

Minutes of the Mississippi Entomological Association business meeting, October 26, 2006.

President Angus Catchot opened the meeting at 11:00. There were 37 members in attendance. Minutes for the previous business meeting and all executive committee meetings throughout the year were distributed for review. After brief discussion, Mike Williams motioned that the minutes be accepted. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous vote.

Committee reports were then requested as follows:

Local Arrangements – Kathy Knighten was absent at this time but her work was briefly discussed.

Hospitality Committee – Chip Graham was absent but provided a report. Sponsors for the industry-supported dinner were Monsanto, Bayer CropScience, Valent and Syngenta companies.

The Legislative Committee – Harry Fulton provided Clarence Collison with a copy of his report and requested that he make the presentation. He listed legislation concerning invasive species and herbicide drift.

Scholarship Committee – Blake Layton indicated that eight students had applied for scholarships, and that all eight received one. (As announced later, recipients were: Cheri Abraham – Wilson Scholarship [\$700]; Daniel Fleming – Harris Scholarship [\$1000]; Rajesh Garlapati – Harris Scholarship [\$1000]; Edda Martinez – Harris Scholarship [\$1000]; Mario Jaco – H. C. Mitchell Scholarship [\$1000]; Murali Ayyanth – MEA Scholarship [\$1000]; Sergio Pichardo – Harris Scholarship [\$1000].

Student Involvement Committee – Julie Dobbs reported that letters and invitations had been sent to appropriate individuals at Mississippi universities as well as universities in neighboring states.

Nominations Committee – Jeff Gore presented the names for consideration for officers and directors for the upcoming year. These are: President - James T. Vogt; Vice President - Ryan Jackson; Executive Vice President - Clarence Collison; Secretary - Jack Reed; Treasurer – Fred Musser; Directors - Jeff Gore, Jian Chen, Jim Robbins and David Held.

Research and Education Committee – Joe Mulrooney indicated prior to the meeting that he would be absent and that his committee had nothing to report.

Historical Committee – Not reported.

Membership and Rules Committee – Not reported.

Awards Committee – Dennis Reginelli was absent but reported that one award was to be presented. (Clarence Colison was presented with the MEA distinguished service award).

Following presentation of the committee reports, Mike Williams motioned that the reports be accepted as presented, Blake Layton seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

Mike Williams was then asked to give the treasurer's report. Mike indicated that this was his swan-song and that he would no longer serve as treasurer. Approximately \$6,500 are expended annually by the association, the majority of which is for scholarships and awards. He indicated that about 65 people had pre-registered and that somewhat less than \$50.00 was received for the scholarship fund, and that \$150.00 had been received for the 4-H fund. He said that he had changed banks from Cadence to Amsouth to receive more interest on the 4-H CD of \$20,000.00. A motion by Fred Musser to approve the treasurer's report was seconded and the motion was approved.

The discussion then turned to old business. Chris Peterson presented a PowerPoint presentation concerning the proposed electronic journal to be sponsored by the MEA and the Dept. of Entomology and Plant Pathology. Discussion included fees for non-MEA members, frequency of publication, abstract indexing possibilities, peer review, sections without peer review, inclusion of color figures and video clips, and other considerations. The need for creating the journal and a publications committee were discussed. A motion was made by Jack Reed to

simultaneously create the journal and a publications committee. This was seconded by Jim Robbins and the motion was unanimously approved.

President Catchot then called for consideration of new business. He introduced the problem of making the fall meeting more attractive for members. Video conferencing with speakers at different sites was suggested. Richard Brown indicated that we did not need to be locked into fall meetings, and that a portion of the elementary and high school faculty might be more inclined to meet in the spring after state testing has been concluded. He suggested awards for outstanding use of insects in the classroom, and also suggested contacting master gardener and naturalist groups. J. T. Vogt suggested turning this idea over to the Research and Education Committee for consideration. Tim Mentzel commented that a Mid-South Entomological Conference might be sponsored by the MEA. Homer Wilson suggested that the coverage of entomology at the fall meeting needs to be much more general. On the other hand, Jimmy Etheridge suggested that we could have more success by approaching specific Mississippi situations. It was also suggested that we look at the agenda of those that we are trying to influence. John Guyton commented on the adult bug camps and their success.

Following this discussion, Clarence Collison was asked to bless the food for the luncheon and the meeting was adjourned.

Images from Chris Peterson's presentation concerning the Journal are appended.

## **Mid South Entomologist**

An On-line Publication of the  
Mississippi Entomological Association  
&  
Mississippi State University  
Department of Entomology & Plant Pathology

## **Journal Overview**

Four Journal Sections:

- Research Articles
- Reports
- Abstracts
- Special Features

## **Research Articles**

- Peer reviewed
- Primary scientific research of interest to scientists in the Mid South
  - Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas and Louisiana
- Articles provided with editor summaries

## **Reports**

- Non-peer reviewed
- Efficacy trials, case studies, un-replicated observations
- Reports of k – 12 science projects may be included

## **Abstracts**

- Abstracts of work presented at MEA meetings
  - will increase the visibility of and interest in the meetings

## **Special Features**

- Adds a bit of fun
- Editorial pieces, artwork, book reviews, and other material (even poetry and short fiction) can be included
- This will broaden the appeal of our Journal and of the MEA

**True Open Access**

- Free to read for all
- Free to publish for MEA members
  - Non-MEA authors will be charged a publication fee equal to one-year's membership

**Expected Costs are Low**

- Secretarial help
- Archiving
- Website hosting
  - provided by the Entomology and Plant Pathology Department

**Pros**

- Provide service to members
- Increase visibility, appeal and stature of the MEA
- Low cost
- Regional focus provides targeted outlet
- Encourages participation by new sector of entomologists
  - Hobby, educators, etc.

**Cons**

- Adds more <sup>new</sup> people to organization in period of declining membership and participation
- Scholarly aspects – research papers may not be "best" quality

**Next Steps**

- Establish MEA Publications Committee
  - Determine duties, responsibilities and composition of Pub. Committee and Editorial Board
  - Establish Journal Guidelines (scope, format, info to authors, etc)
  - Determine issues of copyright, trademark, etc.
  - Name an Editor, webmaster, etc
  - Assemble pool of Associate Editors and reviewers
- Working models already in development

**Timeline**

- **November 2006**
  - Establish Publications Committee
- **January 2007**
  - Form Editorial Board
- **February/March 2007**
  - Begin solicitation of manuscripts
- **February – November 2007**
  - Receive, review and edit submitted manuscripts
- **November 2007**
  - Prepare accepted articles for publication
- **January 2008**
  - Launch inaugural issue!