



Plant-Insect Ecosystems Section

AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER

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Message from the President



The P-IE Governing Council has been meeting monthly to discuss various Section matters and plan activities. The P-IE representatives for some of the ESA committees have also participated in the July meeting and shared the committee updates. I encourage the rest of the committee representatives to stay engaged with the Governing Council.

We are happy to share that the arthropod illustration workshop *Camp Sketchapod* that P-IE supported was a great success. The Invasive Species field tour in Florida, supported by P-IE as a Wildly Important Goal, will be held in September. Invasive species are a growing threat with the global trade and travel and climate change among many other factors. This will be a very interesting event and we encourage those of you in and near Florida to attend.

There are several updates and announcements in this newsletter and thanks to all the contributors. Please continue to share your research highlights, job announcements, education and outreach activities, professional accomplishments, and other P-IE relevant items for the newsletter. Congratulations to all the P-IE award winners and thanks to all the contestants and their nominators!

Surendra Dara

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Congratulations award winners!

Undergraduate Student Achievement in Entomology Award	Eleanor Meys University of Minnesota
Kenneth and Barbara Starks Plant Resistance to Insects Graduate Student Award	Hailey Shanovich University of Minnesota
Master's Student Achievement in Entomology Award	Gloria Melotto University of Minnesota
Integrated Pest Management Team Award	Sustainable SWD Management Team University of Georgia
Lifetime Achievement Award in Entomology	Yves Carrière University of Arizona



What's going on in P-IE?

Committee updates from P-IE representatives

ESA Education and Outreach Committee

Hello! I'm Gwen Pearson, the current P-IE representative on the ESA Education and Outreach (E&O) Committee. The E&O Committee has many different charges; here's some of what we are working on this year.

The Chrysalis Fund awards small (\$500-\$2500) grants in support of school and educational programs each year. We received 76 number of applicants and are beginning the judging process to announce award winners in September. The Chrysalis Fund is supported by tax-deductible donations. P-IE has donated in support of the Fund, and several ESA journal editors donate their stipends. We are grateful for everyone's support, which allows us to fund more teachers.

The Lesson Hive project is a website for inventory and review of insect and arthropod-related lesson plans and curricula. We received a small grant to support two OSU undergraduates to help with data entry this summer. We hope to have over 300 lessons collected and organized by the Annual Meeting. Look for a progress report from me in the P-IE on-demand presentations in November 2023.

Do you have an arthropod lesson you'd like included in the database? Submit it here: <https://lessonhive.org/submit-a-new-resource/>

Annual Meeting: The E&O Committee will be conducting a workshop this year to allow more active participation. The topic is social media, since major changes occurred in the last year -- many extension folks are now barred from using TikTok, for example. X (formally known as Twitter) with Elon Musk at the helm turned out to be far, far worse than anyone imagined. One of the Committee's charges this year was to broaden science communication about entomology, and we thought a hands-on tips/tricks/brainstorming session might be most useful to members.

Workshop Title: "*YouSocial: Picking the Right Platform to Keep Your Influence Relevant.*" Organizers: *Kristie Reddick and David Serrano*

The FIT (Formal & Informal Teaching) section proposal was reviewed by the Governing Board. They agreed that there was a gap between the current structure/programming of ESA and the professional needs of educators. They formed a task force to review the information presented and we should have some updates by year's end.

Gwen Pearson

PIE Education and Outreach Rep, Lesson Hive Project Manager
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Student Affairs Committee

Hello fellow P-IE members!

I hope your summer has been enjoyable and that field season has been treating you well. My name is William Jacob Pitt, and I'm the P-IE representative to the student affairs committee (SAC) for ESA. The SAC has been working on activities for the annual meeting coming up in National Harbor, MD this November (woohoo!), and I want to provide a brief update on just a couple of items that have been in the works.

The debates this year will involve some exciting topics, where students will debate 1) whether the use of AI in scientific writing should be disclosed and 2) if honey-bee or native pollinator health is more important for long-term food security. Additionally, the SAC is organizing a symposium focused on managing invasive species to reduce impacts on food security. The symposium will host a diversity of speakers presenting on topics such as population modelling, risk assessment, and novel integrated pest management methods. When it becomes available, make sure to check the program schedule for further information on these events, you won't want to miss them!

If you want to stay in touch with the SAC, make sure to check out the new twitter account (@EntoStudents). Also, if you have any questions or suggestions for the SAC, please don't hesitate to reach out to me (William.Pitt@wsu.edu)

Have a great rest of the summer!

William Jacob Pitt
William.Pitt@wsu.edu

ESA Science Policy Committee

EPA updates provided by Silvana Paula Moraes, paula.moraes@ufl.edu

[EPA Seeks Nominations for Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee](#)

The Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee provides input to ESA on various policies, programs, and regulatory issues related to pesticides. The committee represents a diverse cross-section of stakeholders, including individuals from academia, industry, government, and other interest groups, and is currently seeking new members. [Nominations](#) must be submitted electronically by August 10 with the subject line "PPDC Membership 2023"

to chang.jeffrey@epa.gov. [HERE](#)

[EPA Announces New Interactive Maps of Data Used in Endangered Species Act Assessments](#) The EPA has released new, interactive [maps](#) of data used in the Endangered Species Act (ESA) assessments for pesticides. Advances in GIS technology made possible the release of the maps and they will be useful for federal, state, and local governments, tribal partners, environmental organizations, and pesticide registrants who want to conduct their own endangered species analysis. The maps now enable field and access data in real-time.

Monica Farfan – P-IE Representative, Monica.Farfan@colostate.edu

Nominations for ESA P-IE Section Committees

The ESA P-IE Section is accepting nominations from members for the P-IE Awards Committee and the P-IE Nominations Committee.

One member from a government agency and one member from academia are needed to serve on the P-IE Awards Committee. Each member has a term of 2 years. The most important activity of this committee is evaluation of nominations and voting to select winners of student and professional awards in June and July of each year.

A member of the Southeastern Branch is needed to serve on the P-IE Nominations Committee. The members from the Branches have 3-year terms. The most important activity of this committee is encouraging nominations for P-IE awards and General Council positions, especially in April and May of each year. Members can nominate themselves or propose a nominee. Please send names of nominees and a 50-100-word statement indicating your interest for the position to Cesar Rodriguez-Saona (ESA P-IE, Vice President) at crodriguez@njaes.rutgers.edu

Seeking volunteers and participants for the P-IE EntoOlympics

The EntoOlympics are back! This is a light-hearted competition in which you and a team of your choosing compete against others in tests of entomological skill! This includes things like speed bug dorm assembly, insect pinning, visual counts, and more! If you are interested in competing, volunteering, or just have ideas or feedback in general, please fill out the google form below! All career stages are welcome, but participants must be P-IE members.

Please fill out the following google form if interested in this event: <https://forms.gle/nHvWiTbtg4N7Z1hK7> "

Invasive Species Field Tour

September 12 – 14, 2023 | Orlando, Florida

Join us for this year's Invasive Species Field Tour where attendees will learn about several different invasive pests affecting natural and managed landscapes in the southern U.S., including forest pests, agricultural pests, and pests in urban and suburban areas. Speakers will include experts from entomology and pathology who are focused on both research and management, discussing how these pests arrived, what we are trying to do about them, and what the future holds in terms of invasive species pest detection and management. Registration link and additional details at: <https://entsoc.org/membership/sections/pie/initiatives/field-tour>

Call for Pollinator Submissions!

ESA's flagship journal, *Annals of the Entomological Society of America*, is interested in receiving submissions that can further the P-IE section goal of becoming "the lead national expert organization for the dissemination of knowledge on pollinators to the general public, media, and policymakers." The *Annals* is ranked in the top quartile of entomology journals, based on impact factor. It publishes original research articles, short essays, reviews, and opinion pieces that are of interest to multiple sectors of entomology. Through various media outlets, ESA journal staff also work to ensure that an author's work reaches the audience it deserves, including the general public, media, and policymakers. Do you have an article for the *Annals*? Visit the [Annals homepage](#) for more information or contact the *Annals* Editor-in-Chief, David Onstad (annals.editor.onstad@gmail.com).

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“Camp Sketchapod”

At our first Camp Sketchapod, our team welcomed 17 attendees. On our first day held at Kansas State University (K-State) Department of Entomology’s Waters Hall, our campers received all the art supplies (watercolor paint set, sketchbook, micron pens, etc.) they would need as well as fun Camp Sketchapod swag (shirt, bandana, hat, etc.). Our instructors, Jacki Whisenant and Hailey Shanovich, established a basic understanding of scientific illustration including its history and importance. Afterward, campers began sketch exercises and their initial sketch which they would build upon throughout the workshop. Together, our instructors created a welcoming space that encouraged embracing the process, understanding the strengths of illustration, and inquiring about our illustrations’ purpose.

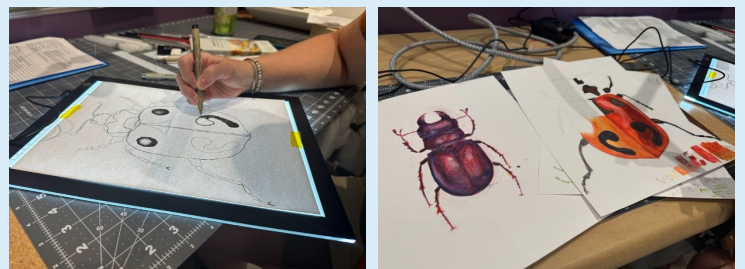
The next day, campers split up into two tracks: digital and traditional skills, and worked inside K-State Hale Library’s Sunderland Foundation Innovation Lab. For those wanting to learn digital skills, the newly renovated and state-of-the-art facility lent campers hardware such as Macs and iPads. To further remove barriers, the facility also pre-installed industry-standard software Adobe Suite, Gimp, and Procreate giving our students a full learning experience without needing to purchase tech or software before coming to the event. For those wanting to learn traditional art skills, Whisenant guided campers to experiment with a variety of materials such as micron pens, colored pencils, and watercolor paint. While demonstrating different techniques, Whisenant passed down handy tips he’s accrued in his experience for saving time and achieving a professional aesthetic. For both tracks, attendees received on-demand feedback and tips as they worked through their illustration projects.

On the last day, attendees received an exclusive bus tour of the Prairie Biological Station. Because the Konza Prairie includes the largest remaining areas of unplowed tallgrass prairie in North America, attendees sketched inside a diverse ecosystem filled with wildlife found only in Kansas. As we drove around the prairie, guest art instructors from K-State’s Department of Art, Kevin Bernstein, Nancy Morrow, and Troy Colby,

prompted everyone to jot down ideas and sketches which they would use to build up an illustrative representation of the Konza Prairie. After the tour, the guest art instructors exposed campers to cyanotype printing, transforming Xerox images into art, and exploring atomizing watercolor paintings to express ideas such as memories or sound.

While attendees learned extensive hands-on traditional and digital creative skills, they also enjoyed what makes Manhattan, KS a one-of-a-kind location for an arthropod scientific illustration workshop. Thanks to Hale Library’s Special Collections and Archive, we viewed original C.V. Riley prints as well as dozens of incredibly detailed, original pen-and-ink habitus drawings for an identification manual, *Insects in Kansas* (1943). To welcome our campers, K-State’s Popenoe Entomology Club hosted a special barbecue dinner social to foster connection and community for our campers some traveled from New York and California! Additionally, our group visited the K-State Insect Zoo and observed a variety of arthropods including a leaf cutter colony breaking down leaves, an inside look at honeybees tending to their hive, and more. Team Sketchapod plans on having another Camp Sketchapod next year in 2024! Visit sketchapod.com or reach out to co-organizer Erin Hodgson directly for more information.

Erin Hodgson
ewh@iastate.edu



Traditional track attendee using a lightbox to trace and stipple illustration of a ladybug. Traditional track illustrations using mixed media of colored pencils and watercolor paint. Photos by Crystal Ly (cly@ksu.edu)