

**Executive Committee Meeting of the Florida Association of Benthologists  
May 23, 2007, Water Mite Workshop  
Geneva, Florida**

Attending:

Executive Committee Members: Dana Denson: President, Palmer Kinser: Immediate Past-President, Internet Committee Chair, and Nominating Committee Chair, Gloria Eby: President Elect, Sandi Hanlon-Breuer: Treasurer, Marc Minno: Member at Large and By-Laws Committee, Doug Strom: Executive Committee Chair, Rob Mattson: Editor, Ford Walton State Representative, Peggy Morgan, Member at Large

Attending Alternates: Marianne Pluchino: Membership Committee Chair,  
Eric Pluchino: Endowment Committee Chair and By-Laws Committee

Observing: Bob Rutter, Broughton Caldwell, Gay Donaldson-Fortier, Gitta Schmitt

Doug Strom called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.

**Committee Reports:**

**By-Laws Committee:** Marc Minno updated this last year. Honorary/Lifetime Membership benefits were clarified in text that was added.

**Internet Committee:** All past newsletters are online now. Gloria re-designed the website using Microsoft Publisher. We are currently using Dream Weaver software and the Microsoft Publisher ideas may not translate. Palmer and Gloria will get together to coordinate the website plan and will coordinate pictures with Dana for bug categories. Pictures need to be labeled. Posting videos is a possibility. Interns (from Seminole County) are available to help with time-consuming website work. The internet company changed hands but we are paid up until about next October; there was some confusion around paying for the site.

**Endowment Committee Report:** Eric Pluchino said there were no student awards given at the Annual Meeting. The \$250 taken out that was not used was put back into the new CD along with the money from the first CD when it matured. The new CD will mature in August 2007 and is giving a rate of 5.15 %. The FAB can only give award money away with interest generated from the Endowment Fund. More money in the fund would yield higher interest that would allow us to give more away to the presenters. About \$12,000 is in the checking account. We probably do not need that much money in the checking account, but once it goes into the Endowment Fund, it cannot be taken back out. Sandi said we have never needed to use more than about \$6,000 from the checking account in the past.

The Endowment Fund has about \$12,000 in it as well. The proceeds of the Endowment Fund must go to give awards and, maybe, in ways to attract young benthologists. We may want to vote to transfer some of the extra \$2,000-\$4,000, into the Endowment Fund. We need to check with David Evans to see if transferring money from the checking account into the Endowment Fund is possible with a vote from the Executive Committee (EC). We would like to do this during the Annual Meeting. [David Evans, FAB Registered Agent, and Doug Strom EC Chair (upon review of the FAB Constitution and Bylaws) know of no prohibition of doing this transfer with authorization with a majority vote from the Executive Committee only (in consultation with the Endowment Committee Chair). However, it is preferable to have the approval of the business

meeting attendees as well. If in the future circumstances arise that require such an action, the EC can act independently of the business meeting in this matter.]

**Awards Committee:** Dave Karlen was not present.

**Membership Committee:** Marianne Pluchino reminded us that the next annual meeting will be the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of FAB (it will be the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting). We would like to plan something special. Marianne would like everyone's membership start date. The new membership database is working well. Peggy asked about contacting people at universities regarding membership outreach for FAB to recruit students. Some students do not have the money to come to our meetings. (Maybe we should have Annual Meetings near a large university so it will be convenient for students.) Marc noted that marine areas seem to have their own meetings and programs and that there are many specialized groups. Mosquito control specialists also have their own meetings and newsletter and do not seem interested in FAB. We also considered looking at the NABS membership for people who may be interested in FAB. Doug suggested sending a flyer or brochure to send or e-mail to these groups. Dave Karlen sent a notice about the student awards for presentations years ago. Marianne, Laura, and Peggy could get together to plan this. Marc would e-mail it to the groups and teachers in the aquatic programs.

**Editorial Committee:** Rob Mattson said the June Issue of the FAB newsletter would have information on the Fall Workshop. Rob will contact Dave Karlen. The workshop may be on echinoderms. Information about this meeting will be posted on the FAB website (Floridabenthos.org). Palmer suggested an article about the mite workshop with pictures and text. Dana volunteered to write the article. We are looking for an assistant editor, who would be chair of the literature review committee. It would be nice if they are near Palatka, where Rob is based but is not necessary. The Assistant Editor can go to journals online and pick out articles related to benthology, so the tasks of this position are not as difficult as they once were.

**Treasurer's Report:** Sandi Hanlon-Breuer is resigning as Treasurer at the end of the year. Marianne Pluchino will take over as next Treasurer (if elected) as there is a lot of overlap with membership and software. In the interim Sandi and Marianne will act as Co-treasurers to facilitate transfer of information, procedures, and access to accounts. We had \$470.30 in interest last year. We have a new 9-month CD that will mature in August. We had a bank check fee of \$3.80. Checks are so old we need new ones. There is \$12,066.10 in checking account.

**Workshop and Certification Committee:** Gloria is chair but she had to leave early.

**New Business:** (Peggy Morgan would be interested in becoming President after Gloria.) The next Annual Meeting will be held at the brand new Elsa Kimble Education Center, Jonathan Dickenson State Park on December 12-13, 2007. Peter Adler's wife is much better so he may be able to do next year's spring workshop on Non-Chironomid Diptera.

**The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Line, Secretary

## **Executive Meeting of the Florida Association of Benthologists**

**December 5, 2007**

**Elsa Kimbell Environmental Education Center  
Jonathan Dickenson State Park, Hobe Sound, FL**

Attending:

Dana Denson: President, Gloria Eby: President Elect, Doug Strom: Consultant Representative and Executive Committee Chair, Palmer Kinser: At Large Member and Internet Committee Chair, Marc Minno: At Large Member and By-Laws Committee Chair, Rob Mattson: Editorial Committee Chair, Gary Warren: Other Government Representative, Eric Pluchino: Endowment Committee Chair, Peggy Morgan: At Large Member, Laura Line: Secretary

Acting Alternates: Marianne Pluchino: Interim Treasurer and Membership Committee Chair,  
Eric Pluchino: Endowment Committee Chair

Also Present: Mark Wetzel, Illinois Natural History Survey

Doug Strom called the meeting to order at 12:45 pm. This is the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of FAB. Minutes were e-mailed to EC members ahead of the meeting and were approved with no corrections.

**Treasurer's Report:** Marianne acting as Treasurer (taking over for Sandi Hanlon-Breuer) reported the checking account balance is \$11,750.87 on October 31, 2007. The Endowment Fund accrued \$480 from November to August and has about \$13,880. Marianne will e-mail the summary to EC members. The Fall Echinoderm Workshop lost money this year, but the Annual Meeting made a profit. Dana noted a recommendation made at the Executive Committee Meeting to transfer \$4,000 from the General Fund to the Endowment Fund in March 2008 when the CD rolls over.

**Awards Committee:** Dave Karlen sent the awards to Dana. Dr. Richard Heard will receive an award for his contributions to Florida Benthology, and Bob Rutter an Award of Excellence for his contributions to FAB. It is traditional to give the awards at the annual meeting. Doug suggested that we may want to give one to Sara LeCroy next year for contributions to Florida benthology.

**By-Laws and Nominations Committees:** The Nominating Committee is presently comprised of Palmer, the Immediate Past President which is required of his position. Doug asked Dana, who will take over, if we may need to have more mandatory memberships of this committee. Nominees for the election at the Business Meeting were as follows: Secretary: Laura Line to continue, Treasurer: Marianne Pluchino and for President-Elect: Peggy Morgan. A paper ballot will be used to conduct the election of officers at the Business Meeting.

The current Awards Committee is comprised of Dave Karlen and Manny Pescador. Palmer as the outgoing Immediate Past President serves as chair of the Awards Committee. Chair Marc Minno said that the Immediate Past President and two other past presidents shall serve on the awards committee and Peggy added that two other people should be on it as well and it should have five members. Doug asked Palmer to consider re-writing the constitution to see if we need an amendment for the selection of the members of the Awards Committee. We need to have compulsory membership of some of these committees so that people are identified to make these decisions and that we have robust committees. Peggy suggested that the President-Elect could be considered for some of these committees as well. We may need to re-write the Awards section in the constitution to be more specific about the names of each award and the reasons for them. Doug asked Palmer to consider re-writing the constitution to make this section more specific and

flexible. The plaque for all of the presidents will pass from Palmer to Dana and it is updated with Dana's name.

**Endowment Committee:** Eric stated that Lynn Denahan has not been active with the Endowment committee. The Endowment Committee recommended to the EC that we transfer funds from the General Fund to the Endowment Fund. We have close to \$12,000 in the General Fund and according to Sandi Hanlon-Breuer and Marianne we don't ever need more than about \$5,000-\$6,000, but our costs are going up. We have done transfers in the past on the order of \$2,000 to \$4,000. The EC passed the motion that \$4,000 be transferred from the General to the endowment Fund when the current CD matures to provide more interest in the Endowment Fund for awards.

An e-mail exchange approved the idea of policy change that if only one deserving student presents, we may give them an award, and we should fill out judging forms to have the presentation documented. Palmer noted that the EC started making decisions via internet with the planning of the memorial for Mike Milligan. Marc will check about the need to amend the constitution to allow for internet meetings.

**Editorial and Literature Committee:** Chair Rob Mattson announced Julie Bortles agreed to be Assistant Editor and Chair of the Literature Review Committee. Rob made a motion to e-mail the FAB newsletter, saving FAB up to about \$2,000 a year. Snail mail would still be available. Archived newsletter over 1 year old would be posted on the website. Rob will research where to archive old paper copies of the newsletter, such as the UF or SJRWMD library or a digital library. Doug suggested giving us a year to make the transition with a notice in each newsletter as to the change to electronic format. A motion was passed to e-mail the newsletter beginning in 2009.

**Internet Committee:** Palmer Kinser reported that the FAB website is currently not working as the provider going out of business. A check was sent and was not cashed yet. They have no phone number, and we have not been able to contact them. Gary Warren suggested stopping payment on the check and finding a new provider. He suggested atlantic.net as a local Gainesville business and he could hand-deliver the check to pay them as we may not pay by credit card. Doug suggested that Palmer back up the website to a DVD. Doug and Dana approved the expense to have Marianne find a way to pay for a provider such as Pay Pal. Gloria has some ideas for the website and will discuss changes in the website with Palmer Kinser.

**Workshop and Certification Committee:** The Spring 2008 Workshop will be held April 8-10 in Seminole County Environmental Studies Center, Spring Hammock Preserve, close to Big Tree State Park, which will be a good field trip collection area. The workshop will cover non-Chironomidae Diptera taxonomy with Dr. Gregory Courtney from Iowa State University. Information may be found on the back page of the agenda. The Fall 2008 workshop will be on Polychaete taxonomy with Dr. Greg Rouse, author of Polychaetes and possibly James Blake. Gloria announced that Jim Williams is planning to do a workshop in 2009 on freshwater mussels.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Line, Secretary

**Annual Business Meeting of the Florida Association of Benthologists  
December 6, 2007**

**Elsa Kimbell Environmental Education Center  
Jonathan Dickenson State Park, Hobe Sound, FL**

Attending:

Dana Denson: President, Gloria Eby: President Elect, Marianne Pluchino: Interim Treasurer, Palmer Kinser: At Large Member and Internet Committee Chair, Marc Minno: At Large Member and By-Laws Committee Chair, Rob Mattson: Editorial Committee Chair, Peggy Morgan: At Large Member,  
Laura Line: Secretary  
Acting Alternates: Eric Pluchino: Endowment Committee Chair

Dana Denson called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm.

**Awards Ceremony:** This is the sixth year that FAB has presented student presentation awards. Eric Pluchino presented an Award Certificate, check for \$200, and FAB Membership to student presenter Jennifer Bernatis for her talk on Apple Snails. Eric reiterated that our goal is to reach out to students. Dana presented an award to Dr. Richard Heard for Contributions to Florida Benthic Ecology for his work in marine taxonomy. Dr. Heard was a regular member of the Fall Taxonomy Workshops with Mike Milligan. Unfortunately he was not present so the award will be sent to him. Dana also presented an award to Bob Rutter for Contributions to the Florida Association of Benthologists "a tremendous taxonomist retired from FDEP". Bob did not expect the award and was very pleased to accept and appreciates the closeness of the FAB members.

**Treasurer's Report:** Marianne reported the checking account balance is \$11,750.87 on October 31, 2007. The Endowment Fund is in a CD and the earnings on the CD provide the money for the student awards. The Fall Workshop lost money this year, but the Annual Meeting made a profit. In Doug Strom's absence, Dana noted a recommendation made at the Executive Committee Meeting to transfer \$4,000 from the General Fund to the Endowment Fund in March 2008 when the CD rolls over.

**Internet Committee:** Dana reported that the FAB website is currently not working as the provider going out of business. We are currently looking for a new provider. Gloria has some ideas for the website and will discuss changes in the website with Palmer Kinser.

**Literature Review Committee:** This committee is back in operation with new Chair, Julie Bortles.

**Editorial Committee:** Chair Rob Mattson reported that the newsletter will be transitioning to electronic version over the next year. Make sure he has your e-mail address.

**FAB Constitution, By-Laws:** Marc Minno will make minor changes and send to Mark Wetzel.

**Election of Officers:** A paper ballot was used to elect new FAB officers. Gloria Eby was honored to be elected as the first female FAB President. Peggy Morgan is the new President Elect. Marianne Pluchino was elected Treasurer, and Laura Line was re-elected Secretary. For the first time in FAB history, all of the officers elected are women!

**Workshop and Certification Committee:** Gloria announced that Jim Williams will do a workshop in 2009 on freshwater mussels.

Dana thanked the EC, and the other committees, the speakers, the photographers who submitted pictures for the photomontage, particularly Palmer and Mark Wetzel, the JD State Park staff (adding that it cost us nothing for having the meeting there), and thanked Eric, Marianne, and Gloria for doing a tremendous job organizing the meeting. Dana turned the meeting over to Gloria, the new President.

Gloria thanked everyone and announced the new officers.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laura Line, Secretary