

**April 2010**

**Volume 9, Issue 1**

**President's Message**  
by  
**Dan Schmehl**



The spring season is upon us! I am very excited about the current direction of the museum. Thousands of children visited the museum in 2009 and we are gearing up for 2010 as many upcoming school tours and outreach events in the museum are already scheduled and underway! We are rapidly developing many new displays and interactive tours for the museum. The Friends of the Frost Executive Committee has approved \$2500 to be devoted to museum improvements. The Penn State Department of Entomology matched our \$2500, giving us a total of \$5000 towards the improvements! In addition, we have taken steps to develop a 5-year strategic plan for the museum. Our planned museum improvements include new interactive displays and monitors, press releases, museum scavenger hunts, new live arthropods and insects, and a new museum mascot! We are adding

additional posters to educate both children and parents as they visit the museum to learn about the exciting nature of insects. Our insect models, illustrating mouthpart diversity, will be replaced with new models for educating visiting school groups.

New museum scavenger hunt worksheets will be designed and placed in the museum in order to provide a fun, interactive way for kids to learn about insects in the museum. The addition of live insects and arthropods in the museum for children to view and handle will bring the 'study of insects' up close and personal. Lastly, FFEM will host a contest throughout the summer and fall to select a mascot to represent the museum. This will be a fun way to bring our museum into the community. We plan to announce the new mascot at the 2010 Great Insect Fair!

As we plan for the future of the museum, it is important to develop a strategic plan for where we are heading. Amber Gray, FFEM Member-at-large, is leading efforts and compiling a 5-year plan for the museum, including a mission statement, space and collection requirements, and current problems/challenges facing the museum. As part of our strategic plan for the museum, we are visiting other museums and museum websites in order to better understand what improvements we can make for the museum. Richard Allen, Dr. Bob Snetsinger's son-in-law, recently attended the

Small Museum Association 26th Annual Conference, as a delegate for the Friends of the Frost. The information gathered from this conference has contributed to the improvements currently underway for the FFEM website, as well as many of the exhibits in the museum.

Many of the plans and improvements to the museum would not be possible without the help of so many volunteers of both their time and resources! As we walk through campus, see the beautiful flowers all around us, and the rustling of backpacks as college students rush to class, I encourage you all to stop by the museum, observe the progress of the exhibits and find out ways you can get involved! We are very excited for the future of the museum and are looking forward to partnering with you during this exciting time!

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## Biography of Stuart H. Frost Son of Stuart W. Frost of the Frost Entomological Museum By Mary Sorensen

Stuart H. Frost, the son of Stuart W. and Helen Frost, was born in Ardentsville, Pennsylvania in 1925. In a family of artists, Stuart's love of drawing was nurtured from the beginning. As a young child, Stuart created pictures using his father's art utensils, expanding his artistic capabilities beyond the limits of crayons. After moving to State College, PA in 1937, Stuart's father decided it was time for Stuart to properly develop his art skills; at the age of thirteen he began taking private lessons with a local artist named Eleanor Rubin. In high school, Stuart supplemented his education by enrolling in art courses at the Pennsylvania State College where he was treated as an equal of undergraduate and graduate students. His most influential teacher during this time was artist Hobson Pittman. Pittman encouraged Stuart to keep a sense of humor in his artwork – a piece of advice that is still visible in his whimsical drawings. He was also critical of Stuart's figure drawings and advised him to stick with landscapes. Stuart, however, ignored this recommendation.

After graduation, Stuart joined the Navy. Besides occasional sketches and portraits of his shipmates, Stuart did not have the opportunity to draw frequently during his service. His military commitment ended in 1947, and he returned home to enroll at the Pennsylvania State College. During the 1948/49 academic year, Stuart was selected to assist artist Henry

Varnum Poor in his creation of the Land-Grant Frescoes in Old Main. As a result, Stuart's face was immortalized in the figure of a boy holding a cow, and he had the opportunity to paint and sign a small portion of the mural himself.

Stuart's experiences with Poor had a strong influence on his progress as an artist. Like a mural, Stuart's repertoire showcases a wide range of subjects including figures, animals, buildings, and landscapes. His artwork has remained dynamic, always telling a story. Poor told Stuart that he did not have much talent, but he could be trained. He encouraged Stuart to attend the Skowhegan School in Maine where Stuart had the opportunity to work with advanced students. By the end of the term, Stuart's figure drawing was selected among the top three pieces in the class, which were then introduced for public sale.

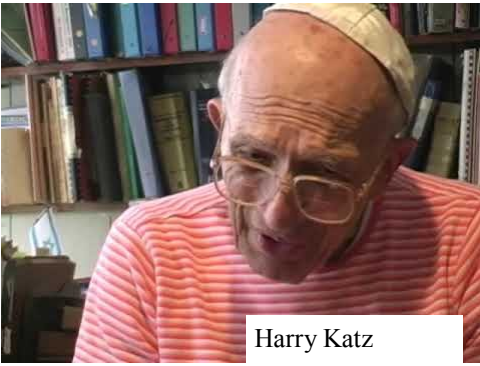
In 1950, Stuart enrolled in graduate school at the Brooklyn Museum where he was in the last group of students taught by Max Beckmann. Beckmann's teaching method instilled discipline in Stuart. He describes the class as "super intense" and remembers drawing every morning "like the world was coming to an end." Following Beckmann's death, Stuart studied under Ben Shahn.

After completing his schooling, Stuart's passion for art led

him to begin painting for his own satisfaction rather than to please his teachers. He felt part of the abstract expressionism movement in New York, but decided to return to State College when Penn State University offered him a teaching position. He felt that communicating his ideas to others was more important than his role in New York. Stuart taught students the value of communication through art until his retirement in 1985. He continues to draw every morning, finding pleasure and inspiration in everyday objects. Each piece of his artwork evokes a story of his life, which he enjoys recalling to friends and visitors in his home. Over the course of his lifetime, Stuart's passion for art has not dimmed, and his whimsical outlook on life remains an invaluable and appreciated element of the Penn State community.



*The Hallway*, Stuart H. Frost, pen and ink, 1947  
Photography by Sarah J. Dane



Harry Katz

By Robert Snetsinger  
Professor of Entomology, Emeritus  
Penn State University

Harry Katz of Deerfield Beach, Florida, Emeritus Member of the FFEM and Class of 2000 inductee to the Pest Control Hall of Fame will celebrate his 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday May 25, 2010. Before retiring to Florida, Harry owned ELCO (a Pittsburgh company) that formulated and distributed pest management supplies, and provided specialty pest control services for Southwestern Pennsylvania. Harry was an important supporter of the Entomological Society of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Pest Control Association, Swadner Entomology Society, National Pest Management Association, a good friend of the Department of Entomology at Penn State, and a promoter of education and training for the pest control industry.

Harry was born and grew up in Pittsburgh in a proud Orthodox Jewish community subject to the oppression of those times, but nonetheless committed to the advancement of culture and social justice. Harry was one of four brothers who served in the US-Military during WWII. Two of his brothers served in Europe, the other in the Philippines, and Harry was a Company Clerk for a M.P. detachment that guarded the Whitehouse. While on a three-day leave back in Pittsburgh, Harry met Ruth Gordon (b. 23 Aug. 1913; d. 14 Feb. 2002), who he subsequently married. Harry tended to be in the right place at the right time, thereby

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY HARRY!!!

witnessing interesting historical events: On April 12, 1945, while on guard duty at the White House, he saw Vice-President Harry Truman learn that Franklin Roosevelt had just died and now he was President. In Pittsburgh, when he was a young lad, he saw Madam Curie, who had come to receive a gram of radium for her research. Harry and Arnold Mallis (Gulf Oil and later Associate Professor of Entomology, PSU) both had great stories to tell to a novice Assistant Professor in the 1960s.

Harry's father was Yitchak Isaac Labzovsky an orphan at age six living in a ghetto, cared for by the Jewish community. At age 16, Labzovsky escaped Russia to Liverpool, England, and survived as a dockworker. When the son of a family of ship passengers headed for America refused to depart with the rest of the family, thus enraging his father, Yitchak who was at hand said: "If your son will not go, give me the ticket". The angry father handed the ticket to Harry's father, and with that event he became Samuel Katz. The ship landed in Baltimore in 1893; and new "Mr. Katz" operated a newsstand near the Capital buildings in Washington, D. C., and thereby became friendly with politicians who were his customers and with employees of the Smithsonian; its Secretary Samuel Langley who had aviation as one of his interest, but was beat-out by the Wright Brothers in becoming the first aviator, became an acquaintance and showed Harry's father the inner workings of Smithsonian.

Harry's father moved to Pittsburgh married, and opened a furniture store, which was lost to a flood in 1911, followed by more misfortunes, and he eventually started a hardware store, which was managed by his sons when his health failed. One of the suppliers for the Katz Brothers Hardware Store of Canonsburg PA was ELCO (an ac-

ronym East Liberty Chemical Manufacturing Company); founded in 1928) by Fred Pollock. Harry gradually acquired knowledge of pesticides and pest control from Fred, and started providing pest control advice and services for the customers of the Katz Brothers Hardware Store (run by an uncle during War II). In 1946 when Harry received his discharge from the military, Fred Pollack decided to retire, and Harry bought ELCO. Harry expanded the customer service department of the business and gradually became a supplier of pesticides, equipment, and recommendations for the urban pest management industry. Harry became active in the Western Pennsylvania Pest Control Association (founded in 1953) and was its Recorder from 1953-1965) and when the two state associations merged in 1958, Harry was Secretary (1958-1965) of the Pennsylvania Pest Control Association.

I first met Harry in 1961 at the Penn State Pest Control Conference, which was then held in early February. The following year, I was the Penn State Coordinator for the Conference, my duty for the next 25 years. We changed the meeting date from February, which was always coincided with a blizzard in State College, to late fall, non-home football weekends and increased the attendance about 30 to 120. I found PCOs to be a cosmopolitan family of friends, eager to learn. There was also a summer meeting usually at Allenberry PA. Harry Katz was special and he always had some neat project that he wanted you to work on. The most interesting one in which I became involved was with the American Cemetery Association; this lasted from 1978-1983 and provided summer jobs for several undergraduate students in entomology.



## Harry Katz Continued

Mausoleums managers were having a problem selling crypt space. In order to display the comforts and desirability of their mausoleums as “retirement homes”, they showed prospects a “model future residence” with glass-fronted unoccupied samples. However when they turned on the interior lights to the display crypts, numerous small flies fluttered about disgusting potential customers. Also the offices and other space of mausoleums needed to be treated and expunged of these tiny flies before visitors could be admitted each morning. At the time, I was conducting research on the pests of mushrooms, including phorid flies. Similar creatures were causing annoyance to the mausoleum management: Phoridae, *Megaselia scalaris* (Loew). We discovered that gases developed inside the caskets that cause a leak or rupture in the seal, which then permitted insects to enter, lay their eggs, and their larvae to develop on a “preserved food source”. Our recommendation was to put a filtered valve on each coffin, which would allow gasses to escape, thereby preventing the entry of phorids and other mausoleum pests. However, this wisdom was rejected in favor of pesticide treatment after the fact. In one mausoleum, which had vent holes in the interior backside of the crypts to allow fresh air to enter, we wired the vent holes with Christmas tree lights to attract the adult insects, and placed an associated sticky trap in each vent hole. This allowed us to determine the sequencing of the insects emerging from individual coffins, since the internment date or death date was on the front of each crypt. First came the phorids for about ten years and then various species of beetles from the older crypts. At the time Ford Motors had a catchy ad, which we corrupted to: “There Is A Phorid In

Your Future!!”

The America Cemetery Association asked me to visit a number cemeteries and mausoleums across the country to check on pest problems. Such a vacation might seem a bit macabre, but it was fascinating all the same. In the Chicago area, I visited the Woodland Cemetery, located near the state border with Indiana. One of the worst circus train wrecks in U.S. history occurred near there, just before 4:00 a.m. on June 22, 1918, when a locomotive engineer fell asleep, and ran his empty troop train into the rear of the Hagenbeck-Wallace circus train, near Hammond, Indiana. A fire broke out from the kerosene lamps, which were used for lighting in the sleeping cars of the circus train. The fire quickly spread through the wood-constructed cars. As a result of the collision and subsequent fire, 86 circus persons died and another 127 were injured. Many victims were burned beyond recognition. Most are buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Forest Park, Illinois in a section set aside as Showmen's Rest. Statues of five full-sized elephants surround the Showmen's Rest section of Woodlawn Cemetery in Forest Park, Illinois. The elephants each have a foot raised with a ball underneath, and their trunks are fiercely lowered.

Wherever, I visited, cemeteries, custodians and undertakers had great stories to tell. Like a minister from Wheeling who drove-up to a Pittsburgh mausoleum in pick-up truck with his children in the front seat and their dead mother covered by sheet in the back; they all wanted to see mommy cremated. The caretakers at the mausoleums had juicy gossip to tell about the past lives on many of their residents. They also had spooky stories and my students had spooky experiences. We placed a variety of insect traps on the roof of one mausoleum, and the next morning, the traps were always over-

turned; none of my students wanted to spend a night on the mausoleum's roof to find out what was causing the mischief, raccoons, possums, or whatever.

The management of one large cemetery, which was enclosed by a high brick-wall, had problems with feral dogs and cats. Rather than take unwanted pets to a Humane Society Shelter, the local residents threw their discarded dogs cats over the wall into the cemetery where they survived on whatever was available (bones). The cemetery custodian employed medical students from a nearby university to conduct night hunts; the medical students used the “game” for their dissection studies. We also learned that certain ministers got “kickbacks” for themselves or their churches for directing “customers” to certain funeral homes. Some six or so of my students became interested in visiting cemeteries, and photographing unique tombstones and recording unusual inscriptions: one tombstone was a huge hog for a man who had a butcher; the epitaph on one tombstone was a long diatribe against a lamp manufacturing company that caused a fire that resulted in the death of the buried man.

As I remember one of Harry's early pest control jobs was preserving an old, historic log cabin. I believe along the way in he must have absorbed some of the preservatives he used in his business. Best wishes on your birthday Harry! We wish that your elixirs might preserve you for many years to come!

## Minutes of FFEM Executive Committee Meetings

Several meetings of the Executive Committee have been held since the last newsletter.

### Sept. 23, 2009

President Daniel Schmehl called the meeting to order at 11:17 AM. Also present were Amanda Bachmann, Beth and Don Brobst, Pam Ford, Amber Gray, Denise Piechnik, Robert Snetsinger, Molly Sturniolo, Wanyi Zhu and Robert Byers.

Pres. D. Schmehl called for the reading of the minutes of the meeting held on Aug. 5, 2009 by the Secretary-Treasurer R. Byers. R. Snetsinger moved to accept the minutes as read. A. Bachmann seconded. Motion passed.

R. Byers presented the Treasurer's report. Income for the month of August was from interest (\$10.80). Expenses this period were for food for the picnic and purchase of field guides and two copies of "Dangerous World of Butterflies". There was a balance of \$91.15 for the year. Total assets were \$12,520.87. There was a discussion of how much to charge for the field guides and books to sell at the Great Insect Fair. A. Bachmann moved to charge \$5.00 for each of the Field Guides. M. Sturniolo seconded. Pres. Schmehl suggested we have a sign-up sheet for those who want to purchase the book since we only have limited copies. After some discussion D. Schmehl decided we would ask for the money for the books up front and require they be picked up at the Department of Entomology. R. Byers moved to amend the previous motion to charge \$20.00 for the book and \$5.00 dollars for the guides. A. Bachmann seconded. Motion passed. R. Byers volunteered to make the sign-up sheets to be available at the Great Insect Fair. M. Sturniolo moved to accept the treasurer's report. D. Piechnik seconded. Motion passed.

Pres. Schmehl called for Old Business. P. Ford gave a report on the new logo. She passed around two samples of the logo that had the following changes. The words "of the" were moved closer together. Also, the entire text was condensed to take less space. The two samples differed in the type of font. Pres. Schmehl called for a secret ballot vote to choose one of the two samples as the final version of the logo. The second sample won 10-1.

A. Gray gave a progress report on the grant she wants to write. She said they require a strategic plan for 5 years before considering a grant. She asked and found out we have no plan. She volunteered to write a strategic plan for the Friends of the Frost. M. Sturniolo offered to help. R. Byers said there was an attempt at a plan for the museum made when J. Frazier was president. He will try to find it in the minutes and will send that and the by-laws of FFEM to Amber. P. Ford said her husband D. Ford could also help with the plan.

Pres. Schmehl called for New Business. He called for a discussion of T-shirts that would employ the new logo. He said it is almost too late to get the logo on T-shirts in time for the Great Insect Fair. Pres. Schmehl also requested R. Byers add a request for a T-shirt to be added to the book and pamphlet sign-up sheet. W. Zhu thought we could advertise T-shirts on the web site. M. Sturniolo asked R. Byers to add a note about T-shirts to the next newsletter. There was some discussion of whether to use the PSU logo on the T-shirts. After some further discussion the T-shirt and other use of the logo such as banners etc. was tabled until the next meeting.

R. Snetsinger proposed a fund raising plan to collect seeds from the Tudek Park Butterfly garden and package them for sale. He further suggested a card with directions on how to plant the seeds in a private garden be in-

cluded with packs of seeds and sell them for \$5.00 for ten packs. There was considerable discussion on what to include in the packets and the type of envelopes to use. The consensus was to proceed with the idea.

R. Byers passed around a rough draft of the next Newsletter. He needs the new logo and a President's report. D. Piechnik requested her name be listed as a Member-at-Large on page 8 that was omitted. R. Snetsinger requested a hard copy of the final version to send to Mr. Murata in Japan.

Pres Schmehl called for a discussion of a plan for the Great Insect Fair. He asked how many tables will we have available to us. M. Sturniolo said the Master Gardeners have two tables and FFEM has one adjacent to each other. Pres. Schmehl asked if anyone wanted to bring their personal collection to display. Also he suggested we move exotic insects from the museum to the display area in the PSU visitor's center. After some discussion it was decided not to use anything from the museum. R. Snetsinger suggested we ask Jim Steamer to sell some of his insect photos at the Great Insect Fair. M. Sturniolo thought this was not a good idea for the FFEM but maybe Jim, if he desired, could have his own table to sell photos at a future fair. After some discussion the idea was abandoned.

P. Ford said that the Master Gardeners were making an insect collection and needed display boxes. R. Byers suggested she contact Bioquip to buy some. D. Schmehl said Rob Anderson knows someone in Canada that is a better source and Dan will give her his e-mail address.

R. Byers reported that K. C. Kim and he had written a job description for the assistant curator position to curate the Beatty Odonata collection. It will be advertised on PSU jobs site. The FFEM will provide \$6000 to the Entomology department to hire someone.

## Minutes of FFEM Executive Committee Meetings Continued

D. Schmehl asked for volunteers to work at the Friends table at the Great Insect Fair. The following promised to help: R. Snetsinger, M. Sturniolo, Don and Beth Brobst, Amanda Bachmann, Pam Ford and D. Piechnik.

This concluded the New Business. A. Gray moved to adjourn. A. Bachmann seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:25 PM.

Respectively submitted,  
R. A. Byers, Secretary-Treasurer

### Oct. 14, 2009

President Daniel Schmehl called the meeting to order at 11:17 AM. Also present were Amanda Bachmann, Amber Gray, Robert Snetsinger, Molly Sturniolo, Wanyi Zhu and Robert Byers.

Pres. D. Schmehl called for the reading of the minutes of the meeting held on Sept. 23, 2009 by the Secretary-Treasurer R. Byers. There were two corrections to the minutes. M. Sturniolo moved to accept the minutes as corrected. A. Bachmann seconded. Motion passed.

R. Byers presented the Treasurer's report. Income for the month of September was from interest (\$10.80) annual dues (\$25 from R. P. Withington) and from sales of Field Guides and Books \$290). Expenses this period were for insurance premium for State Auto (\$251) and postage for mailing the Newsletter (\$12.60). There was a balance of \$142.55 for the year. Total assets were \$12,572.27. A. Bachmann moved to accept the treasurer's report. Amber Gray seconded. Motion passed.

Pres. Schmehl called for Old Business. R. Snetsinger said the sale of seeds from Tudek Park went well at the Great Insect Fair. Pam Ford took the remaining seed packets home. M. Sturniolo said the seeds that remained will be used to plant plots at Tudek Park next year. R. Byers said it was

too bad the book marks we sold last year could not be located so we could sell them at this year's fair. R. Snetsinger revealed the bookmarks are in his office. The group was glad they are found and Pres. Schmehl said we should give a bookmark to our newest members Wanyi Zhu and Amber Gray.

M. Sturniolo gave a report on updating the brochure. She requested pictures from R. Byers but to date he has not sent them. R. Byers promised to email pictures of the museum displays etc. to Molly. M. Sturniolo said the new brochures could be used next May at the Master Gardener's plant sale. She requested a volunteer person to represent the FFEM at the plant sale to recruit new members and possibly sell field guides.

Pres. Schmehl asked for a report on the Odonata job announcement. R. Byers said the job announcement will be posted this week on the PSU web site. The hours will be 35hr/ week at about \$15/hr for ten weeks. It is hoped that this position will complete the job of labeling the collection and recording the data in the Specify Database. The information will be posted on the Museum Website. This extensive collection, according to R. Snetsinger, has the second largest collection of dragonflies from Mexico. It also has dragonflies from South America and Europe. R. Byers said completion of this project will make the research collection of the Frost Museum more valuable to the world of dragonfly experts.

Pres. Schmehl called for a discussion of T-shirts with the new logo. R. Byers said no one signed up for any at the Great Insect Fair. Pres. Schmehl said we won't need T-shirts for sale until the May plant sale. After some discussion, Pres. Schmehl tabled the issue until a date closer to the plant sale.

Pres. Schmehl called for a discussion of the grant that A. Gray was working on. She said she needs exam-

ples of a plan in order to complete the application. R. Byers said he will email J. Frazier for the plan for the Frost Museum he formulated in 2002. She also will ask Dan Ford for advice and report the next meeting.

A. Gray reported that several tours of the museum have been given to school students and several more are planned.

R. Snetsinger gave a report on the Tudek Park butterfly garden. He said the butterfly garden has become popular for memorial services. He proposed that a small platform or pavilion be built at the park to accommodate these activities. It should have handicap access. It could be an Eagle Scout project. He will write a letter to the Tudek family who will then present it to their board for approval.

R. Snetsinger said he has 14 years of butterfly populations organized. He said there was a peak number of 31 species resident in the park two years ago, and then they declined after the gypsy moth spray program last year to 14 species. They recovered this year to 18 species. He used five methods to evaluate the results and to index populations. He has completed a report and will publish it soon.

Pres. Schmehl called for New Business. R. Snetsinger said he will give a tour of the museum this afternoon to Architectural students interested in Museum design.

Pres. Schmehl called for a discussion of the displays in the public area of the museum. He wants to continue to build on the progress made by the past President A. Bachmann. R. Snetsinger suggested we use one empty case to present a history of Frost Museum with pictures of past curators, Dr. Frost the originator of the collections, and the holdings of the museum. Pres. Schmehl asked "what is the target audience which we reach in the public area - school children". He thought the displays should be aimed at their level so that they would be impressed and

## Minutes of FFEM Executive Committee Continued Meetings Continued

take home knowledge of the insect world. He thought we should consider some interactive displays. A. Bachmann said the firefly interactive display is in progress but there are problems with the electric circuitry. There was considerable discussion of other interactive displays that could be constructed. A. Bachmann said our cabinets in the hallway were not conducive to interactive displays because of the glass fronts. Pres. Schmehl said there was open space in the bee hive area to build something. A. Bachmann also suggested we get the build-a-bug winners on display at ASI fifth floor to be moved to the museum. A. Gray said we need to get the cricket sound box moved to the museum. Pres. Schmehl asked if we could improve the current displays with more colorful backgrounds. Pres. Schmehl then tabled the discussion for the next meeting.

Pres. Schmehl suggested the FFEM sponsor insect videos for the public to be shown at the PSU visitor center. M. Sturniolo said she has a DVD from the TV show Nova that could be shown if the copyright laws will permit it. It is a film about the monarch butterfly. R. Snetsinger said we could rent a film on Monarch butterfly migration. He did not know how much the fee was.

This concluded the New Business. Pres. Schmehl called for the next executive committee meeting to be held Wednesday Nov. 18, 2009 at 11:15 in the teaching lab. M. Sturniolo moved to adjourn. A. Bachmann seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:22 PM

Respectively submitted,

R. A. Byers, Secretary-Treasurer

**Nov.18, 2009**

President Daniel Schmehl called the meeting to order at 11:21 AM. Also present were Amanda Bachmann, Beth Brobst, Don Brobst, Amber Gray, Denise Piechnik, Wanyi Zhu and Robert

Byers.

Pres. D. Schmehl called for the reading of the minutes of the meeting held on Oct. 14, 2009 by the Secretary-Treasurer R. Byers. There were several corrections to the minutes. A. Bachmann moved to accept the minutes as corrected. D. Piechnik seconded. Motion passed.

R. Byers presented the Treasurer's report. Income for the month of October was from interest (\$10.64) and \$5 from the sale of one Field Guide. There were no expenses this period. There was a balance of \$168.52 for the year. Total assets were \$12,598.24. A. Bachmann moved to accept the treasurer's report. Amber Gray seconded. Motion passed.

Pres. Schmehl called for Old Business. Pres. Schmehl gave A. Gray a 2005 grant proposal for the Odonata database that was rejected. He said she could use it to help her write her grant. A. Gray gave a report on the grant she is writing. She said before she writes a grant she needs to first formulate a strategic plan. She has decided to look at other museum's strategic plans on campus for ideas. She also is going to try and get on Penn State's arboretum committee. B. Brobst has talked with the manager of the arboretum and said he would like next year's bug fair to be held at the arboretum. She will email A. Gray the manager's name. Pres. Schmehl then appointed A. Gray chairwoman of a strategic planning committee for the Friends of the Frost Museum.

Pres. Schmehl called for a report on museum tours from tour coordinator A. Gray. She said October was a busy month with about 300-400 students visiting the museum. She expected a 100 in November and four tours are scheduled in December. She is getting requests for next year already. Pres. Schmehl requested she keep a record of the outreach activities and numbers of visitors.

Pres. Schmehl called for an update on

the Odonata database from Secretary-Treasurer R. Byers. R. Byers said a position announcement was posted and six people applied for the job. Two are qualified for the position. Dr. Kim feels we could use more money above the \$6000 pledged from the Friends of the Frost Museum. Pres. Schmehl called for a discussion of ways to publicize the Frost Museum. He suggested we hold Saturday movies at the visitor center advertising the public area of the Frost Museum. B. Brobst thought we could have continuous movies in the Frost Museum. A. Gray said we had a computer set up for an interactive program but it broke and was taken away. D. Piechnik suggested we should use the website <http://creativecommons.org> for ideas. There was some discussion of the copyright laws and what we could use. Pres. Schmehl said we could put together small clips from the Entomological Society of America to make a movie. D. Piechnik thought we could mount a computer monitor on the wall and operate from remote access. There was some discussion on the cost and security issues. Many ideas were presented on the movie and the sources of the material. Animated displays were also discussed. D. Piechnik said she knows an electrical engineer who could help. D. Piechnik also said they are still working on a firefly animated display.

Pres. Schmehl called for New Business. D. Piechnik proposed we produce an operating budget for the FFEM. Then we could better plan our spending on various projects. She suggested the use of pivot tables to project our income and expenses. W. Zhu said she could produce a pivot table. R. Byers will send her a membership access database with income from dues. Pres. Schmehl tabled the discussion on a budget until the January meeting.

R. Byers asked what we should do with the old displays on the table in the the museum prep room. Pres. Schmehl said we would all look at them and



## Minutes of FFEM Executive Committee Continued Meetings Continued

decide their fate after the meeting.

This concluded the New Business. D. Piechnik moved to adjourn. A. Bachmann seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM.

Respectively submitted,

R. A. Byers, Secretary-Treasurer

### Jan. 20, 2010

President Daniel Schmehl called the meeting to order at 11:16 AM. Also present were Amanda Bachmann, Beth Brobst, Don Brobst, Amber Gray, Denise Piechnik, Robert Snetsinger, Molly Sturniolo and Robert Byers.

Pres. D. Schmehl called for the reading of the minutes of the meeting held on Nov. 18, 2009 by the Secretary-Treasurer R. Byers. There was one correction to the minutes. R. Snetsinger moved to accept the minutes as corrected. A. Bachmann seconded. Motion passed.

R. Byers presented the Treasurer's report for the year 2009. Income for the year was from interest (\$145.53) from member dues (\$720) and from the sales of Field Guides, books and plants (\$615) for a total income of \$1,480.53. Expenses were for fees, meals, displays, photos, books, insurance and printing costs for the Newsletter for a total of \$1,064.13. There was a balance of \$203.84 for the year. Total assets were \$12,633.56. D. Piechnik asked to see dates of expenditures in future reports. Also she wanted to know when dues will come due for 2010. R. Byers said he will add dates for future expenditures and dues notices will be sent with the April Newsletter. Dues are on a calendar year basis. D. Piechnik moved to accept the treasurer's report. M. Sturniolo seconded. Motion passed.

Pres. Schmehl called for Old Business. He asked on the progress of hiring someone to curate the Odonata collection. R. Byers said acting Curator K. C. Kim has placed the position on hold until he obtains more funds for the position. He has plans to ask the Department Head but

hasn't met with him yet.

Pres. Schmehl said Wanyi Zhu will have pivot tables for the budget ready by Friday of this week. R. Byers said he has the financial statements from prior years and D. Piechnik asked that he send them to her and W. Zhu.

Pres. Schmehl called on a report on strategic plans and future grants from Chairwoman A. Gray. Amber said she has a strategic plan as an example to study but has not formulated a plan yet. She talked to Rick Johnson chairman of the arboretum committee. The arboretum is planning an Earth Day event for April 27-28, 2010. They will have 30 minute stations on the Earth Day. She asked if the FFEM would consider having a table. M. Sturniolo said the Master Gardeners will have a table at the event. After some discussion on whether the FFEM should participate, Pres. Schmehl tabled the discussion until the next meeting.

Pres. Schmehl called for a report on museum tours from tour coordinator A. Gray. She is getting requests for this year already. She expects more activity in the Spring.

Pres Schmehl called for New Business. He wanted to discuss two items, update of the Museum Displays and the Budget. R. Snetsinger said his son-in-law, Richard Allen, will be attending the Small Business Association Meeting Feb. 21-23, 2010 in Ocean City Maryland and will represent the FFEM. He has provided R. Allen with information about FFEM to prepare him for the meeting. R. Byers added his email address to the FFEM board list so he will be informed of our future activities.

Pres. Schmehl called for a discussion of the budget. He wanted to know what expenditures and income we can expect for 2010. R. Snetsinger said we need money for seeds for the Butterfly garden. D. Piechnik suggested we spend around \$2000 on the Public Area of the Museum. Pres. Schmehl said we need more posters, electronic interac-

displays, live insects, and outreach activities such as movie presentations. R. Snetsinger said we need advertising handout sheets in the Museum public area.

R. Byers said we need to have Newsletters on the website and update our website. Pres. Schmehl said we have a new secretary in charge of the website. He said any changes to the website design must be approved by the College. R. Snetsinger said there are other museums in Pennsylvania such as the Insectarium, a three story museum in Philadelphia. D. Piechnik said we should have all the other museums linked to our website. After further discussion on the amount to spend on these items, B. Brobst moved to budget \$2500 toward the Museum Public area. A. Gray seconded. Pres. Schmehl called for a vote. Motion passed. Pres. Schmehl will ask the Dept. Head for matching funds.

Pres. Schmehl called for micro-budgets for displays, TV monitor, sound system, visitor center movies, and interactive projects. There was some discussion of what these items will cost. A. Bachmann said there is a spread sheet with ideas for posters.

This concluded the New Business. R. Byers moved to adjourn. A. Bachmann seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:20 PM.

Respectively submitted,  
R. A. Byers, Secretary-Treasurer

### Feb. 11, 2010

President Daniel Schmehl called the meeting to order at 10:35 AM. Also present were Amanda Bachmann, Pam Ford, Amber Gray, Denise Piechnik, Robert Snetsinger, Wanyi Zhu and Robert Byers.

Pres. D. Schmehl called for the reading of the minutes of the meeting held on Jan. 20, 2010 by the Secretary-Treasurer R. Byers. There was one correction to the minutes. R. Snetsinger moved to accept the minutes as corrected. A. Bachmann seconded. Motion passed.





## Minutes of FFEM Executive Committee Continued Meetings Continued

R. Byers presented the Treasurer's report for January. Income was from interest (\$10.68) and from the sales of books (\$20) for a total income of \$30.68. There were no expenses during the month. Total assets were \$12,664.24. D. Piechnik moved to accept the Treasurer's report. A. Bachmann seconded. Motion passed.

Pres. Schmehl called for Old Business. He reported on the progress of hiring someone to curate the Odonata collection. He said the Department Head has no funds to commit to the project because there are expenses for waiver of tuition for graduate students that aren't covered.

Pres. Schmehl asked Wanyi Zhu if she has the pivot tables for the budget ready. She said they are on her computer and she will send them to everyone. D. Piechnik asked W. Zhu if she needed help with the budget. W. Zhu will study the pivot tables and get back to her later.

R. Snetsinger provided information on other museums dealing with insects in Pennsylvania. He thought his son-in-law, Richard Allen, may be able to work on the list of museums for our website. P. Ford said there our face book pages where we could share ideas on butterfly gardening. D. Piechnik said the program Google wave allows for groups to join on line and share ideas.

Pres. Schmehl called for New Business. Pres. Schmehl called for a discussion of the ways to solicit money for the budget. A. Bachmann suggested we contact the Entomology Graduate Student Association (EGSA) because they have given money to cover dues for new students in the past. D. Piechnik said we should make specific requests for money to support speakers. Pres. Schmehl said we could ask the EGSA for money to purchase insects for the insect zoo. They also may want to sponsor Bug Camp Scholarships.

Pres. Schmehl called for discussion of micro-budgets for displays, TV monitor, sound system, visitor center monitor,

movies, and interactive projects. He reported that to rent the Visitor Center auditorium it will cost \$175 per event regardless of whether it is a few hours or all day. Also they charge \$50 for audio-video equipment use. A. Bachmann suggested the ASI auditorium may be rented more for less money. She also said it will cost for advertising an event. R. Snetsinger said he received a special request from Harrisburg for the Frost Museum to be open on a special day. Other buildings were considered to show movies. A. Bachmann suggested the Schlow Library. The President thought library was a good idea.

D. Piechnik gave a report on monitors and their cost. She said computers could be purchased for \$80 to run monitors. Flat screen TV would cost \$320 but refurbished monitors would be \$130. She thought it would cost around \$250 for the cheapest setup. Also Bose refurbished speakers could be bought for \$500. P. Ford said Craig could set up the sound system. A. Bachmann asked what it would cost to mount the equipment. R. Byers said to talk with D. Love to get an estimate from Penn State M&O.

R. Snetsinger presented an idea to raise funds for the museum displays. He talked with Kathy Tyson from the North Museum in Lancaster about selling some of our books and the Friends would get a percentage of the sale.

P. Ford said the Centre Furnace Mansion sells plants and wondered if we could sell plants at Tudek Park. R. Snetsinger said Guy Korman, former FFEM treasurer, organized such a sale in the past at Tudek Park. P. Ford said the Master Gardeners could help with a plant sale and also give tours to raise money. Pres. Schmehl tabled the discussion until the next meeting.

Pres Schmehl requested each board member make a list of priorities to spend the \$2500 by the next meeting.

P. Ford asked if she could update the Master Gardener display in the museum. Pres Schmehl said it was a good idea to update it annually.

B. Brobst sent an email asking if we thought a contest to pick a museum mascot was a good idea. No action was taken.

Amber Gray said she would email her report and ideas on a strategic plan.

Pres. Schmehl announced the next meeting will be Mar. 16 at 11:00 AM in Head house III. This concluded the New Business. A. Bachmann moved to adjourn. D. Piechnik seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Respectively submitted,  
R. A. Byers, Secretary-Treasurer

**Mar. 16, 2010**

Pres. Dan Schmehl called the meeting to order at 11:05 AM. Also present were Amanda Bachmann, Molly Sturniolo, Amber Gray, Denise Piechnik, Robert Snetsinger, Don and Beth Brobst and Wanyi Zhu.

A. Bachmann read the minutes from the last meeting. Any changes should be emailed to Bob Byers. Denise moved to accept, Amber seconded.

Pres. Schmehl gave the financial report. There was \$9.54 earned from interest, and \$170 from dues. The total assets were \$12,689.90. R. Snetsinger moved to accept, D. Piechnik seconded.

Pres. Schmehl called for Old Business. R. Snetsinger's son-in-law, Richard Allen, has been working on website ideas. He is working on a website framework and will send it to the board in April. Bob passed out an email from Richard with a potential website outline. He is also working on a firefly display. D. Piechnik said that she and Tracy Conklin are also working on a firefly display and that Richard should be in contact with them so that they don't duplicate their efforts. Denise is working on finding electronics for the display.

## Minutes of FFEM Executive Committee Continued

Pres. Schmehl and Amanda said that there is a person on staff in the Entomology department who is in charge of the dept websites (Nick). Dan will be in touch with Nick about improving the information on the Frost Museum site. Before the next meeting we will all look at the current website and send our comments to Pres. Schmehl.

Pres. Schmehl will talk to the Dept. Head in April about matching the \$2500 for display updates.

Amber Gray reported she sent out documents earlier with questions and comments about the museum. The group went over these and everyone should answer the questions she sent and get them back to her ASAP. There was a discussion about display ideas such as: scavenger hunt, displays at adult and kid height, insect collecting information, pinning display. President Schmehl said that he looked into finding replacement insect heads, but was having trouble finding a source for them. B. Brobst suggested a display of items for sale and advertise for the Great Insect Fair (Oct. 2 this year) and Bug Camp for Kids as well as FFEM membership information. Pres. Schmehl will ask Ellen Johnson, Department Office Manager, about accepting donations.

M. Sturniolo gave us an update on the Master Gardener's Plant Sale on May 15. Elina Lastro will represent the FFEM at the sale. We can't sell butterfly guides but we can have FFEM membership information. Molly also said that there is an intern working on the MG display and it will be done in May.

Pres. Schmehl called for New Business. There was a discussion about having a museum mascot and all were in agreement that it was a good idea and would be fun for kids. There was discussion about having a voting period and announcing the winning mascot at the Great Insect Fair in the fall. Some insects that could be a mascot were a bee, leaf miner, ladybug, praying mantis, and butterfly.

It was agreed the mascot should be something charismatic. President Schmehl asked everyone come up with ideas and bring them to the next meeting.

R. Snetsinger suggested working with local assisted living facilities to have monarch butterfly releases in the fall. No action was taken.

This concluded the New Business. President Schmehl requested everyone bring a list of prioritizing displays to work on, mascot ideas, and website comments for the next meeting which will be April 20 at 11 AM. A. Bachmann moved to adjourn, A. Gray seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Amanda Bachmann, Acting Secretary

## Winter Firefly

I went back out this afternoon with the camera and got a picture of one of these guys. I've identified it as a new species on my place - the winter firefly that has no light organ, but the larvae and pupa glow as in all fireflies. Marshall says this species is sometimes so abundant on maple trunks in late winter that it becomes a pest in sap buckets. Have any maple trees in your yard? Go out and look. You may have them.

Cheers,  
Dick Byers



## Past President of FFEM Amanda Bachmann wins Award



Please join me in congratulating Amanda, who has been selected as the recipient of the 2010 Evans FamilyFleischer

Department of Award for Graduate Student Extension Achievement. I was told that there were quite a few strong nominations, but her international exposure (you can ask her about it) put her over the top. The award was presented at the Gamma Sigma Delta awards ceremony Mar. 18, 2010 in 101 ASI. Amanda received a certificate, a plaque, and a cash award of \$1,000. Congratulations!

Shelby J. Fleischer  
Entomology  
Penn State University  
University Park, PA



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We are on the web  
<http://www.ento.psu.edu/Frost/index.html>

**Officers of FFEM 2009**  
  
**Pres. : Dan Schmehl**  
**Vice Pres. : Wanyi Zhu**  
**Past Pres. : Amanda Bachmann**  
**Sec.-Treasurer: Robert Byers**  
**Members-at-Large:**  
**Beth Brobst**  
**Don Brobst**  
**Jane Earle**  
**Pam Ford**  
**Amber Gray**  
**Denise Piechnik**  
**Robert Snetsinger**  
**Molly Sturniolo**  
  
**Newsletter Editor:**  
**Robert Byers**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
Please enroll me as a member of the  
**Friends of the Frost Entomological Museum**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ (home)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (work)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (FAX)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (e-mail)

Membership Category

*Yearly*  
Student (Ladybug) \$10.00  
Individual (Firefly) \$20.00  
Family (Honeybees) \$25.00

Sponsorship Category

*Lifetime (over five years)*  
Silver Skippers \$500  
Golden Scarabs \$1000  
Monarchs (Corporate) (\$ variable)

Please send completed application and check payable to: **Friends of the Frost Entomological Museum**  
c/o Dept. Entomology, 501 ASI Bldg., Penn State Univ., Univ. Park, PA 16802

**Thanks to contributors to this Newsletter!**  
  
**Dick Byers**  
**Shelby Fleischer**  
**Bob Snetsinger**  
**Mary Sorensen**

**Upcoming Events**  
**Master Gardeners Plant Sale**  
**May 15, 2010**  
**Rock Springs/Ag Progress, Days Special Events Barn**  
**—Entrance K**  
  
**Pollination Celebration**  
**July 17, 2010**  
**Tudek Park, State College, PA**  
  
**Great Insect Fair**  
**Oct. 2, 2010**  
**Ag Arena Penn State**