indian River Research and Education Center, University of Florida, 2199 South Rock Road, Fort Pierce, FL 34945-3138. Phone: (772) 468-3922 Ext. 143, FAX: (772) 468-3973, Email: WAOVERHOLT@IFAS.UFL.EDU.

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 Ron Cave, Cara Congdon, or William Overholt.

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.