



Plant-Insect Ecosystems Section

APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

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Make your voice heard: Please take our needs survey!!

As explained over the last couple newsletters, we are ending the "P-IE Pollinator Committee" to be reformed into a new committee which will be charged with outlining integrative tools and communications strategies that aid in meeting our new Wildly Important Goal. However, we would need to [hear from you!](#) We have created a *very short anonymous feedback form that you can use to provide us with your thoughts* [here](#). We look forward to receiving comments and insights from our membership!

- J. Bradshaw, president

2020 P-IE Section Symposia announced

The following Section symposia were selected for inclusion in the annual meeting program. Plan to attend ESA 2020 in Orlando and participate in sharing and learning with your P-IE colleagues.

TITLE	ORGANIZERS
"It's Going Down for Real" Ecological Interactions in the Soil	Anjel Helms, Loren Rivera-Vega, Swayamjit Ray
Addressing a Significant Food Security Threat: <i>Spodoptera frugiperda</i> Invasion in Africa, Asia and Australia	Boris A. Castro, Fikru Haile, Rodney Nagoshi, Marlin Rice
Designing ecosystems for insects, humans and other species of interest	Jarrad R. Prasifka
Drosophila Interactions for All — from Endosymbionts to Ecosystems	Kelly A. Hamby, Jana Collatz
Early career professionals promoting biological control in a changing world	Cesar Rodriguez-Saona, Sara Hermann
Entomology in Urban Agriculture: Growing Food for All	Laura L. Ingwell, Warren Sconiers
Entomology of Cannabis sativa: Insect Science and Pest Management in a Burgeoning Industry	Jonathan A. Cale, Katelyn Kesheimer, Kadie Britt
Forentomics: Linking bark beetle biology and management with advances in molecular biology and genomics	Fredrik Schlyter, Lynne K. Rieske-Kinney, Amit Roy

2020 P-IE Section Symposia announced cont.

TITLE	ORGANIZERS
Fundamental Biology to Practical Management of Ambrosia Beetles in Horticultural Tree Agroecosystems	<i>Angelita Acebes-Doria, Christopher Range</i>
Insect Pests and Beneficial Arthropods in Climate-Change-Resilient Diversified Cropping Systems	<i>Subodh Adhikari, Jessica Kalin, Dane Elmquist, Sanford Eigenbrode</i>
Memorial Symposium: Dr. Peter Landolt	<i>Megan Asche, Robert Meagher</i>
Research Advancing Pollinator Conservation On Utility Lands	<i>Ashley Bennett, Claire Ike, Geoffrey Williams</i>
We Stink Too! Brown Marmorated Stink Bug Research from Early Career Professionals	<i>Joe M. Kaser, John Pote</i>
What's the Buzz? Highlighting Native Bees	<i>Beth E. Ferguson, Mary-Kate F. Williams, Tien Lindsay</i>

Volunteer to serve on the P-IE governing council!

The following positions are available within the P-IE section:

- P-IE Governing Council, VP Elect (4-year term), starting November 2020
- P-IE Governing Council, Treasurer (3-year term), starting September 2020
- P-IE Governing Council, Student representative to P-IE (2-year term), starting November 2020

June 1, 2020 is the deadline to submit nominations, or nominate yourself. Descriptions of role expectation and primary duties are [available online](#). Please visit the [nomination submission form](#) or contact David Onstad with your interest in running for one of these P-IE positions. Candidates must be current members at the time of election.

P-IE Awards Deadlines for Nominations

We have pushed back our awards this year to try to accommodate any COVID-19 related complications. Upcoming P-IE awards nomination deadlines. Visit the ESA Awards webpage for more information: <https://www.entsoc.org/about/awards-honors>

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| June 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undergraduate Student Achievement in Entomology Award• Kenneth and Barbara Starks Plant Resistance to Insects Graduate Student Award• Master's Student Achievement in Entomology Award |
| July 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lifetime Achievement Award in Entomology• Recognition Award in Entomology• Integrated Pest Management Team Award |

Second Annual P-IE "Speed Networking" Event

Last year P-IE hosted a networking event as an additional activity within our P-IE Networking Session. During the event, 12 registered students and Early Career Professionals had the chance to meet 1-on-1 with several veteran ESA members who are employed by three employment categories in attendance: government, industry, and academia. Due to the overwhelming positive feedback we received from the attendees, we are pleased to announce that the event will be held again at the national ESA meeting being held in Orlando this year. This is a great opportunity for new ESA student/ECP members to expand their network and explore traditional and nontraditional career paths. **Students and ECPs interested in participating in this event should email Nick Larson (nicholas.larson@usda.gov) to register. Space is limited, so send in your interest to attend this event ASAP.**

Science Policy Activity Postponed

With the current uncertainties around travel restrictions and concerns for public health and safety, the Orlando Invasive Species Science Policy tour currently scheduled for November 2020 will be postponed to September 2021. In the meantime, we are working to ensure the variety of learning and engagement opportunities will remain the same! Have an idea for a great science policy activity for 2021? Contact Tom Anderson (tom@entoniche.com) or Johanna Elsensohn (jeelsens@ncsu.edu) for feedback and next steps. While location-based tours have been a popular format, we are interested in other ways of interacting as well - workshops, virtual tours, or other types of visits related to entomology issues. We would love to hear from you!

Branch Virtual Events

We hope you all took advantage or will take advantage of the various Branch virtual events offered in 2020:

April 20, 9:00 AM Pacific	Pacific Branch Virtual Business Meeting
April 20-24	Joint North Central & Southwestern Branch Virtual Student Competition
April 27-29	International Branch Virtual Symposium
April 30, 2:00 PM Central	Southwestern Branch Virtual Business Meeting

Member News



Since the nationwide stay-at-home order, many departments have implemented unique ways to practice social distancing while remaining digitally close with their community. The Department of Entomology at University of Minnesota is no exception. The department has moved their weekly coffee hours to a virtual platform. Faculty, staff, and students zoom in every Wednesday over a cup of their beverage (caffeinated or non) and engage with each other. Guest visits from kids and pets are welcomed and showing off insect themed household items is encouraged. The participant with the best insect-themed mug wins bragging rights. Pictured are members from the department from a virtual coffee hour.

The Biology Department at Utah State University held a virtual Town Hall meeting for all employees (faculty, staff, and students). There were 62 participants in one WebEx meeting! With the deft assistance of several meeting hosts, it was a success with keeping microphones muted to avoid feedback. Department Head Diane Alston provided a 'state of the university and department' update and fielded questions (submitted ahead of time and via the meeting chat box). It was an effective format to allow the department community to gather virtually and experience a social connection, and for

members to receive reassurance of strong support to move forward with teaching, research, and extension despite COVID-19 impacts.

Your P-IE Governing Council feels our newsletter is an important form to share plaudits, praise, and accomplishments among our members as well as honoring our members who have passed. It probably goes without saying that all of our daily lives have taken on new priorities and habits as of late. Now would be an especially helpful time to share positive news from our members. Please contact Diane Alston (diane.alston@usu.edu) or Anh Tran (aktran@umn.edu).



Left to Right: Hilary Strander (M.I.A.), Anh Tran, Elaine Evans, Christina Herron-Sweet, Roger Moon, Sujaya Rao, Lina Thiel