

EGSA Meeting Minutes
September 9th, 2010
4:20 PM, 504 ASI Conference Room

In attendance:

Flor Acevedo
Tom Bentley
Becky Heinig
Holly Holt
Tom Huff
Beth Irwin
Wingyi Kung

Jessica Richards
Dan Schmehl
Sheena Sidhu
Jason Smith
Salil Siriwat
Gabe Villar

Announcements:

Entomological Foundation. The Entomological Foundation is having a ‘top 20’ science project contest. Ideas should be suited for elementary, middle, and high school students and should be focused on entomological questions. Winners will receive \$100 per project idea that made the top 20 list. Open now till November 1, 2010. Check www.entfdn.org for more info or contact April Gower, april@entfdn.org.

Committee Reports:

EGSA Intro. Jason gave a brief intro about EGSA. This year’s officers are Jason (president), Beth (vice president), Salil (secretary), Holly (treasurer), and Ian (webmaster). Besides voicing the students’ opinion during the faculty meetings which the president and vice president will attend every month, we intend to hear from you on what is or not working in the department for you. We also plan on organizing monthly social events. Suggestions and comments are welcome. Just send an email to us.

Great Insect Fair. Held on Sat Oct 2, 2010 at 10AM- 4PM. Steve Jacobs announced that the theme for this year is ‘Insects are Green’. The logo is posted in front of 501. The Great Insect Fair is an annual event held at the Ag Arena, near the stadium. The department has many activities such as the butterfly tent, insect zoo, insect deli, build a bug (Alexis), children’s game (Tom Bentley), kids craft (Amber) and roach race. Tom needs incoming students to help create the game and also transition on, email tgb134@psu.edu. Volunteers during the fair are encouraged. If you volunteer the whole day, you get a free insects are green t-shirt and pizza. There will be a sign up sheet for student to volunteer on which activity they are interested in. There will be two shifts so you can choose two different activities. Most importantly, don’t forget to look around the fair when you have a chance and have fun.

Outreach. Amber is our outreach coordinator. The tours usually last for 30 minutes and consist of 25 children and 1 supervisor. The talk is on basic insect information and is freestyle. If you’re interested, you can shadow one of the tour guides or contact Amber when her emails requesting tours arrives. Dan says it’s good for CVs, “Tour guide for museum”. Our newly elected president for the Friends of the Frost is Wanyi. If you have suggestions for improving the museum please email her at wxz124@psu.edu

Critter Care. Our critters are looking great! Thank you Tim for making the info cards and Beth & Jason for rearranging the displays. Each week a graduate student volunteers to take care for the critters, it takes less than 1 hour. The handbook is hung beside the walking sticks cage. The critter care calendar can be found on the graduate student section of the entomology website. Volunteer by emailing Beth at bai107@psu.edu to reserve a week.

Snack Cabinet. Hope everyone is happy with our upgraded snack cabinets. We are still open for food item suggestions. All profits from the snack cabinets will go towards our monthly events and other funds. Thank you Holly for stocking them up.

Department Seminar. We are now open for student nominated seminar speakers for spring. Since we are low on budget, speakers will be limited to be from US only. If you have a person in mind, send email to Beth with a brief info of their area of interest and why you want to nominate the speaker. A website link would be helpful.

Taxonomy Curriculum Update. Sheena reports that the recruitment committee would like the faculty to a taxonomy class before recruitment weekend. Insect collection requirement is enjoyable but promotes stress and needs more guidance. Dan, teaching committee suggests that the collection have a letter grade. Tom B suggests that it should be tied to a course as a lab component. Still not settled. The collection guidelines e.g. how many families, rubric etc should be updated and clearer. Recruitment committee wants to update/improve the website. If you have suggestions, please send them to Sheena at cks151@psu.edu. I

Future events:

October Social Event. Had a mini vote between apple picking and pumpkin carving. Apple picking won! Plan to organize some weekend after GIF. EGSA will provide refreshments and transportation. Stay tuned for details to come.

Sieg Center Collecting Trip. Jason suggests next summer's collecting trip be held at the Sieg Center. It is cheap (~\$400 per weekend) and close. Students can drop in during the day or night to have fun. Stay tuned.

Next EGSA meetings:

October 4th: 4-5 PM CEL
November 1st: 5-6 PM 504 ASI
December 6th: 4-5 PM CEL

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM.