

**EGSA Meeting Minutes**  
November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010  
5:00 PM, ASI 5<sup>th</sup> floor couches

**In attendance:**

Maggie Douglas  
Megan Greischar  
Becky Heinig  
Holly Holt  
Wingyi Kung

Beth Irwin  
Jessica Richards  
Jason Smith  
Salil Siriwat  
Gabe Villar

**Committee Reports:**

*Critter Care.*

Please go to <http://ento.psu.edu/graduatestudents/egsa> under calendar to see available weeks you can volunteer for critter care.

-Australian walking sticks' diet will be changed from oak leaves to pyracantha as of this month. Pyracantha can be found on campus, please see the critter care handbook beside the Australian walking stick cage or online at the EGSA website. The handbook shows pictures of places to find them. Before going to cut fresh pyracantha, check the bucket in the cold room across the restrooms. They are thorny so we suggest you use the clippers.

-We have Bess beetles! They eat wood and required water to be sprayed on.

-Watch out for Madagascar cockroaches escaping! If you find any near the elevator, please put the live ones back into their cage. Thanks.

*Department Seminar.*

We will be inviting 2 of our first place nominations:

**Andrew Michel** researches on insect molecular population genetics, genetics of adaptation, and evolution of field crop pest species (and others) who will be invited by Amanda Bachmann.

**Jay Rosenheim** studies on plant-insect interactions, predators and parasitoids. Ian Grettenberger will be inviting him.

*Pizza Lunch.*

We wanted to make the pizza lunch more discussion based and also allow the speaker to eat. Usually we would introduce ourselves and research but it takes quite sometime. We suggest to let the person who has questions to give a brief introduction about themselves and their work so that the speaker would know your background. This there would be more discussions. If anyone wants to talk about their research in-depth, you can schedule to meet with the speaker by contacting the person coordinating the speakers visit.

*Website Update.*

-EGSA website needs your help! Please send pictures of you doing research with a small caption as to what you are doing to Ian, [img103@psu.edu](mailto:img103@psu.edu).

- Recruitment weekend is coming soon and the committee wants your thoughts on how to improve our department website. Email Sheena [cks151@psu.edu](mailto:cks151@psu.edu) or Tom [tgb134@psu.edu](mailto:tgb134@psu.edu)

-If you have suggestions on what should be on the department website or EGSA website send to either one of them.

*Insect Collection Requirement.*

-Jason and Beth have brought up this issue during the faculty meeting and they seem to have a positive response. The amount of credits for the course and when it will be taught is still not decided but teaching taxonomy to family level with our suggested lectures is possible. The course may meet twice a week with lectures and lab.

-The Frontiers class was also brought up in discussion; it conflicting with statistics, needs more fundamental understandings or any thing else. Jason says that Gary is willing to listen to us on any suggestions or thoughts. If any student wants get together and discuss the issue, we could set up a Frontiers committee. Email Salil [sus317@psu.edu](mailto:sus317@psu.edu) if you want to be a part of this committee and your thoughts.

- David Hughes will be coming in Fall 2011. He has asks us besides taxonomy course, what other courses do we want or need? A suggestion given was evolution. Again, we would like your thoughts and a committee for course suggestions can be formed. Email Salil [sus317@psu.edu](mailto:sus317@psu.edu) if you want to be in this new course committee and your suggestions.

*Treasurer's Report. Snack Cabinet.*

Holly reports, "We've invested \$751.98 in the snack cabinets and made a profit of \$162.62. There have not been any deficits at the CEL, but there is a cumulative deficit of \$17.10 at ASI." The profits will be used for snacks during our meetings and sponsor monthly activities.

*EGSA Monthly Activities.*

- November Activity: Traditional American Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner  
Last year's Thanksgiving EGSA sponsored the Rossetti chicken and each person brought sides or dessert. If you want to host the dinner, please tell any of the officers. This year, we will be organizing one again during the week before Thanksgiving. Click here to vote for the date. <http://www.doodle.com/ythpswpceuipxnmq>.
- January Activity: Tussey Mountain for skiing or snowtubing. Stay tuned for details.

*Snacks.* Thank you Holly for the brownies and Salil for vanilla ice-cream.

**Next EGSA meetings:**

December 6<sup>th</sup>: 4-5 PM CEL  
Snacks will be provided by Megan.

*Meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.*  
*Salil Siriwat*