

R. W. Baumann and I co-planned the 1973 Dallas meeting with the symposium title "Neotropical Aquatic Insects." Dick Baumann lined up an impressive array of speakers including E. J. Fittkau for a special invitational address on aquatic habitats in tropical South America. The other invited speakers were W. L. Peters, M. J. Westfall Jr., R. W. Baumann, D. R. Lauck, H. H. Ross, F. N. Young, C. O. Berg and W. W. Wirth.

Our meetings since that time, symposium titles and elected Chairmen and planners have been: 1974, Minneapolis, Minnesota, "Aquatic Insects of the Great Lakes Region," W. L. Hilsenhoff; 1975, New Orleans, Louisiana, "Ecological Studies of Southeastern Aquatic Insects," J. B. Wallace, and 1976, Honolulu, Hawaii, no symposium due to projected low attendance, but an active submitted papers session, W. H. Resh.

Another major decision was made by Subsection members at New Orleans in 1975, in order to provide better continuity in planning and communication among members. A rotating Executive Committee was elected, to include a Secretary, Vice-Chairman, Chairman and Immediate Past Chairman. The Chairman will preside at Business Meetings, and be primarily responsible, along with his Vice-Chairman, to plan and coordinate Subsection meetings and activities at the ESA Annual Meeting. The following year the Secretary would become Vice-Chairman, the Vice-Chairman would become Chairman etc. This would necessitate election of only a new Secretary each year. It was appropriately suggested by H. H. Ross that this committee be so constituted that the person rotating into the Chairmanship each year would preferably be located near the ESA Annual Meeting site. Duties of the Secretary were not spelled out, but K. W. Stewart suggested that perhaps the Secretary might get out a Newsletter, keep minutes of Subsection Business Meetings and in cooperation with the Chairman be the corresponding arm of the subsection. All of these proposals were enthusiastically endorsed by members at the business meeting, and the initial Executive Committee was elected as follows: V. H. Resh, Chairman (for Honolulu meeting), O. S. Flint Jr., Vice-Chairman (to be Chairman for 1977 Washington, D.C. meeting), and K. W. Stewart, Secretary (to be Chairman for 1978 Houston meeting). J. C. Morse kept the minutes for that important business meeting.

At Honolulu in 1976, R. W. Baumann was elected Secretary, to rotate to the Chairmanship for the Denver, Colorado meeting in 1979. The Subsection symposium for the 1977 Washington, D.C. meeting under Chairman O. S. Flint, Jr. is entitled "Culturing and Rearing Aquatic Insects." Techniques to be discussed should prove useful to systematists, ecologists, survey people and others interested in aquatic insects.

The Subsection will sponsor a symposium at the Houston, Texas 1978 meeting entitled "Innovative Approaches to Teaching Benthic Science and Aquatic Entomology." The program is being developed by V. H. Resh, University of California, Berkeley, and will constitute the second phase after a similar presentation at the North American Benthological Society 1978 meeting in Winnipeg, Canada. It is hoped that those proceedings can be published as a joint ESA-NABS contribution.

This timely evolution of a formal Aquatic Insects Subsection has transcended an increasing appreciation by the scientific community, especially in areas of stream ecology and limnology, of the integral role played by insects in aquatic ecosystems. Major problems of inadequate ability to identify the immatures of most aquatic orders, discussed in the 1966 and 1968 symposia, have partially been solved during this past decade, resulting in the recent generic-level books on mayflies by G. F. Edmunds Jr., S. L. Jensen and L. Berner, 1976, "The Mayflies of North and Central America," and caddisflies by G. B. Wiggins, 1976, "Larvae of the North American Caddisfly Genera (Trichoptera)." Activities of the Subsection in the next decade will undoubtedly encompass further credibility in these groups and others, and promote idea exchange and research in the systematics and biology of aquatic insects.

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