



NEWSLETTER International Society of Hymenopterists December 2004

President's Report

I feel extremely honoured to have been elected as your President and hope that your confidence in me will be warranted. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read of some of the plans we have, some of the changes we feel are necessary, and some of the opportunities which await.

As we all know, the Hymenoptera are the most wonderful, interesting and important animals, and they deserve to have many dedicated people studying them. That is where the Society comes in. Not only do we provide a high-quality journal for the publication of studies on our beasts, have dedicated conferences every four years or so to share our excitement, and provide a useful website (have you visited it at <http://hymenoptera.tamu.edu/ish/> lately?), but we manage to support the membership of people who would not otherwise be able to afford it (through the sponsorship programme), recognise exceptional contributions to research on Hymenoptera through the Research Medal, and aim to encourage the next generation by providing special student support in various ways. (How's that for a complex sentence?) With all of this in mind, and despite the fact that the Society's finances are reasonably sound although fees have not been increased for several years, a decision was taken at the Annual Business Meeting in Brisbane to institute regular modest fee increases (rather than intermittent large ones) with the prime aim of building the Society's endowments. This will enable us to give better effect to the above laudable aims. So I hope that you will all recognise that if the Society is to move forward and be in a position to provide for special activities, student scholarship awards or even small grants for projects that would not otherwise be funded, we need to build our funds. Please pay your fees promptly and encourage colleagues who are not yet members to join. Also, if you can spare an extra contribution to support membership for those who can't afford it themselves, please do so, and/or contribute something extra to the endowment fund. The camaraderie fostered by the Society is invaluable for the development of hymenopterology, and your contributions can make a big difference.

It is worth mentioning here that we are further developing electronic means of communicating, managing membership and subscription payments. In particular, I would like to see the website developed and expanded to meet our needs better. This will require some additional expenditure, but we feel that the improvements it will bring will more than justify this. Please provide feedback, positive or negative, to any members of the Executive relating to these developments. Also, a society is only as effective as its members make it, so your participation and suggestions are particularly important – please keep them coming.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the 'retiring' members of the Executive team for their many years of dedicated service, and to welcome the newcomers. I will rely heavily on their assistance in taking the Society forward, and know that they will come up trumps.

Denis Brothers, President

6th International Congress of Hymenopterists, South Africa, 2006

After much investigation and consultation, it has been decided that the next congress will be held at Sun City Cabanas, Northwest Province, South Africa. Previous feedback has indicated that many people would prefer it to be during the southern summer to facilitate collecting, and the second half of January is the most convenient time from the organisers' perspective. Three full meeting days are planned and delegates will easily be able to extend their stay at this top-class resort should they so wish. Possible dates for the meeting are during the weeks starting 15th or 22nd January and we'd very much appreciate prompt feedback on which of these dates people would prefer.

SUN CITY is some distance WNW from Johannesburg and only about a 20-minute drive from the Pilanesberg National Park where all the big-and-hairies can be seen. It is a high-class resort with many attractions, both artificial and natural (see <http://sun-city-south-africa.go2africa.com/> and others of the 355000 Google hits for "Sun City" and "South Africa"). It will provide many entertaining opportunities for families, so bringing the significant others along will be great. One of its great advantages from our perspective is the fact that it is fully set up for conferences, minimizing the work required of our busy organizing committee of two, and enabling us to concentrate on the scientific side of things. We are certain that everyone will enjoy the facilities and the environment.

The anticipated registration fee, which will include accommodation for four nights, breakfasts, lunches and teas on three days, and two evening functions, will be about ZAR5700 per person (single accommodation) or R4000 (sharing). (At current exchange rates that's about US\$920 or US\$650, Euro700 or 500.) There is a bus twice a day to and from Johannesburg International Airport (current cost ZAR350 return) (or one can even fly in!), so getting to the venue is easy.

The current members of the Organising Committee are Denis Brothers (brothers@ukzn.ac.za) and Gerhard Prinsloo (PrinslooGL@arc.agric.za), and we'll be getting out a first circular in the near future – just let us know the preferred date soon!

Journal of Hymenoptera Research Message from the Editor

Volume 13 of the *Journal of Hymenoptera Research* consists of two issues: No. 1 was mailed on 24 April and No. 2 was mailed on 22 October. At the moment the manuscripts for Volume 14 No. 1 are being finalised.

From 1 January to 13 December 2004 a total of 32 manuscripts were received. Of these, 23 were accepted after review and rewrite; 4 were rejected; and 5 are still under review. Each paper was read by two reviewers, a subject editor, and the editor; in a few cases a subject editor acted as one of the two reviewers.

From 2002 to 2004 copies of the journal were sent to the Institute for Scientific Information (www.isinet.com) for evaluation and inclusion in their database. As far as I know, they have not yet reached a decision as to including the journal.

Eric Grissell produced the first issue of Volume 13 and I produced the second. Eric was always on-hand to help out with all the problems, as was Annielaurie Seifert of Allen Press, thus giving the appearance of a seamless transfer of editorial procedures (hopefully). I really appreciate Eric's help and advice.

The Editor and Subject Editors are grateful to the numerous reviewers who have contributed much time and effort in writing constructive reviews and attempting to help authors communicate more effectively. Without the guidance of these individuals the editorial progress would be much diminished.

I am extremely grateful to our four Subject Editors, Sydney Cameron, Donald Quicke, Wojciech Pulawski, and Mark Shaw. I have quickly found out how much I need to rely on their sound judgements and quick processing of manuscripts. Their time spent reconciling the reviewers' comments with the paper's contents is considerable and they are paramount in suggesting improvements for most of the submitted papers.

Gavin Broad, Editor
13 December 2004

Secretary's Report

| | 2004 (to date) | 2003 | 2002 | 2001 | 2000 | 1999 |
|------------------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| All Members | 331 | 351 | 379 | 355 | 368 | 320 |
| Student Members | 56 | 58 | 59 | 57 | 52 | 40 |
| Sponsored Members | 66 | 64 | 69 | 50 | 52 | 33 |
| Not yet renewed | 54 | 51 | 23 | 41 | 25 | 58 |
| Institutional Members | 40 | 41 | 41 | 41 | 45 | 40 |

The numbers speak for themselves. Membership is down slightly, due primarily to members who have opted not to renew or to those having yet to renew. As always, we welcome suggestions for new sponsored members, particularly students. We ask those of you that are able to do so to consider sponsoring a member or student member.

Of perpetual concern is the number of members who are late in paying their annual dues. This costs the society money and time. In addition, we currently have 73 members without a current email address. Please contact us if you have recently received one, or if your email address changes.

We have the membership database uploaded to the new ISH website hosted by Allen Press (<http://www.ish.allenmm.com>). This will allow members to search for current information on ISH members and to update their contact information as necessary. Any changes made online are sent via email to the Secretary so that the FileMaker database can be kept current. We will be exploring Allen Press's capabilities for using e-mail blasts to send invoices and newsletters as this is an onerous task as currently implemented. Ultimately, we hope to allow for renewals and new subscriptions to be processed via credit card on the ISH website. This, however, would require additional financial commitment on the part of ISH that we may not want to accept at this time.

Presentation of Research Medal to Zdenek Boucek is currently being discussed. Further details will be forthcoming as these plans solidify.

Probably the biggest issue reported herein is the increase in dues and page charges. These charges have remained at their current level for approximately 8 years. Given the desire of the ISH Executive (and echoed by ISH members meeting last August in Brisbane and recently in Salt Lake City) to move toward a more user-friendly online membership database, easier electronic communication, and, ultimately, the ability to renew online, we are proceeding with increases according to the schedule below.

| | Current | 2005 | 2006 |
|----------------------|---------|------|------|
| Student | \$15 | \$25 | \$25 |
| Regular | \$35 | \$45 | \$45 |
| Institutional | \$60 | \$70 | \$80 |
| Late Renewals | \$40 | \$50 | \$50 |
| Page Charges | \$10 | \$15 | \$20 |

Mike Gates, Secretary, mgates@sel.barc.usda.gov

Treasurer's Report

The balances in the ISH checking accounts are:

\$17,671.42 (College Station, TX) on 5 July, 2004

\$9800.00 (Ottawa, ON) on 31 August, 2004

Endowment Fund \$26,443.26 on 5 July, 2004.

Justin Schmidt, Treasurer

**ISH Informal Conference
Entomological Society of America
Annual Meeting
Salt Lake City, Nevada
November 16, 2004**

The conference was started on time (detailed below). Stand-in speakers presented for Sharkey (Sharanowski) and Ronquist (Buffington). Jim Carpenter was not present and his presentation is omitted below.

Scientific Forum and Annual Business Meeting

7:30 "Introductory Remarks", Michael Gates, USDA-SEL, Washington, D.C.

7:35 "An overview of NSF's AToL", Jim Woolley, NSF, BS&I, 4201 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA.

7:55 "Assembling the Tree of Life: an overview of Hymenoptera", Barb Sharanowski for Mike Sharkey, Department of Entomology, University of Kentucky, Agricultural Sciences North, Lexington, KY

8:15 "400,000 species and so little time... the Tree of Life and Chalcidoidea". John Heraty, Department of Entomology, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521.

8:55 10 Minute Break

9:05 "Image management and dissemination: Cynipoidea, Cumulus and beyond", Matthew Buffington (& for Fred Ronquist), Department of Entomology, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521.

9:35 "An interactive key to the families of Hymenoptera and other methods of disseminating web-based information", Katja Seltmann and Mike Sharkey, Department of Entomology, University of Kentucky, Agricultural Sciences North, Lexington, KY.

9:45 Annual Business Meeting

The business portion of the conference commenced with Schauff reading minutes from the Brisbane ABM and was followed by the introduction of officers present (Schauff, Gates, Schmidt). For the sake of brevity in an already lengthy newsletter, topics discussed are presented as bullets

below:

- Dues and page charges increases: proposed changes are met with general agreement.
- 6th International Congress of Hymenopterists in South Africa: proposed venue is accepted by all. Some questions arise as to collecting opportunities. Group collecting permits will likely be obtained by the organizers for nearby national parks.
- New web presence of ISH: all are amenable to this and the fact that ISH monetary resources resulting from fee increases will pay for it.
- Meeting adjourned at 10:20PM by President-elect Schauff.

**Minutes
Annual Business Meeting
International Society of Hymenopterists
Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Center
Brisbane, Australia
August 19, 2004**

1. The meeting was opened by President-Elect Denis Brothers at 6:05 p.m. Denis welcomed the delegates, and passed along the regrets of President Kimsey, Secretary Woolley, Editor Grissell and Treasurer Huber who were unable to attend the Congress. He also welcomed Dr M Alonso-Zarazaga, a fellow member of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN), for item 8.2 of the agenda.
2. With the agreement of the meeting, item 8.2 was dealt with first. Andrew Polaszek, a member of ISH and Executive Secretary of the ICZN, was introduced. He presented a short talk outlining the dire outlook of the ICZN due to funding difficulties, and urged the members of ISH to get involved and help ensure the continued existence of ICZN in its vital role of maintaining the stability of zoological nomenclature and helping to pave the way for web taxonomy and other advances.
3. President-Elect Brothers summarized the minutes of the last ISH Business Meeting held in Cincinnati. Bob Wharton moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Polaszek. The motion was approved.
4. The reports of President Kimsey (contained in the last newsletter), Incoming Secretary Gates, Treasurer Huber, and Editor Grissell (appended hereto) were read and approved.

The following aspects of the reports were particularly noted and/or discussed:

- 4.1. Membership in the Society stands at 302 with 50 student members, 66 sponsored members, 40 Institutional members and 64 members in arrears.
- 4.2. Negotiations are underway with the journal publishers (Allen Press) to make it possible for members to pay dues, etc. on-line. The Society currently has \$26,443.26 in the Endowment fund, income for 2004 to date was \$16,408.17, expenses are \$12,481.69, carry-over was \$2078.50 leaving a total of Society monies of \$44,062.04 (note that the endowment fund is not available to cover usual expenses). Volume 13 (1) was mailed on 24 April and 13 (2) should have been in press as the report was written. Volume 13 contains 24 papers and 1 note. Gavin Broad assumed the editorship from Eric Grissell with the 2nd issue of volume 13. So far in 2004 a total of 20 manuscripts have been received.
- 4.3. It was announced that Zdenek Boucek had been awarded the Distinguished Research Medal and Eric Grissell was given the Society Service Award.
- 4.4. It was noted that dues had not been increased for several years and that the financial position of the Society was beginning to suffer from a lack of increased resources.

Discussion by the members present was generally in favor of the Executive considering a reasonable increase in dues for next year and also of considering a slight increase in page charges for the journal. Brothers indicated that the Executive would take this up at the earliest opportunity. It was also suggested that some sort of business plan be developed as a way to get a long-term plan in place for the financial health of the Society and that we look for ways to increase the endowment. It was felt that regular small increases in fees would be better than intermittent larger ones.

- 4.5. President-Elect Denis Brothers also asked for discussion on the idea of opening the membership list to public access. Those present were nearly uniformly against the proposal because of privacy concerns.
5. President-Elect Denis Brothers noted that the Transfer of Officers was to take place at this meeting and he therefore assumed the position of President. He also transferred his office as President-Elect to Michael Schauff who was present. Other new officers are: Michael Gates, Secretary; Justin Schmidt, Treasurer; Gavin Broad, Editor. Warm thanks were extended to the outgoing officers for their valuable and often extensive service to the Society.
6. President Brothers presented a brief summary of the planning for the next (6th) International Congress of the Society which will be at an as yet undetermined location in South Africa towards the end of January 2006. Denis will be working with Gerhard Prinsloo in Pretoria and the Society Executive in the near future to firm up dates and a location for the meeting. Bob Wharton noted that many U.S. universities start their spring semester near the 3rd week of January.
7. The meeting was adjourned by President Brothers at 7:10 p.m.

Submitted by
Michael E. Schauff
President-Elect