

**Executive Committee Meeting of the Florida Association of Benthologists
May 9, 2006, Oligochaete Workshop
Entomology Nematology Building, University of Florida Campus
Gainesville, Florida**

Attending:

Dave Karlen: At Large Member, Workshop and Certification Committee Chair, and Awards Committee Chair, Dana Denson: President, Sandi Hanlon-Breuer: Treasurer, Palmer Kinser: Immediate Past President and Internet Committee Chair, Gloria Eby: President Elect, Darrie Hohlt: Other Government Representative, Peggy Morgan: At Large Member, Doug Strom: Consultant Representative and Executive Committee Chair, and Laura Line: Secretary
Acting Alternates: Marianne Pluchino: Membership Committee Chair, Eric Pluchino: Endowment Committee Chair

Doug Strom called the meeting to order at 12:54 pm. There was no reading of the minutes from the December Executive Committee Meeting as they were lost and need to be reconstructed, as do the Business Meeting notes. Please send any information you have from those to Laura. [These notes were subsequently found.]

Treasurer's Report: Sandi passed out a copy of the treasurer's report showing the checking account report. As of March 31, 2006, we had \$11,123.57. T-shirt and mug sales did well at the annual meeting. Sandi also passed out the Endowment Money Market Summary. She closed out the account and opened a new 10-month Certificate of Deposit with a 4.5% annual yield. As of January 19, 2006, we had \$12,509.79. The new CD will come due November 19, just in time for the annual meeting and December FAB Student Awards. The Milligan Memorial money came out of the general fund. We may not have an interest-bearing checking account for the general fund money according to our non-profit status. The checking account generally stays about the same with a bit of fluctuation. We may in the future continue the practice of transferring funds from the general fund to the endowment fund. The Annual meeting was a good venue for selling t-shirts and mugs.

Endowment Committee Report: We had \$200 taken out of the Endowment Account for the best student presentation at the annual meeting in December and the other two \$75 checks for the other best two presentations came from the checking account. One student was a Ph.D. candidate and the other was an undergraduate so both were given an award. Only interest may be withdrawn according to the rules for a non-profit corporation. Years ago at a meeting in Cedar Key the officers decided to take money from the general fund to increase the amount in the endowment fund so that it would generate more interest to be used for awards. Dana calculated that we will have \$337.50 of interest to use for the Endowment Awards next November. Eric Pluchino moved that that we take whatever amount we need of the interest from the CD for the one student presentation and one poster in November when the CD matures and leave any additional interest in the CD and roll it over to the next year. Doug seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Awards Committee: Dave Karlen asked for suggestions for people who deserve an award (plaque) from FAB. Doug will send out of list of past award recipients. There are two categories of FAB awards: contributions to FAB and contributions to Florida benthology.

By-Laws Committee: Marc Minno was not present to give a report.

Editorial Committee: Rob Mattson was not present to give a report.

Membership Committee: Marianne Pluchino researched a computer program for memberships from Great Britain. It would print out FAB ID cards with which we could reward new members. It can make photo ID cards that Marianne could make from our group photos. These databases are not cheap, \$500-\$800. Peggy and Dave could help to make decisions. The money has already been approved for the database. We have 164 members on the list. Only 44 of those are not current with their dues (have not paid since 2001). One hundred twenty are in good standing (have paid within the last 4 years). Doug asked that Marianne e-mail Sandi, Dana, and him when she has decided on a program.

Workshop and Certification Committee: Doug said that Gloria, Palmer, Dave, Jim Hulbert, and Marc Minno are on this committee. The committee needs to get together and talk especially about the certification issue. The fall workshop will focus on marine mollusks. It will be held the week of October 10 at Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Laboratory. There will not be a fee charged to FAB for using these facilities. Jose Leal from the Shell Museum on Sanibel Island will be a speaker. Several others asked cannot make it. Richard Heard, Gary Warren, and Jim Williams are on list to ask. We cover expenses of speakers, but do not pay a fee to them. The income for a year barely covers expenses for the spring workshop. The upcoming fall workshop will be more formal than previous fall workshops and will have more scope time. Marine bivalves and gastropods, scaphopods, some exotics, opisthobranchs, (sea slugs) would be good to cover. Tom Dix is also good with marine molluscs, so he may also be involved.

Non-chironomid Diptera will be covered in next years' May workshop. In two years, we may have a freshwater mollusk workshop. The Diptera workshop has been arranged for a while. We need better resources and keys to the non-chironomid Diptera of Florida.

Internet Committee: Palmer said the website is alive and the Water & Air Research job announcement has been posted. Images from the Hemiptera workshop are up. We need to add the Coleoptera pictures to the website and a new format to fit in all the information. Floridabenthos.org is the domain name; you can do a search on Floridabenthos and the website will come up.

New Business: According to the requirement of the non-profit corporation status, we need to advertise our meetings in a local newspaper and in something like the *Florida Specifier* (e.g., a regional periodical). We may be able to get around that requirement because we advertise on the internet. David Evans could check on that.

Darrie Hohlt said Gary Warren would like to be on the Executive Committee and she would like him to take her place. Gary Warren joined the meeting, and was willing to do the switch. Dana made a motion with appreciation to Gary, and much thanks to Darrie, to facilitate their exchanging places on the Executive Committee. Dave seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Doug made a motion to end the meeting at 1:45pm, Peggy seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Addendum: The winter meeting will take place at the Ed Yarborough Nature Center in Geneva, Seminole County. The facility is free for FAB to use.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Line, Secretary

**Executive Committee Meeting of the Florida Association of Benthologists
December 13, 2006**

**Ed Yarborough Nature Center, Geneva Wilderness Area,
Geneva, FL**

Attending:

Dave Karlen: at Large Member, Workshop and Certification Committee Chair, and
Awards Committee chair, Dana Denson: President, Sandi Hanlon-Breuer: Treasurer,
Gloria Eby: President elect, Peggy Morgan: at Large Member,
Doug Strom: Consultant Representative and Executive Committee Chair, Laura Line:
Secretary

Acting Alternates: Marianne Pluchino: Membership committee Chair, Eric Pluchino:
Endowment Committee Chair

Doug Strom called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon. He passed out the new Executive Committee list. The first order of business was the reading of the minutes from the 12/05 Executive Committee Meeting, 12/05 Business Meeting and 5/06 Executive Committee Meeting at the Oligochaete Workshop. The minutes will be published in the next FAB Newsletter. No corrections were added. The minutes from all three meetings were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The endowment fund made \$470.30 in interest this year. A sum of \$250 was transferred into the checking account for new awards this year. A new nine-month CD with a 5.15% Annual Yield was opened with Wachovia for \$12,730.09. The checking account balance is \$11,079.65 as of today. An item added of \$318 was for the t-shirts and mug sales. The only recent payout was for the beverage chillers. Laura will check with the UF Entomology and Nematology shop to see how the sales of FAB items are going.

Awards Committee: We will be giving out two awards; the first is to Dr. John Osborn, Gloria Eby's mentor for contributions to Florida benthology and Dr. John Epler will be receiving an award for contributions to FAB as well. The plaques were made at Brown's Trophies in Tampa (and Dave Karlen gave the receipt to Sandi Hanlon-Breuer). Doug had two nominations for awards one for fresh water and one for salt water. Peggy Morgan suggested someone also. The Awards Committee will make the decision.

By-Laws Committee: Chair Marc Minno was not in attendance. Palmer made the most recent changes in the by-laws and constitution and posted them on the FAB website. You can look at the changes through the years. Please go to Marc Minno for proposed changes in the bylaws or constitution. Doug Strom will draft a sentence relating benefits of lifetime membership for the by-laws and constitution.

Newsletter Committee: Chair Rob Mattson was not in attendance as he was nominated for Employee of the Year from SJRWMD. He e-mailed Doug he was hoping to get a new copy of the newsletter off this January (2007). New reviews or announcements may be sent to Rob.

Internet Committee: Chair Palmer Kinser was not in attendance; however, Gloria Eby did some work on possible revisions to the FAB internet website (see discussion below).

Membership Committee: Chair Marianne updated the FAB membership database with 167 entries for members. She has been working closely with Sandi. The new database is capable of connecting members with meetings attended, payment tracking, payment options, meeting speakers and topics, and membership status. It will make address labels and name tags. Marianne is asking everyone to update their information. We are not accepting payment online yet. Marianne will add historical data to the meetings attended section. If anyone thinks of something they want the database to do, please e-mail Marianne.

Doug brought up the topic of Lifetime Memberships and would like to propose that Jim Hulbert receive one. During discussion it was suggested the lifetime membership would cover fees for the annual meeting as well as membership. Dave Karlen suggested that David Evans also be given a lifetime membership. Marianne suggested we give one to Rob Mattson, too. Mark Wetzel will provide information to Doug regarding lifetime memberships from other organizations in which he is involved, so that we can see if the text in the FAB by-laws and constitution for the lifetime membership should be enhanced.

Eric made a motion that:

1. Benefits of lifetime membership will include free membership and registration for annual meetings (this text will be added to the FAB by-laws and constitution, pending approval by the business meeting attendees; this may be subject to revision). The motion passed unanimously.
2. The first recipients of this award will be Jim Hulbert, David Evans, and Rob Mattson. The motion passed unanimously.

Dana will make the awards certificates to be handed out at the Business Meeting.

Endowment Committee: Eric thanked Sandi for generating the financial statements and for the good interest rate on the CD for the Endowment fund. The interest on the Endowment Fund is what is used for awards. The general fund is the checking account. The \$250 that was transferred last year into the checking account and not used can be earmarked for next years' awards. The high school presenters may not be given cash, but we may give them a one-year membership to FAB plus t-shirts, coolies and mugs. The Endowment Committee can meet between now and next year and we may want to make a motion to the EC to expand the awards to cover high school students in a separate category. We will check the constitution and by-laws to see if a change is necessary.

New Business:

Internet Committee: Gloria Eby used MS Publisher to try out several new options for the FAB internet site. Among those include: Homepage with bulletin board, Links to workshop agendas, upcoming meetings and online registration, abstract guidelines and vacancies. She used bright colors in the revisions.

Gloria also made links to the FAB Constitution, by-Laws, Executive Committee Members, Vacancies, and History. Historical photos may be added. She suggested having

information about sub-chapters online and introduced FABOA, Florida Association of Benthologists, Orlando Area, a new sub-chapter of FAB.

She suggested having pictures of t-shirts, mugs and coolies that could be purchased online with prices to include shipping – no credit cards, just checks would be accepted. Annual meeting, taxonomic workshops, an historic section, and a donation section with a contribution form are also easy to find. A publications section would include recent publications, online journal and e-papers, recommended identification keys with links to Florida Entomologist, Florida Scientist other local, benthic related information, and the FDEP website. (It was noted that the University of Michigan produced a good online Odonate key.)

Equipment and supplies such as CMC-10 and where to order them could be included. A Photo Gallery and Library could have digital images of organisms in categories. This would be a one stop place to get what you need to get started as a benthologist. The consultant corner is still there. Peggy suggested showing the website ideas at the Business Meeting. Gloria will talk to Palmer Kinser about the proposed changes and additions. Doug suggested that she be recruited to the Internet Committee. Gloria has students who can help keep the website updated. Mark Wetzel suggested protecting members from spam if their e-mail addresses will be on the website by changing the “@” to “at” in the address or change to embedded addresses. The membership list may be best restricted to access only for other members, but the executive Committee information should be available but protected. The Internet Committee needs to discuss this matter. Much thanks to Gloria for her enterprise and hard work.

Workshop and Certification Committee: Dana announced that Peter Adler from Clemson University would be giving the Non-Chironomid Dipteran workshop the first three days of May (a 2 and ½ -day workshop at the UF Entomology and Nematology Department). Please collect specimens to bring. Dave said the marine mollusk workshop went well and came out in the black. The feedback forms had suggestions to stick to 2 ½ workshops, and suggested doing a workshop on echinoderms for the future. Dave contacted Dr. Richard Turner of Florida Institute of Technology, who has agreed to lead a workshop on echinoderms next fall. We need a place with a bigger teaching lab than Rookery Bay, like we had for the Oligochaeta workshop at UF last spring. USF has an education center at Clam Bayou in St. Petersburg. The new identification center is the living room of a house with tables set up. It has a LCD system, digital camera and light pens and a screen. Brooker Creek Preserve and Wheedon Island in Tampa were also suggested. The FWC Marine Lab was damaged by the hurricanes, and the Lime Tree Bay Resort is going condominium, so the Long Key site will not be available, for the time being, and it will not be as convenient as in the past if/when the lab is rebuilt. The Guano-Tolomato-Matanzas National Estuarine Research Preserve has a beautiful Environmental Education Center near Vilano Beach, but is expensive. We have contact information for a woman who went to the marine workshop, who works there and who may be able to arrange a better rate for FAB.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Line, Secretary

**Annual Business Meeting of the Florida Association of Benthologists
December 14, 2006**

**Ed Yarborough Nature Center, Geneva Wilderness Area,
Geneva, FL**

Attending:

Dave Karlen: at Large Member, Workshop and Certification Committee Chair, and
Awards Committee chair, Dana Denson: President, Sandi Hanlon-Breuer: Treasurer,
Gloria Eby: President elect, Peggy Morgan: at Large Member,
Doug Strom: Consultant Representative and Executive Committee Chair, Laura Line:
Secretary

Acting Alternates: Marianne Pluchino: Membership committee Chair, Eric Pluchino:
Endowment Committee Chair

Dana Denson called the meeting to order at 11:20 am after Gloria gave an award to Dr. Osborn, a great mentor to many Florida Benthologists, but who was not able to attend the meeting. Dana entertained us as he presented an award to Dr. John Epler for his contributions to Florida Benthology.

FAB Website: Gloria will give her FAB Website Mock up improvement and input to Palmer Kinser. Please check out the FAB website and suggest any improvements to Palmer.

Treasurer's Report: Sandi reported the checking account balance is \$11,079.65. A new nine-month CD with a 5.15% Annual Yield was opened with Wachovia for \$12,730.09. The endowment fund made \$470.30 in interest this year. Since we didn't have any college level students presenting at this meeting, the \$250 set aside will be left in the checking account for next year. Eric Pluchino reminded the members that only the interest on this account was allowed to be used for the awards. We need to get more participation from college level students, and expand recognition to younger high school and middle school students who give presentations.

Membership Committee: Chair Marianne has a new database to use for FAB. It was shown to the EC yesterday. Please give any new membership information to Marianne.

Awards Ceremony: Jim Hulbert (Past FAB President) was presented the Lifetime Membership Award, or as he called it, "the Old Geezer Award." Two others were given; one to David Evans, one of the founding members (who was also a former FAB President, executive committee Member and chair, who currently serves as the FAB registered agent), and one to Rob Mattson who had been Editor of the FAB Florida Benthological Newsletter for twelve years.

FAB Constitution, By-Laws: Doug, acting as a By-Laws Committee member, said the Business Meeting should consider amending the FAB by-laws and constitution regarding lifetime membership awards. Currently the FAB by-laws and constitution states that the Chair of the FAB EC submits nominations for lifetime membership awards to the EC; a yes vote from 2/3 of the EC is needed for approval of lifetime membership awards. He

proposed to add a sentence to the FAB by-laws and constitution: Benefits of lifetime membership to FAB will include exemption of annual fees for dues and registration for annual meetings. The motion was made and passed unanimously. Doug will contact Marc Minno to make the change to the FAB by-laws and constitution.

Doug Strom addressed the meeting, thanking the members for their service to FAB: To Dana, for making arrangements for the Annual Meeting and freshwater workshops, Dave Karlen for the fall workshop arrangements, to the Geneva Wilderness people, and specifically to Jim Duby for hosting us. Thanks to Mark Wetzel for the Oligochaeta workshop and NABS certification information. Thanks to Laura for writing up the minutes, and for doing artwork for FAB products, to Sandi for her work as Treasurer, helping with registration, keeping the records, to David Evans for work as Registered Agent and keeping us at non-profit status, to Rob Mattson for the newsletter editor duties. We are still looking for an Assistant Editor, so if you are interested in helping and learning about the literature, please contact us. Thanks to everybody on the EC, Gloria, and Dana, to Darrie Hohlt whose position is being taken over by previous president, Gary Warren. Thanks to Manny Pescador, Marc Minno, Peggy Morgan and Ford Walton for their contributions. Also thanks to the members and chairs of special committees, Marianne, Eric, and Dave Karlen for the fall workshop and nominating people to facilitate FAB elections every two years. Please contact Dave if you would like to nominate someone for a position. Next year we will have elections again. Gloria Eby is President elect. Next year will also be the FAB 20th Anniversary. The presenters were interesting and it was good to see young people being recruited. Thanks to Gloria for the great party the night before. [The full text of Doug's speech will be published in an upcoming issue of the FAB Florida Benthological Newsletter].

Student presenter Analise e-mailed Dana and said she would never forget the experience of her project and presentation, and is quite honored to be a member of FAB. Doug added that the meetings and ideas arising from the FABOA group are great. He doesn't see a need to formalize FAB chapters at the current time. Mark Wetzel wants to find out about setting up certification for benthic taxonomy for the State of Florida.

Dana adjourned the meeting at 11:46.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Line, Secretary