



Plant-Insect Ecosystems Section

AUGUST 2020 NEWSLETTER

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The Entomology Games and other reasons to attend the ESA Annual Meeting in November!

The word “challenging” has perhaps become cliché in 2020 and for many of us it may not adequately describe all of the emotions and reflections that we will have by the time our now virtual ESA Annual Meeting moves online first with on-demand content beginning on November 11th and then continuing with live streaming events starting on November 16th. I hope you all plan to join me in submitting content for our meeting and note that the deadline is [August 31st for submissions](#). While I will certainly miss the random conversations with colleagues and friends this year, I am excited to learn how to develop new modes of communicating our science. We are also looking forward to a new online “Entomology Games” a well-loved event that will “continue ESA’s traditions of fun, competition, and school pride.”

More central to the P-IE Section, we will be working hard in August to plan out the P-IE Networking and Awards Celebration to take place this November. Remember that there are ample opportunities to help your Section and ESA by volunteering as [judge, moderator, or chat hosts this year!](#)

Submit Proposals for 2021 Science Policy Events

It’s not too early to think about organizing a science policy field tour, workshop or other activity for 2022. Our 2020 tour was postponed for 2021 due to Covid-19. However, we would like to provide members the opportunity to start planning now! These can be collaborative events that promote learning and engagement in timely topics that challenge the plant-insect ecosystem science arena. **The deadline for 2022 proposals is December 31.** The P-IE Tour Oversight Committee composed of Johanna Elsensohn and Tom Anderson are excited to assist with event ideas and proposals. Contact Johanna (jeelsens@ncsu.edu) and Tom (tom@entoniche.com) with questions and for feedback on event ideas. Science policy activity guidelines, and example budgets and stakeholder invitation letters are posted on the [P-IE Tour Resources](#) webpage. Start brainstorming now on ideas for novel and engaging science policy educational events for 2022. Submit your proposals to Jeff Bradshaw (jbradshaw2@unl.edu).

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 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.**

Due to Covid-19 this event will be held as a virtual networking session. This will likely increase the number of available spots for attendees, however you are encouraged to RSVP for this ASAP. The organizers are paying close attention to what is being suggested for the upcoming annual meeting and will continue to update the information regarding this event as it becomes available.

Take the WIGs survey We want to hear from you!

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 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](#). As has been repeatedly demonstrated by our science policy tours and activities, P-IE members have the creativity and capability to engage society in meaningful, lasting ways. The P-IE Governing Council is keen to hear your “wild” idea and we are here to help facilitate your idea through financial assistance, through our experienced Science Policy Event Oversight Committee (see call for nominations below), and possibly through other member-based action committees as determined through our WIGs survey. Let us know what you would like to see P-IE achieve and what you would be willing to help contribute toward that achievement!! Make sure YOUR good ideas are represented and complete the 2-question [SURVEY](#) today!!

Nominations Requested for P-IE Science Policy Event Oversight Committee (2-year term)

To facilitate communication with and oversight by ESA staff and the P-IE Governing Council and to improve efficiency of preparation for annual events (tours or workshops), the P-IE Science-Policy Event Committee was formed in 2019. This two-person committee assists the organizers of new events. The P-IE GC requests brief applications from P-IE members with experience running public events and knowledge of science policy. P-IE members who are alumni of the ESA’s Science Policy Fellow program are encouraged to apply. The two-year term starts at the end of the summer. The selected entomologist will become the chairperson in the second year. The chairperson is the primary person providing the oversight and assistance to the organizers. The committee works closely with the Treasurer of P-IE and with appropriate ESA staff. Each member of the committee will vote during the annual selection of event proposals by the GC.

Those interested in serving on this committee should submit a paragraph describing why you would like to serve and your experiences that would contribute to your effective oversight of events to David Onstad (dwonstad@gmail.com) by September 1.

P-IE Student Award Winners

Congratulations to our student award winners for 2020! We are currently developing plans for an online celebration of our award winners, more to come!

Undergraduate Student Achievement in Entomology Award

Chole Albin, Kansas State University (Rob Morrison and Jeff Whitworth, advisors)
Earl Agpawa, University of Nebraska (Joe Louis, advisor)

Kenneth and Barbara Stark's Plant Resistance to Insects Graduate Student Award

Sajjan Grover, University of Nebraska (Joe Louis, advisor)

Master's Student Achievement in Entomology Award

John Grunseich, Texas A&M University (Anjel Helms, advisor)

P-IE Professional Award Winners

PIE Lifetime Achievement Award in Entomology

Bruce Tabashnik, University of Arizona

PIE Recognition Award in Entomology

Melissa Siebert, Corteva

IPM Team Award

Team Project: Navel Orangeworm Mating Disruption Adoption Team

David Haviland, University of California IPM Program

Bradley Higbee, Trécé, INC.

Charles Burks, USDS-ARS Commodity Protection and Quality Research Unit, Parlier, CA

Jhalendra Rijal, University of California, Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program

Emily Symmes, Suterra, LLC.

Robert Curtis, Associate Director [former] of Agricultural Affairs for the Almond Board of California

Stephanie Rill, University of California, Cooperative Extension, Kern County, California

P-IE Early Career Professional Representative Update

During the July P-IE Governing Council meeting, the GC voted to extend the P-IE Early-Career Professional Representative from a 2-year, ECP-elected position to a 3-year, ECP-elected position on the Governing Council. This will allow the ECP rep to remain as a voting member on the P-IE GC while conforming to their 3-year tenure on the ECP Committee.



Entomologists of Color

Who We Are: Here at EntoPOC we aim to increase access to STEM education for POC

and BIPOC of all ages by providing them free student memberships to all professional entomological societies. We write to you today to ask for your cooperation in boosting such participation. Free memberships to professional societies (provided by EntoPOC) are available for students and we are now recruiting all interested applicants.

Our Mission: Access to education can create long-lasting and far-reaching effects to communities. Costs such as member-

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Member News CONT.



ship to scientific organizations present just one of many barriers to participation. Within the entomological field, we know that the numbers of POC graduate students is low, compared to the number of POC in the general population; for example, the NSF reports that of graduate students in entomology/parasitology, only 2.3% are Black, 4.8% are Hispanic/Latinx, and 0.17% are Pacific Islander (NSF Demographic Report). We strive to make entomology a more inclusive field by removing barriers to participation.

How Can You Help?

We write to you to ask for your cooperation in increasing participation of POC in scientific societies, specifically entomology.

1-Share-Thanks to an outpouring of support and contributions, EntoPOC has availability of funds to be utilized for free POC and BI-POC memberships. We are recruiting interested individuals to apply at this [link](#), via a quick and easy form, for a free membership to an entomological society of their choice.

2-Support- Currently, we have received sponsorship from 12+ entomological societies. Committing to sponsorship is free, all we need is your organization's name and logo to list on our website application page. This way, students know what options are available when selecting a membership to apply for, and we would love to



promote your organization!

3-Donate- If you would like to contribute further, all monetary donations can be made via our [gofundme](#) page. Other contributions, such as membership donations or vouchers, can be made by arrangement at entoP-OC@gmail.com.

We thank you for your consideration in providing valuable access to the resources and communities that create lifelong entomology-ophiles. If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to contact us or visit us at [entoPOC.org](#)!

Kind regards,
EntoPOC Team



Twitter: Entomologists of Color

Handle: @EntoPOC

Website: www.EntoPOC.org

A Summer Full of Zucchini Squash

Morgan Thompson, Texas A&M University

This summer, students in the Helms Lab at Texas A&M University conducted field experiments with zucchini plants and learned what many home gardeners already know, that these plants produce fruit quickly and abundantly! Throughout the season, we were able to donate our abundance of zucchini to students, faculty, and staff in the Entomology Depart-

ment, as well as a local food bank. A variety of zucchini-filled recipes were attempted by many students throughout the summer; zucchini bread is highly recommended, but zucchini wine is not! All in all, the early summer was filled with exciting investigations of plant-insect interactions, socially distanced science, and adventures in the kitchen, and we look forward to continuing this work in the future.

