

EGSA meeting minutes
4:30 pm, 26 March 2012
504 ASI

In attendance:

Deonna Soergel
Beth Irwin
Salil Siriwat
Peter Meng
Loren Rivera
Sheena Sidhu
Wingyi Kung

Elina Lastro
Jessica Richards
Megan Greischar
Dan Schmehl
Gabriel Villar
Jason Smith

Guests:

Bug Camp – Amber Brunskill spoke about Bug Camp, a summer outreach program for a maximum 20 children ages 8 to 11, held this year on June 25th (Mon.) to June 28th (Thurs.). Amber encouraged the graduate students to lead a topic that they are interested in. Past topics include bugs basics, internal/external anatomy, food webs, prey/predator relationships. There will be field trips for collection, which will be a good opportunity for the graduate student to collect too. Graduate students are vital to making this event work! You don't have to sign up for all 4 days – even a couple of hours will be helpful. All participants will have to go through a background check in accordance to new regulations regarding unchaperoned minors. However, the cost of the background check will be covered. More details are attached at the end of this document. If you are interested in participating in any way, please contact Amber at aeg16@psu.edu by this Sunday, April 1st.

Committee Reports:

T.A. requirements - Dan reported from the teaching committee. A document from the committee detailing core courses will be soon be available. Currently, Frontiers of Insect Science remains part of the core requirements. The taxonomy course offered in the fall by our new faculty member, Andy Deans, is not yet a part of the core requirements but is expected to be for future graduate students. Core requirements will be specific to each year of graduate students and will not change for those students. There was also discussion regarding course design for the undergraduate track courses. Gary Felton is schedule to visit our April EGSA meeting and will be able to clarify on this topic. Salil reports that Gary is interested in hearing feedback from those were T.A.s for ENT 202. Those with questions about courses are encouraged to come to the next meeting. For questions and concerns about courses, please contact Dan at drs335@psu.edu or Salil at salil@psu.edu .

Feedback for Elina - Elina is still requesting feedback about several issues – 1) the award option for completing the comprehensive exam by the 5th semester, 2) seminar speaker nominations, and 3) an optional opportunity for graduate students to present their ESA talk during a departmental seminar slot. Please check your inbox for a detailed email from her. You can contact Elina at eul125@psu.edu .

Timeliness criteria - Jason reported updates from the candidacy committee. Although timeliness has not been a big problem in the past, the committee feels that there needs to be a policy when students do not turn in their papers in time. EGSA had expressed that a simple criteria of failing in the case of tardiness seemed best. In addition, if there is to be a policy, an explicit timeline is necessary. Look for more from Jason, who can be reached at jds517@psu.edu

Announcements:

Exploration Day - Park Forest Middle School on Sat. April 14th from 10 am to 3 pm. The entomology department will be involved with five tables – two for beneficial insects, two for CIDD, and one for pollinators. There are typically two shifts, morning and afternoon, with a pizza lunch provided at noon. Please contact Salil at salil@psu.edu if you are interested in helping out.

Elections – We will be holding elections soon, so start thinking about nominations! You are welcome to nominate yourself. The new officers will begin in July, but Salil would like to hold elections early, so that the new officers will have time to purchase merchandise for next year's Great Insect Fair. The responsibilities of the positions are:

President: Facilitates discussion between the graduate student community and the faculty, most notably during faculty meetings and in meetings with the department head

Vice President: Assists the president and attends faculty meetings. Coordinate crittercare and seminar speaker nominations.

Secretary: Coordinates monthly social events. Records minutes during EGSA meetings.

Treasurer: Manages EGSA account, including purchasing for GIF and snack cabinet merchandise.

Web master: Maintains EGSA website, which includes updating calendars, website photos, etc.

Please submit nominations to Salil at salil@psu.edu

Ethnic food potluck - The April event will be an ethnic food potluck lunch either the last week of April or the first week of May. The entire department will be invited. EGSA will provide drinks and everyone brings a labeled dish. Look for the doodle polls in the near future.

Taxes – Jason added that the net wages from his W2 forms for 2011 was significantly different than his 2010 and would be curious to see if anybody else had a similar problem. Email him at jds517@psu.edu

Meeting adjourned at 5:20pm

Wingyi Kung

Bug Camp 2012

Dates: Monday, June 25- Thursday, June 28

Time: 9:00am – 4:00pm

Where: Basement of ASI (rooms 15 & 16)

Camp Set-Up: Friday, June 22

Camp Clean-Up: Friday, June 29

Age of campers: 8-11 years old

Number of campers: 20 (maximum)

Overview of what we do at Bug Camp:

- Talks/discussions about insects, other arthropods, and related topics
- Take field trips to local areas
- Insect collection and pinning
- Make Bug Camp t-shirts
- Play games/do fun activities
- Crafts
- Trip to Creamery
- Open house for families on the last day
- Award Bug Camp certificates
- Many other possibilities!

Possible Topics:

- Bug basics (insects vs. arthropods, metamorphosis)
- Internal and external anatomy
- Insect collecting, identification, and pinning
- Insect adaptations
- Insect classification, insect orders
- Insects and the food web
- Social insects and pollinators
- Insect predator/prey relationships
- Urban entomology
- Insects and agriculture
- Aquatic insects
- Open to anything you might like to teach the students about!

Possible Field Trip Locations

- Sunset Park
- Shaver's Creek
- Millbrook Marsh
- Tudek Park

Hike around Laurel Haven forest; collect insects
Travel back to ASI
Wrap-up & review

Day 2: Anatomy, Collection and Curation

Internal & external anatomy lesson/discussion
Bug bingo
Insect pinning lesson
Walk to Sunset Park ; lunch; insect collecting
Return to ASI
Group Activities: Insect pinning, identification and labeling/arts & crafts
Wrap-up & review