

Executive Committee Meeting of the Florida Association of Benthologists
April 8, 2008
Pavilion, Big Tree State Park
Longwood, FL

Attending:

Gloria Eby: President, Peggy Morgan: President-Elect and Workshop and Certification Committee Chair, Marianne Pluchino: Treasurer and Membership Committee Chair, Doug Strom: Consultant Representative and Executive Committee Chair, Ford Walton: State Government Representative.

Acting Alternates: Eric Pluchino: Endowment Committee Chair,
Day McClanahan, Bob Rutter

Doug Strom called the meeting to order at 12:25 pm.

Doug began with asking for the reading of the Executive and Business Meeting minutes from the annual meeting. Ford moved that we suspend with the reading and that the minutes be accepted pending Gloria's amendments. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Marianne summarized her handout *FAB Finances 2008*. The plant ID workshop netted \$2789. Our primary Endowment Fund CD matured in March and interest earned was \$385. It was re-opened for \$13,217. Our second CD for \$4000 will mature in January, 2009. FAB total assets are \$24,367.

Membership Committee: Marianne reported that at the plant ID workshop, because our website was under revision, she handed out a FAB brochure patterned after the one developed by Marc Minno. Thirty-seven new members were registered at this workshop.

Endowment Committee: Eric referenced the Treasurer's report and added that the interest earned from the CD's is quite adequate for funding student awards at the next annual meeting.

Internet Committee: Gloria, on behalf of committee chair Palmer Kinser, said she had a demo site but could not connect at this time. The FAB site should be up within two weeks and there will be a training session for content management. Those expected to participate are Dana Denson, Gloria, Marianne, Palmer, Peggy and Rob Mattson. Initial effort will be on original site content followed by new content. The site is weak in the publication section; Doug and Peggy said they will work on it. It is hoped that David Evans will provide input on website personalization and organization. Monthly fee for the site is \$60.

Workshop and Certification Committee: Gloria reported that the fall workshop is planned for the St. Pete/Tampa area in October and will deal with Polychaeta. It will be

organized by David Karlen. Recognized experts Drs. Greg Rouse and James Blake will be presenters.

Old Business: Peggy recalled our ongoing desire to get FAB out to more people, for example universities. She will begin doing “outreach”, starting with the Tampa area.

New Business: Gloria said the next annual meeting will be December 8-11 in the Crystal River area and may include a dive trip. Doug mentioned that he is soliciting photos from the 2007 annual meeting. Marianne reported that the Florida Lake Management Society (FLMS) has offered FAB a free booth at their upcoming meeting in Destin, June 2-5. She and Eric have volunteered to person it. For now, she plans on working up a blue-board display patterned after the FAB brochure, and is soliciting ideas and anyone else who would like to get involved. Doug suggested that she look at Doug Ferrell’s display board fabricated several years ago. Doug will look into helping with brochure development with possible assistance from Water and Air Research.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert P. Rutter, substituting for Secretary Laura Line.

**Executive Committee Meeting of the Florida Association of Benthologists
December 8, 2008
Plantation Inn, Crystal River, Florida**

Attending:

Gloria Eby: President, Peggy Morgan: President-Elect, Doug Strom: Consultant
Representative and Executive Committee Chair, Dana Denson: Immediate Past- President,
Laura Line: Secretary, Marianne Pluchino: Treasurer, Rob Mattson: Newsletter Editor,
Manuel Pescador, College/University Representative
Acting Alternates: Eric Pluchino: Endowment Committee Chair,
Dr. John H. Epler, Internet Committee Member, Mark Wetzel: Member

Doug Strom called the meeting to order at 4:25 pm. He distributed the EC member information and the Bylaws. Doug will make any needed corrections to the information and send it to Gloria to post online.

Approval of the Minutes: Marianne moved to approve the April 2008 EC Minutes with one correction; the spelling of the name Rouse. Rob Mattson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Rob Mattson will post the Minutes to the 2007 EC and Business Meetings online.

Treasurer's Report: Marianne gave the Treasurer's Report: We brought in \$8462 and spent \$10,980.74. We added a new website which cost \$5,600 and will cost \$720 per year to maintain. We had a merchandise purchase of \$1,140. We sold \$516 of merchandise, had a plant workshop, a spring workshop and a fall workshop. Considering the large expenses, we only had a deficit of \$2,518.74. The checking account contains \$5,857.86. We have two Certificates of Deposit; one for \$13,000 and one \$4,000. These earn interest which we use for our student awards and scholarships. Our assets total \$22,887, just \$1,100 less than the total last year.

Awards Committee: No Report.

Bylaws Committee: There was no report from the Bylaws Committee, but Gloria mentioned that she would like new memberships to begin in December; if dues are paid from October – December, the membership will be good through the following year. However, she would like to make it clear that if dues are paid before October, they are good only for the year in which they are paid.

Endowment Committee: Eric Pluchino stated that the two CDs earned \$812.71 in 2008. We spent \$200 on the 2007 student award and we will spend \$200 this year, leaving about \$412 left. Next year we expect to have about \$1,000 to spend. We can give away only as much money as we gain in interest from the CDs. We only have one presenter this year and we are not getting a good turnout of students. It may be a good idea to give away some of the money, perhaps \$500, as a grant or scholarship. Mark Wetzel will give Eric the wording for a scholarship from NABS. We could still give away \$250 for the student award. Manny Pescador suggested that the Office of Grants and Awards of a university could recommend students for a scholarship. We could help pay a student's tuition if they

give FAB a copy of their registration. We can send a check directly to their school. Marianne and Eric will work up a proposal for the EC.

Editorial Committee: Rob Mattson would like to consider Gloria's suggestion of having Wave Internet work up a template for an online newsletter, and will work with her. The one-time design template for the newsletter would cost \$1500. He is planning to do an electronic-only newsletter to be phased in over the next year. Rob sent over 200 copies of the latest newsletter, the greatest amount ever. It costs about \$460 for postage to do a newsletter mail-out. Only five were returned due to bad addresses. Rob is archiving the newsletters as is Doug Strom. Rob said we may have another newsletter come out in January.

Internet Committee: Gloria spoke on behalf of Palmer Kinser, Chair of the Internet Committee, who was not present. FAB needs help downloading photos to the website, which is time consuming. Dana volunteered to put the bug photos onto the website in groups, and Peggy would like to help with meeting announcements and with the photos of people. It was agreed that if we can do it in small amounts it should not be too difficult a task.

Literature Review Committee: Julie Bortles, Chair, was not at the meeting, but Rob said she is helping him and she needs people to send her the new literature. Current Contents is very expensive, but Mark can send Julie the Florida fauna he gets electronically and Peggy can help.

Membership Committee: Marianne, who is also the Membership Committee Chair gave the report: We have 236 members in our data base of which 121 are active members. This coming year we should raise our membership dues from \$15 to \$30 to pay for travel for speakers. The dues have never been increased over the twenty years FAB has existed. The EC voted online that this issue would be brought up at the Business Meeting for our members to vote on.

We had a nice display at the FLMS meeting for no charge and a new brochure printed by Water & Air was distributed.

Nomination Committee: Palmer was not present, but he needs to be contacted with nominations. Peggy will be the next President. During the 2009 Annual Meeting, elections for Secretary, Treasurer, and President-Elect will be held. Volunteers to run for President-Elect are needed.

Workshop and Certification Committee: Dana announced that the Spring Workshop will take place at the UF Department of Entomology and Nematology in Gainesville on May 4th-6th. The topic is Odonates: Dragonflies and Damselflies, to be given by Ken Tennessen, who recently gave the same workshop at FDEP. There is a maximum of 30 who may attend the meeting.

Laura agreed to advertise the meeting in the Gainesville Sun, a NABS publication, and the Florida Specifier.

We need to hear from Dave Karlen about the Fall Workshop. Peggy said that several people told her that December is the worst time for the Annual Meeting. It was held in December so it wouldn't be too close to the Fall Workshop in the Keys. We are no longer holding those workshops in the Keys, so the Fall Workshop could change dates, and then the Annual Meeting could be changed. December is a good time looking at it from a monetary standpoint. Hotel rates are low in December. Dana said the Workshop and Certification Committee will meet to discuss the timing of the Fall Workshop.

New Business:

Peggy expressed a need for more frequent communication among the EC members. Doug offered to make a "TO DO" list to remind people of what they promised to do. We could do an EC meeting online to review the Bylaws. The Bylaws will need to be updated to incorporate changes proposed by the Endowment Committee and about dues received after November 1st being applied to the following year. We can also meet about getting the electronic newsletter onto the website. The changes become effective at the next Annual Meeting.

Adjournment: Dana moved to adjourn the meeting, Rob seconded and the vote was unanimous. Doug adjourned the meeting at 6:07 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Line, Secretary

**Annual Business Meeting of the Florida Association of Benthologists
December 11, 2008
Plantation Inn, Crystal River, Florida**

Attending:

Gloria Eby: President, Peggy Morgan: President-Elect, Dana Denson: Immediate Past-President, Marianne Pluchino: Treasurer,
Mr. David J. Karlen: At Large EC Member
Acting Alternates: Eric Pluchino: Endowment Committee Chair, Dr. John H. Epler, Internet Committee Member, Dr. David L. Evans: Registered Agent, Mr. James L. Hulbert: Member

Gloria Eby called the meeting to order at 10:55 am.

Awards Committee: Gloria gave a wonderful powerpoint presentation about two of our revered members: Dana Denson and Eric Pluchino. Afterwards, Dana was presented the "Contribution to the Florida Association of Benthologists" Award and Eric received the "Contribution to Benthic Ecology" Award. It was fun!

Treasurer's Report: Marianne gave the Treasurer's Report: We added a new website which cost \$5,600 and we had a merchandise purchase of \$1,140. We sold \$516 of merchandise, had a plant workshop, a spring workshop and a fall workshop. Considering the large expenses, we only had a deficit of \$2,518.74.

We have two Certificates of Deposit; one for \$13,000 and one \$4,000. These earn interest which we use for our student scholarships. Our assets total \$22,887, just \$1,100 less than the total last year.

Membership Committee: Marianne, also the Membership Committee Chair gave the report: the Plant ID Workshop not only made money, but we gained 37 new members. We gained a few more during the Fall Workshop. We have 236 members in our data base of which 121 are active members. This is the best ratio of active to inactive members we have had in recent history. We also have a new brochure to pass out at meetings. This coming year our membership dues will double from \$15 to \$30.

Endowment Committee: Eric Pluchino reminded the members that the Endowment Fund took many years to reach the size of \$17,000. It was David Evans who emphasized the importance of the fund to encourage students to become interested in benthology and reward them with awards and scholarships. Next year the projected interest from the fund is expected to reach \$1,000. In addition, Peggy is planning to find sponsors to give awards to the students. The Endowment Committee is planning to write a proposal to the Executive Committee to use this money for grants by taking student applications and selecting the most worthy applicants to receive the money, up to perhaps \$500.

Workshop and Certification Committee: Dana announced that the Spring Workshop will take place at the UF Department of Entomology and Nematology in Gainesville on May 4th-6th. The topic is Odonates: Dragonflies and Damselflies, to be given by Ken Tennyson, who had just recently given the same workshop at FDEP.

Internet Committee and Newsletter: Newsletter Editor, Rob Mattson was not present, nor was Palmer Kinser, Chair of the Internet Committee. Gloria announced that the Spring Workshop Registration will be available online at the website. She related that we are planning to do an electronic-only newsletter to be phased in over the next year. Rob and Gloria will be meeting about adding it to the website. The one-time design template for the newsletter would cost \$1500. It would probably pay for itself in one year as it costs about \$460 for postage to do a newsletter mail-out. David Evans noted that another organization lost members when they went to an electronic newsletter. Marianne offered to send a postcard membership dues reminder once a year.

New Business: Gloria asked for a vote by the membership to raise the annual dues from \$15 to \$30. The motion passed unanimously. Peggy brought up the dates of the annual meeting. It has been held in December, which is not a good time for students, and we do want to increase student participation. Part of the reason for having it in December is that the hotel rates are less expensive than at other times of the year. However, we are considering any time from October up to Thanksgiving. Please e-mail Gloria at Floridabenthos.org with your comments. Dana motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and the meeting adjourned at 11:11 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Line, Secretary