



Plant-Insect Ecosystems Section

JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

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Reviewing our WIGs

Thinking about new beginnings

Welcome P-IE members to a new year! Over the next couple of newsletters, P-IE would like to begin a conversation about our goals as a section. In a future newsletter look for a link where you can provide structured feedback. For now, let's briefly review our goals.

According to the ESA By-laws, Sections are charged with developing and implementing, *key capabilities for their membership that result in: outreach related to science and public policy, program development, continuing education, and fostering interest in entomology.*

During 2015, a process of developing Section impacts for all ESA sections was initiated and facilitated by ESA to promote and implement key capabilities for their membership. After multiple sessions and discussion five years ago, P-IE settled on two "**wildly important goals**" or **WIG's**.

Those goals are as follows:

WIG #1; Enhance knowledge of P-IE members on pollinator protection through the development

and dissemination of technical educational materials, including videos, Power-Point modules, and a resource library.

WIG #2; By 2020, P-IE will become the lead national expert organization for the dissemination of knowledge on pollinators to the general public, media, and policy makers.

Well, here we are in 2020 and while our Section may not be *the lead national expert*, we should be very proud of the very real progress that P-IE has made. Our policy field tours and deliverables currently under development by the P-IE Pollinator Committee are significant action items toward our goals. In the next newsletter, we will highlight some results of our policy field tours and how we intend to implement the work that has been completed by our Pollinator Committee. In the mean time we urge our members to be thinking about future actionable goals.

- J. Bradshaw, president

P-IE Section Symposia Selection Criteria for 2020 ESA Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL

Theme: Entomology for All

The Plant-Insect Ecosystems Section encourages all members to consider submission of a Section Symposium proposal. Due to program constraints, there will be a limit on the number of proposals accepted. The P-IE Governing Council will use the following guidelines to evaluate the submissions. High-ranking symposia not selected as Section Symposia may be recommended as Member Symposia. Consider the following before submission:

- At least one of the organizers must be a P-IE member at the time of submission.
- Successful symposia submissions should relate to the meeting's theme, "Entomology for All". Example topics include communication, policy, societal benefits from entomology, and others.
- We encourage organizers to be innovative, wildly creative, and thoughtful in proposing sessions that are engaging and visionary. Proposals that cover a diversity of topics, such as concepts, disciplines, ecosystems, taxa and others, are highly encouraged.
- Proposals are strongly encouraged that include collaborations and feature speakers from a variety of backgrounds and geographic regions (including gender, ethnicity, career stage, and organization/affiliation), reflecting the diversity of our members. Submitters should indicate how they have made an effort to ensure their proposal is inclusive and representative of the diverse P-IE membership.
- Clearly define symposia objective(s), statement of purpose, speakers, and presentation topics.
- Symposia proposals must provide an indication of speaker confirmation, and not just an 'idea list.'

[Online Section Symposia Application](#)

Section and Member Symposia applications are due **February 28th**. For questions about the application process, contact Becky Anthony (banthony@entsoc.org). Find past section symposia for the [2019 Joint Annual Meeting](#).

New Committee Appointments

The Governing Council has appointed several P-IE members to committees (below). We are also looking for someone from the SW Branch of the ESA to replace Anjel Helms, who is now Secretary of P-IE Section. If you would like to volunteer to finish her term which ends in late 2021, please email David Onstad (dwonstad@gmail.com) with a short description of your position and your ESA activities.

- **Jacqueline Serrano**, Postdoctoral Research Associate at the USDA-ARS Temperate Tree Fruit and Vegetable Research Unit, was appointed to the ESA Diversity and Inclusion Committee.
- **Scott Bundy**, Professor and Director of the New Mexico State University Arthropod Collection, was appointed to the ESA Committee on Linnean Games.
- **Patrick Moran**, Research Entomologist at the USDA-ARS Invasive Species and Pollinator Health Research Unit, was appointed to the P-IE Awards Committee.
- **Katelyn Kesheimer**, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist at Auburn University, was appointed to the P-IE Nominations Committee.

Thanks to these and other members who volunteer to help!

Science Policy Tour Update

The 2020 Science Policy Tour will take place immediately following the annual ESA meeting in and around Orlando, FL, from November 18-20. This tour is focused on the impacts from invasive species - pest issues included on the tour will be laurel wilt, invasive citrus pests, fire ants, airport security, and a few others. Be on the lookout for more updates in the next newsletter as well as information about how to apply to be a part of this tour.

Member News



Jose Miguel Garcia Pena – Successful Dissertation Defense

On December 9, 2019, P-IE member Jose Miguel Garcia Pena at University of Puerto Rico, Intercampus Doctoral Program, successfully presented his Doctoral Dissertation, “Influence of Climatic Variables and Biological Control Agents (Nematodes) on the Distribution and Survival of the Coffee Berry Borer, *Hypothenemus hampei*, in Puerto Rico.” Jose’s work was part of collaborative effort among the USDA and both Universities of Hawaii and Puerto Rico dealing with coffee-growing challenges. Congratulations, Dr. Jose Miguel Garcia Pena!



The committee members (from left - right): Dr. William Gould, Jose Miguel Garcia, Dr. Alberto Sabat, Dr. Miguel Acevedo (video), Dr. Jose Carlos Verle Rodrigues (Advisor) and Dr. Paul Bayman.

Passing of Gary D. Thompson, long-time P-IE member



Dr. Gary Dale Thompson, retired Research Fellow at Dow AgroSciences, past president of the Plant-Insect Ecosystems (P-IE) Section, and life-long innovator, passed away at age 66 in Omaha, AR, on December 31, 2019. He fought a courageous battle with cancer.

Gary received his B.S. in Zoology from the University of Arkansas. His start in entomology began with mosquito abatement research in Dr. M.V. Meisch’s lab. He pursued his M.S. degree, and became enamored with Integrated Pest Management, influenced by the early innovators in IPM at the University of Arkansas, including C. Lincoln, J. Phillips, P. Tugwell, and D. Isley. Gary was inspired to pursue development of IPM strategies to assist cattle fever tick eradication at Texas A&M University.

Gary worked in the pest management industry, first for Elanco (Eli Lilly and Company), then DowElanco Research, and finally Dow AgroSciences. He worked on numerous projects throughout his career, including the development of miticides, natural products, such as spinosad, and genetically modified seeds and plant traits. Gary was a leader in incorporating Insecticide Resistance Management into product development, and served as a member and chair of the Insecticide Resistance Action Committee U.S. and International. He was an early promoter of including mode of action classifications on pesticide labels.

Gary was an active member of the Entomological Society of America, at both the branch and annual meetings. He served as President of the Plant-Insect Ecosystem Section in 2013. Under his leadership, the Lifetime Achievement Award was launched, promoting the advancement of entomology and mentorship. Gary will be sorely missed by family and friends. His professionalism, respect for others, and commitment to scientific excellence encapsulate his legacy to the entomological community.