Minutes of the Summer Meeting of the

Southeastern Chapter of the Ecological Society of America

10 August, 2011

Austin Convention Center, Austin, TX

Meeting Called to order at 11:55 am

David Vandermast from Elon University called the meeting to order and introduced himself as the Chair of SE-ESA for 2010-2012. Introductions were made around.

**Attending:** David Vandermast, Janet MacFall, Brian McCarthy, Ross Hinkle, Liz Becker, Beth Stephens, Rick Boyce, Jim Luken, John Drake, Dawn Sherry, Katie Kovach, Bob Peet, Annie Weiler, Alan Covich, Lizzie King, Nancy Adamson

**Old business**

David Vandermast debuted the updated website. The website is due to the work of Katie Kovach who, with Zaw Aung at ESA, implemented the new design and began populating the site with information. The new website is within the ESA domain and should be easily revisable by future Chapter officers.

A request was made of the members present to provide ideas and information to make the website more functional and helpful. The history section, in particular, needs to be written. This effort can coincide with ESA’s request that each Chapter provide them with their history for the 2015 annual meeting, which will be ESA’s 100th anniversary. Past-Chair Joel Gramling had mentioned a box containing much information on the history of the Chapter. None of the attendees were aware of the current location of the box. David Vandermast will email Joel to ascertain where it might be.

Bob Peet recommended that certain features of the website be updated via RSS feed. Additionally, a Facebook page was recommended.

Brian McCarthy raised objection to the brown-bag format of the meeting – knowing where to grab lunch and make it to the meeting in time is a problem. Ideas for improving attendance and the nature of the meeting included having it as a part of an evening mixer with a cash bar. Alternatively, having it catered outside of the convention center could make it cheaper.

**New business**

Malia Fincher, of Samford University, was introduced *in absentia* as the new Vice-Chair of the Chapter.

The 2012 ASB annual meeting in Athens, GA is the 75th Anniversary of ASB and it has been proposed that the Southeast Chapter co-host the plenary speaker. David Vandermast has been in contact with Zach Murrell, Vice President of ASB, about contacting Jane Lubchenco for the plenary speaker position. In the spring, Zach emailed Alan Covich, who knows Jane, about this possibility. Alan reported that it is very unlikely that Jane will be able to be plenary speaker at ASB in 2012 but reported that replacement ideas could be discussed at the UGA mixer that evening.

Ross Hinkle mentioned that his thesis advisor, Hal DeSelm, had recently passed away. He and a few colleagues will write an obituary that will appear in a future issue of the ESA Bulletin.

Chairmanships of the Odum and Quarterman-Keever award were discussed. Dean Cocking was Chair of the Odum Award for 2011 and it was not clear whether he was going to retain his Chairmanship for 2012. David Vandermast will contact him about this. Jim Luken was Chair of the Quarterman-Keever award for 2011 and expressed interest in passing it on to someone else for 2012. Janet MacFall volunteered to Chair the committee for 2012; Dawn Sherry volunteered to be on the committee. Alexander Fotis, of University Lousiana-Monroe was announced as the Odum Award winner. K. Elizabeth Becker, of University of Central Florida, was announced as the Quarterman-Keever Award winner.

The award winners and an update from the Chapter should be printed in an upcoming edition of the ESA Bulletin. This is typically submitted by the Secretary/Treasurer. Jackie White was contacted about performing this duty.

**Adjournment**

There being no new business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.