
Society Section and Chapter News

Plant Population Ecology Section Newsletter

Minutes from the Section meeting, August 2005, Montreal

The Section meeting at the ESA Montreal was a great opportunity for us to mix, socialize, and do Section business. It was wonderful to see so many of you there.

Here is a summary of some of our activities during the business meeting. As an aside, all of my past communications have been sent through the Section's directory/listserv. Recently I realized that the directory is not updated to reflect the official ESA enrollment, so that most of our communication has gone to only a fraction of the membership. My apologies; all Section business will now go to all those registered with ESA, beginning with this message.

Below are the minutes. Items listed there include:

- New Section chair installed
- NOMINEES REQUESTED for Section chair
- Student travel grants awarded
- Successful silent auction
- Section website update
- ONLINE DISCUSSION FORUM inaugurated

Details are below.

1) Chris Ivey was installed as new Section chair. Chris will be taking over those duties starting this fall and will preside over the Memphis meeting. My last action as Chair will be the (potential) endorsement of a Symposium Proposal, and then I will hand the reins over to Chris.

2) We need nominees to serve as the Vice Chair for the Section in the upcoming year. The Vice Chair will become the Chair next year. There will be an e-mail call for nominations soon.

3) Student travel grants

a) We announced the recipients of the Section's graduate student travel awards (Kristin Anton of Portland State University; Richard Lankau of UC Davis; Lori Spindler of University of Pennsylvania).

b) We then discussed whether the Section's travel awards should be restricted to only **graduate students**, or whether undergraduates are also eligible. Given that an accepted abstract is a requirement for the applications, the Section strongly supported the eligibility of undergraduates.

4) Thanks to all those who donated items and bid on them at the Silent Auction. We made several hundred dollars through their generosity. The money from the auction will help support student travel awards to the 2006 ESA meetings.

5) The deadline for SYMPOSIUM PROPOSALS for the 2006 ESA meetings in Memphis, Tennessee, will be 15 September. The theme of the meeting is: "Icons and Upstarts in Ecology." Our Section is allowed to endorse one symposium proposal. No one has suggested any proposal topics yet, but if you have any such ideas and would like the Section's approval, you should contact me soon with a proposal topic. If we have several proposals, we will send the topics out to the membership for a vote.

6) Gordon Fox has done a major upgrade to the Section's web site (<http://pltecol.cas.usf.edu/index.pl/home>), and was thanked for his very productive efforts. This is a good time to remind you to be sure to look at your contact information on the Section web site and make sure it is up to date.

7) Gordon Fox and Jonathon Silvertown introduced the Section's new web discussion board for current ideas in Ecology: (<http://pltecol.cas.usf.edu/index.pl/discussions>)

The main motivation for this initiative is that many journals now include a "new ideas section," but the discussion that such ideas spark can be limited because of spatial, temporal, and other limits. The new forum is intended to overcome these limits. By hosting the discussion on the Section's web server through a browser interface we can provide real-time interaction across the globe among any interested scientists. The current plan is to foster a free and open discussion of new ideas, but to limit the discussion to published papers. The forum will be open to all, regardless of whether or not they are members of the Plant Population Ecology Section of ESA. This forum is for debate and discussion of scientific issues. Other sorts of communication (e.g., requests for data, advice on technique) should be achieved through the Section listserver, or the Discussion board on the web site; they are not appropriate for this forum.

To inaugurate the series, we put up for discussion a recent provocative paper by one of the moderators of the forum:

Silvertown, J. 2004. Plant coexistence and the niche. *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* 19:605–611.

More details about the forum are on our web site. Log in and take a look!

See you in Memphis!

Randy Mitchell
Section Chair 2004–2005

Canada Chapter Newsletter

ESA had a well-attended and successful meeting in Montreal. The Chapter business meeting and mixer were held on Monday, 8 August, with more than 50 people passing through.

The chapter is doing well and represents the largest membership of Canadian professional ecologists. The symposium topic supported by the Canada Chapter last year was approved and it was well attended. Thank you to Ed Johnson (Calgary), Kiyoko Miyanishi (Guelph), and Kathreen Ruckstuhl (Calgary) for organizing "The boreal forest and global change." This year we supported the symposium proposal from Marc Johnson (Toronto) and Randall Hughes (UC Davis) on "The ecological consequences of genetic diversity."

Ed Johnson and I met with ESA public affairs staff and Thomas Balint, senior policy advisor from the Office of the Ambassador to the Environment for the Government of Canada. This was a useful meeting, introducing them to ESA and what the Canada Chapter can provide in terms of expertise and opinion on environmental and policy issues. Unfortunately, the environment minister and the chief policy advisor were busy with the train oil-spill in Alberta. We will continue with efforts to meet regularly with federal government policy staff. The Chapter will be seeking an ESA "long-range planning grant" to provide a professional web site with links to ecology-related resources intended for government, media, and educational sectors as a resource. We are going to coordinate provincial "rapid response teams" to match those in the United States. The aim is to provide input in policy development and on environmental issues as they arise. This will be coordinated through ESA Headquarters through the Public Affairs office. There was some interest in holding a Chapter meeting within Canada in the near future. The date of Spring 2007 seemed practical. Sina Adl is willing to host a Chapter meeting in Halifax, in the first week of May 2007. There will be further announcements regarding

this. Two student prizes were drawn from a hat. The lucky winners were Danielle Way and Patrick Vogan, who will each be receiving their \$50 cheques.

The new officers were elected for a period of 2 years, as follows:

Chair: Kenneth Lertzman, School of Resource and Environmental Management, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6, E-mail: lertzman@sfu.ca

Vice-Chair: Karen Yee, University of Calgary, 2500 University Drive NW, BioSciences Room 356, Calgary, AB T2N 1N4, E-mail: yeeka@ucalgary.ca

Secretary: Beatrix Beisner, Département des Sciences Biologiques, Case Postale 8888, Succ. Centre-Ville, Montreal, QC H3C 3P8, E-mail: beisner.beatrix@uqam.ca

Sina Adl
Past Chair and Acting Secretary
Dalhousie University
Halifax, NS
Canada

Southeastern Chapter Newsletter

News from SE Chapter Brown Bag Lunch at ESA

On 9 August 2005 our Chapter held its traditional Brown Bag Lunch at the Ecological Society of America Meeting in Montreal, Canada. Several members attended and we encourage more to do so at future meetings.

ASB and ESA symposia

Discussion centered on symposia ideas for the 2006 meetings of the Association of Southeastern Biologists (ASB), in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, and the Eco-

logical Society of America, in Memphis, Tennessee. The deadline for submitting symposia proposals is 15 September 2005 for both meetings, and more information is available on their respective web sites.

Elsie Quarterman-Catherine Keever Award

Formal fundraising for the Quarterman-Keever Award will begin this fall, and members are encouraged to support this award given at the ASB Annual Meeting for the best student poster dealing with an ecological topic.

2006 Association of Southeastern Biologists Meeting, Gatlinburg, Tennessee

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he University of Tennessee will host the 67th ASB Annual Meeting in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, 29 March–1 April 2006.

Abstract deadline

Titles and abstracts of papers and posters are due to the Program Committee by 18 November 2005. Details of the abstract format and submission instructions are available at <http://www.asb.appstate.edu/> and in the September 2005 issue of *Southeastern Biology*, the Bulletin of the Association.

Applications for Elsie Quarterman-Catherine Keever Award

Undergraduate and graduate students who want to be considered for the 2006 Quarterman-Keever Award should (1) be the sole or senior author on a poster presentation clearly dealing with an ecological topic and representing a completed research project, and (2) submit a copy of their abstract to both the 2006 ASB Program Chair, Dr. Jake Weltzin, University of Tennessee (jweltzin@utk.edu) and the Quarterman-Keever Committee Chair, Dr. Frank Gilliam (gilliam@marshall.edu), Marshall University, by 18 November 2005.

Eugene P. Odum Award

Undergraduate and graduate students are eligible for the Odum Award; the student must be the sole or senior author on a paper presentation clearly dealing with an ecological topic and representing a completed research project. Students who wish to be considered for the 2006 Odum Award must submit a copy of their abstract to both the 2006 ASB Program Chair, Dr. Jake Weltzin, University of Tennessee <jweltzin@utk.edu> and the Odum Committee Chair, Dr. Nicole Turrill Welch <nwelch@mtsu.edu>, Middle Tennessee State University, by 18 November 2005.

Keeping in touch

Check the Chapter Home page:
<<http://www.auburn.edu/seesa/>>
for updates and additional information. To join the Southeastern Chapter of ESA 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: <nwelch@mtsu.edu> for inclusion in the next quarterly newsletter.

Chapter officers

Chair: James Luken (2004–2006)

<JoLuken@coastal.edu>

Vice-Chair: Neil Billington (2005–2007)

<askdrb@troy.edu>

Secretary/Treasurer: Nicole Turrill Welch (2004–2006) <nwelch@mtsu.edu>

Web-Master: Mark Mackenzie

<mackenzi@forestry.auburn.edu>

Chapter Home page:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Turrill Welch
Secretary/Treasurer
E-mail: nwelch@mtsu.edu