Southeastern Chapter Newsletter

Chapter Officers
Chair: Frank Gilliam (2006-2008) gilliam@marshall.edu
Vice-Chair: Neil Billington (2005-2007) askdrb@troy.edu
Secretary/Treasurer: Howard Neufeld (2006-2008) neufeldhs@appstate.edu
Web-Master: Mark Mackenzie mackenzi@forestry.auburn.edu
Chapter Home page: http://www.auburn.edu/seesa/

Spring 2007 Meeting
The Chapter met for its annual spring business meeting on Thursday, 19 April during the Association of Southeastern Biologists annual meeting, which was held at the Metropolitan Convention Center in Columbia, South Carolina. Frank Gilliam, new chair of the SE Chapter of ESA, presided. The minutes from the Fall 2006 brown bag lunch meeting at the ESA meeting in Memphis, on 9 August 2006, were approved.

There were no reports by either the Chair or Vice-Chair Neil Billington. The Chapter does need to nominate a new vice-chair to replace Billington.

Howard Neufeld gave the business report. He showed that we have $7891 in the general account (mostly from dues that have accumulated over the years), $9421 in the Odum account, and $997 in the Quarterman/Keever account. He reported that we have approximately 376 current members, which brings in about $1700 per year in dues for the Chapter. In conclusion, we are in good shape with regard to the budget.

A later analysis of the budget (after the meeting) showed the following in our accounts as of 21 May: $8580 in general funds, $11,551 in the Odum Award account, and $1086 in the Quarterman/Keever Award account.

It was recommended by the treasurer, and endorsed by the president, that we shift $5000 from the dues account to the awards accounts as follows: $579 to the Odum Award to bring it up to $10,000 and the remaining amount to the Quarterman/Keever Award, bringing it up to $5,418. This motion passed unanimously. Because the Odum account already had $10,000 in it, the end result was that $5000 was moved from the general account to the Quarterman/Keever account. The goal is to fund the Quarterman/Keever account at $10,000, so that interest on the account fully pays for the award each year.
The SE Chapter of ESA gives out two awards at this meeting. The first is the Eugene P. Odum Award, for the best oral presentation on an ecological topic, and the second is the Elsie Quarterman/Catherine Keever Award for best poster on an ecological topic.

Danny Gustafson was the Chair of the Odum Award Committee, and Mike Held was Chair of the Quarterman/Keever Award Committee. A total of 48 students competed for the two awards. This year, the top five finalists for the Odum Award were presented with a copy of Odum and Barrett’s Fundamentals of Ecology text, which was donated by the publisher, Thomas, Brooks, Cole Publishing.

The finalists and winner for the Odum Award were:
Tracy N. Rogers, East Carolina University (David R. Chalcraft, co-author)
“Facilitation or competition? Hydroperiod may alter interspecific interactions among larval anurans.”

Bryan S. Marbert, Appalachian State University (Ray S. Williams, co-author)
“Long-term precipitation alteration affects ground beetle (Family Carabidae) community structure in an intact hardwood forest.”

Daniel B. Stover, Old Dominion University (with four co-authors)
“The effects of elevated atmospheric CO$_2$ on fine and coarse root growth and biomass allocation in a scrub-oak ecosystem at Kennedy Space Center, Florida.”

Christopher T. Winne, University of Georgia (John D. Willson and J. Whitfield, co-authors)
“Rapid recovery of an aquatic snake community following prolonged drought.”

The Odum Award winner for 2007 was:
Sarah E. Marcinko, University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill (with John L. Randall, co-author)
“Conservation implications of breeding systems, floral phenology, and sexual expression in the federally endangered Ptilimnium nodosum (Apiaceae).”

The Quarterman/Keever Award Winner was:
Sydney E. Everhart, University of Central Missouri (Harold W. Keller and Joseph S. Ely, co-authors)
“Role of bark characteristics and epiphyte cover in the abundance, distribution, and succession of corticolous myxomycetes (true slime molds).”
Both winners were given a $500 prize and a plaque.

During the meeting we paused for a moment of silence to honor those killed in the recent shooting at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia. We then had an additional moment of silence to honor two Chapter members who passed away this year: Dr. Frank Golley, who died on 8 October 2006, and Dr. Bruce Haines, who died on 16 February 2007.

The Chapter then had a brief discussion about interviewing eminent ecologists from the SE Chapter of ESA to archive for historical purposes. One such interview has already been done with Elsie Quarterman.

**SE-ESA Brown Bag Lunch**
The SE-ESA Brown Bag Lunch at this year’s ESA meeting in San Jose, California, will be Wednesday, 8
August 2007 from 12 noon to 1:30 pm. Please check the Meeting Program for location. All those members of the SE Chapter of ESA attending this meeting are encouraged to attend!

Frank Gilliam then described the ESA Southeast Knowledge Partnership Pilot Project for everyone. An Ecological Society of America Steering Committee has been working to move forward on complementing the Society’s national-level environmental policy activities with regionally focused policy and education initiatives. The overall goal is to forge effective working relationships between science, business, and government to anticipate and solve emerging environmental issues that will have broad impact on the region’s economy and quality of life. The initial pilot project will focus on the issue of land use change in the Southeast, particularly the urban/suburban–wildland interface, which is occurring at unprecedented rates. An evening session at the upcoming ESA Annual Meeting in San Jose, California will update attendees on the status of this project.

Frank then asked people to consider symposium topics for both ESA and ASB. Deadlines for symposium proposals for both meetings (for 2008) are some time in September of 2007. Frank also proposed that SE-ESA consider sponsoring another book, perhaps on some subject of relevance to the Southeast. Jim Luken suggested that one topic might be land use change and habitat destruction as factors affecting the ecology of this region. Proceeds from such a book could be used to supplement the budget of the Chapter, much as the other set of books on the biodiversity of the Southeast did a decade ago.

Attendance was low this year (see attached attendance sheet). Frank Day had some comments on why this was so and what to do about it. These included e-mailing members to remind them to attend the ASB meetings and the ESA lunch meeting. We also discussed improving the web site.

Attendees at this year’s meeting were:

- Whit Gibbons
- Beverly Collins
- Rebecca Sharitz
- Susan Marks
- John Schmidt
- Robert Peet
- Tom Wentworth
- Scott Franklin
- James Moore
- Nicole Turrill Welch
- Joel Gramling
- Danny Gustafson
- Neil Billington
- Jim Fralish
- Jarvis Hudson
- Johnathan McQuaide
- James Luken
- Jim Hull
- Ross Hinkle
- Pat Parr
- Joe Winstead
- Frank Day
- Howard Neufeld
- Frank Gilliam

Keeping in touch

Check the Chapter Home page: [http://www.auburn.edu/seesa](http://www.auburn.edu/seesa) for updates and additional information. To join the Southeastern Chapter of ESA LISTSERVE, 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](mailto:scesa@mail.auburn.edu) for distribution to the listserve, or to [neufeldhs@appstate.edu](mailto:neufeldhs@appstate.edu) for inclusion in the next quarterly newsletter.

Respectfully submitted
Howard Neufeld
Secretary/Treasurer 2006–2008