



NEWSLETTER
International Society of Hymenopterists
February 2008

President's Report

Greetings and a Happy 2008. As you will see in the text below there have been several things happening in the Society. Our 2007 meeting at the Entomological Society of America was well attended and featured some very well received talks. We look forward to seeing many of you in Durban at the International Congress. Please check your program for the ISH meeting time and place.

Of most immediate importance is the election of new officers. Please take a look at the candidates, vote, and return your ballot as soon as you can. We are also soliciting nominees for our Distinguished Research Medal and Service Award. Please take a moment to consider if you know someone who could be nominated for this special recognition. Also make a special note of the new Student Award. I think this is a major plus for the Society and I hope that it will generate increased interest in ISH among the many students in training around the world.

Please pay particular attention to the implementation of a new schedule of late fees. The Executive has become increasingly concerned about the financial drain on the Society of shipping journals to members who have not renewed their membership by the deadline for payment. These mailings have not only cost us dearly in postage fees but also take a lot of the Secretary's time and energy. See the text below for a fuller explanation. If you have not yet renewed your membership please do so NOW.

You will note a couple of discussion points that have been raised at our business meetings. Please feel free to send us your ideas, comments, suggestion on these or any issues that you feel impact the Society.

Wishing you a great year in 2008.

Sincerely,

Mike

**Call for Nominations for Special Awards
Deadline March 10, 2008**

There has already been one electronic notification requesting nominations. This email was sent out the week of February 11, 2008.

I am inviting nominations for the third competition for the two awards that have been created by the Society: The Distinguished Research Medal and the Service Award. Rules for nominating people for the award and the process by which the recipients will be selected are given below.

The *International Society of Hymenopterists Distinguished Research Medal* is open to any Hymenopterist, and should go to an individual who has made significant and distinguished research contributions to the study of Hymenoptera.

The *International Society of Hymenopterists Service Award* is meant to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions in service to the Society that went well beyond normal expectations. Officers and former officers of the Society can be considered, but obviously the award is not restricted to these individuals.

There will be a deadline of March 1, 2008 on nominations for both awards. This will leave time to organize a selection committee (which can't include nominees or signatories to nominations) in time to announce the recipients at the meeting of the Society to be held in conjunction with the International Congress of Entomology in Durban, South Africa, July 2008. Nominations must be electronic and should be sent to Dr. Michael Gates, Secretary, at michael.gates@ars.usda.gov

The rules that apply to the award of the *International Society of Hymenopterists Distinguished Research Medal* are as follows:

- The award will be made no more often than every second year.
- A candidate must be proposed by no fewer than three Members in Good Standing [one nomination is sufficient, which must be supported by 3 Members in Good Standing].
- There is no restriction on candidates, beyond having made significant and distinguished research contributions to the study of Hymenoptera.
- Proposers of the candidate shall provide the Secretary of the Society with the name, curriculum vitae (including qualifications, career, distinctions and publications), a statement of approximately 500 words explaining why the candidate merits the award, and the signatures of two additional sponsors who are Members in Good Standing of the Society.
- A selection committee for the award of the medal will be appointed and convened by the President, and members of that committee shall themselves not be nominated or be signatories of the nomination in that year.
- Should the committee recommend to the Executive Committee that an award be made,

the name of the recipient will be announced at the following annual meeting.

- The recipient of the award will receive Life Membership in the Society, in addition to the medal.

The rules that apply to the award of the *International Society of Hymenopterists Service Award* are as follows:

- A candidate may be proposed by one or more Members in Good Standing.
- Any Member in Good Standing or previous Members of the Society are eligible for the award including current members of the Executive Committee.
- Proposers of the candidate shall provide the Secretary of the Society with the name and a statement of approximately 300 words explaining why the candidate merits the award.
- A selection committee for the award will be appointed and convened by the President, and members of the committee shall themselves not be nominated or be signatories of the nomination in that year.
- Should the committee recommend to the Executive Committee that an award be made, the name of the recipient will be announced at the following annual meeting.

ISH Annual Business Meeting San Diego, CA, December 2007

1:30 “Introductory Remarks”, Michael Schauff, USDA-ARS-PSI, Beltsville, MD

1:35 Ted Schultz for Seán Brady– The origin and early diversification of ants within the context of aculeate wasp evolution

1:55 Andrew Deans & Debra Murray - Systematics of Evaniomorpha (Hymenoptera) - improving the taxonomy of a neglected wasp fauna. (replaced Honeybee genomics and immunity by Jay Evans)

2:20 Justin Schmidt – Whereforst thou?: Hymenoptera stings, pain, science, and media

2:50 Mike Gates – Systematic Entomology Lab’s Hymenoptera Unit- Into the Future!

3:10 Barb Sharanowski – Hymenoptera Phylogenomics

3:30 ISH Business Meeting

Minutes of ISH business meeting, San Diego, CA, December 2007

Members of executive present:

President: Mike Schauff (MS)

President-elect: Jim Woolley (JW)

Secretary: Michael Gates (MG)

Treasurer: Justin Schmidt (JS)

Apologies:

Gavin Broad

1) Introductory remarks

MG provided introduction and an overview of some of the topics to be discussed.

2) Endowment Report

JW presented on the ISH Endowment.

The main account is a Certificate of Deposit that is currently earning about 5% annually. Interest earned to date (2007) = \$1177.49. An additional \$2000 was moved into main account in May, 2007. The current balance, as of 26 Nov. 2007, is \$32,517.74.

The working account is where deposits are made, etc. Its income in 2007 includes \$93.50 royalties from the Austin Symposium book and \$40.95 interest to yield a balance on 26 Nov. 2007 of \$1428.89

Total Balance, both accounts = \$33,946.03

3) Secretary's Report

MG presented the secretary's report. Membership is slightly lower this year compared with the same time last year due chiefly to late renewals. Last year saw the greatest number of late renewals in December since 2001, which adds to the society's expenses. Student memberships continue to decline from last year. Institutional membership remains static. We have spent US\$350-700.00/year in additional expenses from postage expenses incurred from late renewals. The US Post Office no longer has international surface shipping, but has switched to a flat rate envelope costing US\$11 for items that can be contained therein. We will adjust shipping costs accordingly.

4) Treasurer's Report

JS presented the treasurer's report. The bulk of the society's money comes from the membership, and our net is \$5,335.42 with a total balance of \$19,336.23. The journal is by far the biggest expense, including the high cost of postage. The journal is under-used, with a 200-page limit that is not reached. Journal expense nearly matches membership income. Credit card fees are quite high. Membership dues are basically subsidizing the journal.

5) Editor's Report

MG presented the editor's report. The journal published 18 papers in 2007 totalling 335 pages. It continues to be abstracted on Web of Science and will receive an impact factor in 2008.

Fifteen additional manuscripts have been received (2 accepted, 3 rejected, 7 revised, 3 in review).

Discussions were carried out with a representative of Springer, as to the possibility of their publishing the journal. There would be advantages to being published by Springer (or another large publishing house), in the form of increased distribution to academic institutes and an online journal at no great cost to the society. However, Springer would require us to publish at least four issues a year and would seek to recoup cash through selling the society's products, such as databases and special publications. The consensus view seems to be that this is not the path that we want to follow, and it has been pointed out that Springer charge even more than other organisations for their journals, which has been causing some upset. The future of the journal, which I think we all want to see a greater online presence for, is therefore still very much up for discussion.

I am extremely grateful to our four Subject Editors, Wojciech Pulawski, Mark Shaw, Andy Deans and Jack Neff, and am very pleased to welcome the latter two on board as, respectively, parasitoid and sawfly systematics and aculeate biology subject editors. I am extremely grateful for the sterling service that Donald Quicke and Sydney Cameron gave in those roles. All the subject editors (past and present) spend a lot of time reconciling the reviewers' comments with the paper's contents and are paramount in suggesting improvements for most of the submitted papers, often going way beyond the call of duty.

New business

6) Student Award

The Society will be moving forward on implementing a student award by establishing a student award committee and determining how to select best paper. Interest from ISH Endowment accrued during the prior calendar year shall constitute the award of US\$500. The award may be used to defray costs of:

- 1) Travel expenses to ISH Congress, etc.
- 2) Research.
- 3) Publication.

The committee will decide when ISH shall offer the award (e.g., at ESA each year) and if we will offer two in years when we have a Congress (e.g., Best Paper and Best Presentation).

Student awards committee appointed to oversee packet evaluations and awards. Appropriate modifications to Constitution/Bylaws shall be put forward for vote by e-ballot (later this year).

7) Entomological Society of America Affiliates

John Heraty presented on ESA Affiliates. ESA wants groups like Entomological Collections Network to participate as affiliates because it increases ESA membership. Various independent societies, such as ISH, receive free meeting rooms from ESA. ISH should look into ESA's Networking package and we can easily apply through ESA's website (<http://www.entsoc.org/Membership/toolbox/Renewal/faq/network.htm>). Affiliation will allow

ISH to communicate with ESA in an enhanced manner and we may be able to obtain financial resource management from ESA.

8) Comment on International membership and ESA

Some non-North American Hymenopterists feel that ESA may not represent the best solution from an international perspective in terms of hosting ISH meetings/symposia. Examples include obtaining discounted memberships/registration for ISH membership attending conferences like ESA where they aren't members of ESA (e.g., may be members of Australian Entomological Society instead). The central issue is that other national entomological societies honor memberships of other societies and it is time for ESA to do likewise. We will likely work to develop a strategy for change within the new branch of ESA (Systematics, Evolution, & Biodiversity) in order to push for a policy change.

8) ISH Special Publication

Andy Deans, Lars Vilhelmsen and Istvan Miko will be co-editors of the nascent ISH Special Publication on Hymenoptera Terminology Ontology. Essentially, discussing terms used in relation to describing hymenopteran body parts, including historical and current usage. They will send out invitations to potential chapter authors some time in January. They foresee 17 chapters dividing the Hymenopteran body up into sections for treatment. Contributors will have ~1 year to come up with illustrations and text for submission for their region of responsibility. Each chapter will likely detail the historical use of various terminologies and the current best use terminology.

9) 7th International Conference

Some of you may have heard of the personnel changes at the Systematic Parasitoid Lab in Kőszeg, Hungary. If you were wondering about the hosting of the next ISH Congress, George Melíka has informed me that the Congress is going to continue as planned for 2010.

10) Late Renewal Mailing Charge Implementation (IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ!)

During the past 4 years, ISH has paid US\$350-650.00/year in additional postage fees due to late renewing members missing journal mailing dates from Allen Press. Various reminder schemata have been attempted to reduce this outlay, but have only been somewhat successful.

If an individual or institution renews after an issue of the journal has been shipped by Allen Press (April & October of each year), the late renewer **WILL NOT** receive that/those issue/issues...**UNLESS** the late renewer pays a US\$11.00 flat rate for domestic/international postage.

NEW FOR 2009:

Beginning in 2009, there will be an alteration to the dues schedule.

- 1) Regular members renewing by March 31, 2009 will pay \$30.00 and students \$7.00.

2) Regular members renewing after March 31, 2009 will pay \$45.00 and students \$22.00.

Sponsorships shall remain at \$45.00 and \$25.00 for individual and student memberships, respectively.

11) PDFing back issues

The copyright agreement has been signed and volumes 1-14 of the Journal of Hymenoptera Research are currently being scanned by the Biodiversity Heritage Library at the Smithsonian Institution. Articles from those volumes will soon be available at both our and BHL's websites (www.hymenopterists.org & <http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/>).

12) Proposal to create International Executive Branch of ISH

Andrew Austin proposed implementing regional council members that could serve as a second tier of our Executive branch who can represent ISH throughout the world. This could help with international perception to have regional representation (South America, China, Africa, Australasia, etc.) worldwide as well as having more input into decisions of the Executive branch. Were this to move forward, it would require voting to alter the ISH Constitution. We would be interested to know of volunteers or nominees for this type of position! If you are interested in volunteering for this type of duty or have comments, please contact Mike Gates (michael.gates@ars.usda.gov).

13) ISH website – early photos

Visit www.hymenopterists.org/history.html and help us put some names with some faces! There remain some unidentified folks from the 1982 “ISH” meeting.

Also, the group photo of the first ISH meeting in Sheffield, UK in 1991 needs some resolution. If you were there, can you check the following link and put names with faces?
www.hymenopterists.org/sheffield.html

14) Miscellaneous

- Look into using BioOne to publish JHR online. Report at next meeting. Advantages: No out-of-pocket costs to join, revenue and surplus sharing, independently audited.

- ISH Fellows: we need a precise definition of what a Fellow is and how one is appointed (invited after being nominated?). What are the benefits of being a Fellow? Once wording is decided, etc. this can be voted on at a later time with respect to Constitutional changes.

- Endowment: proposal afoot to create an explicit statement about purpose and goals for the Endowment. That being done, link it to a strategic plan to raise, for example, US\$50,000 by 2009. The added interest generated can be used to fund travel awards, research projects or awards, underwriting of once-off projects, etc.

- Online member database: We have figured out how to get the upload feature working properly so that the Secretary can do this easily. Those who experienced problems should retry their login to make sure everything is functioning properly.

<http://timssnet.allenpress.com/mdirish/welcome.cfm>

Next ISH Meeting will be in Durban, South Africa, July 6-12, 2008

The next Annual Business Meeting of the Society will be held during the quadrennial meeting of the International Congress of Entomology. Although the meeting agenda has yet to be published, we anticipate that the slotting will occur on Wednesday afternoon (July 9) during a break in the scientific program. The room has not yet been set, but it will be listed in the Meeting Program. The agenda for the meeting is TBA.

Please visit the website: www.ice2008.org.za.

Some important dates to remember:

Submission of abstracts - 28 February 2008

Final notice of acceptance of abstracts - 31 March 2008

Presenting authors registration deadline for inclusion in Programme - 30 April 2008

Standard registration closure - Pay by 31 May 2008

Late registration opens - 01 June 2008

Registration Desk opens - 6 July 2008

Elections! Secretary and Treasurer

A ballot accompanies this newsletter with nominees for the positions of Secretary and Treasurer. Please vote and return your ballot according to the instructions therein.