THE FLORIDA ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY:
SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT THE PRESENT AND FUTURE

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Ladies and Gentlemen of the Florida Entomological Society, honored
guests and friends. As specified by the By-Laws of our Society, I have, as
one of my last duties as President, the responsibility of presenting to you a
presidential address which is pertinent to the objectives of the Society. First,
however, I want to say I have enjoyed serving as your President and work-
ing with the other officers and Executive Committee members. My part in
this meeting has been made much easier by the good efforts of our Local
Arrangement Chairman, Dr. E. S. Del Fosse. He has gone about his work
with true vim, vigor, and vitality. John Taylor has put together a good pro-
gram so I feel sure we can go forward with an interesting meeting. A good
starting point will be for me not to bore you with a long address, but I do
want to express a few opinions about the progress and future of our Society.

Before proceeding, I would like to relate an anecdote I heard earlier
this year. One Saturday morning a youngster was out soliciting door-to-
door for funds for his local Boys Club. At each home the young man re-
lated the benefits of the Club for the boys and then expressed the need for
financial support to maintain the Club. Because of this he said he was sell-
ing adult memberships for the price of $10. He was having fairly good suc-
cess; however, at one of the homes the homeowner, after giving him a check
for $10, said to him, “You have told me all the benefits you and the Club
will get, but what benefit do I get for my membership fee?” This stumped
him for a minute but then he replied, “You have the privilege of paying your
$10 dues again next year.”

I wonder how many of you may feel the same about your membership
in the Florida Entomological Society. Do you really feel you are getting
your 10 bucks worth? What benefits or privileges actually accrue to you
from your membership? Well, obviously you have the opportunity to sub-
mit papers for and attend this annual meeting. You also can submit papers
to the Editor of The Florida Entomologist. But what other benefits do you
get? Are you really satisfied with your Florida Entomological Society? I
want you to think about it. Would you like to see the Society more active
in promoting entomology and providing information to you. Maybe you
feel left out because you are never selected for committee assignments or
given an opportunity to work for the Society.

All of these and many other pertinent questions need to be raised every
once in awhile so that our Society does not become complacent and fail to
fulfill its obligations.

I believe it is worthwhile at this point to review the objectives and pur-
poses as specified in our constitution. Four items are listed as follows:

1. To promote entomology as a science and profession
2. To encourage research relative to insects and related arthropods in
   Florida

¹Presidential address, 50th annual meeting of The Florida Entomological Society.
3. To distribute and publicize knowledge pertaining to insects
4. To publish *The Florida Entomologist*

I think we can all agree that we have been and are currently successful in Item 4, publishing *The Florida Entomologist*, but what about the other 3 objectives? Our main efforts in this direction are made through the Public Relations and Entomology In Action Committees, but have they been sufficient and if not, what do we do about it? Our current Public Relations Committee, under Chairman Bill Peters, has been doing a good job especially in relation to publicity for this meeting and by documenting your public relation activities. However, the mandate given them by the By-Laws is extremely broad including (1) providing representation at public hearings on matters which affect the interests of the profession, (2) keeping informed on all public affairs affecting entomology, including legislation, and representing the Society in all matters by offering advice and counsel to the State Government and to the public in these matters, and (3) promoting activities designed to improve the status of entomology. This sounds like a full-time job for anyone. It seems to me that we may need to seriously review our organizational structure to see if it satisfies our objectives and meets today's needs. Maybe we need to establish some additional standing committees to increase the effort and responsibility and to involve additional members.

Another area which has been a real problem for me has been the rather loose administrative organization of our Society with respect to the Presidential Office, the Executive Committee, and the Standing Committees. There are no set guidelines for the President to follow which specify exact duties and times when various actions must be accomplished. As a result, each new President must find his way in the dark and hope for the best. I think it is time that we consider hiring a part-time executive secretary who can provide the continuity and guidance necessary to maintain a smooth flow of the business with the yearly change of Presidents. Also, there is no provision in the constitution that a definite number of Executive Committee meetings be held each year. We have met 4 times since January 1. Attendance and participation by the current members has been excellent and discussions have been open, forthright, and stimulating. The 2 or 3 hours we met each time, however, were barely sufficient to conduct the regular business necessary for the general operations of the Society. More frequent or longer sessions are needed so that the status and progress of our Society can be monitored regularly and new ideas and programs discussed and evaluated.

One of the problems in assuring effective action by the standing committees is that the By-Laws provide for continuity of membership in only 2 of these committees. They are the Public Relations and Rules of Order Committees. Much confusion could be avoided if overlapping multi-year appointments were provided for members of all committees. In addition, specific job descriptions and time tables need to be developed for each committee.

Some other areas of interest are (1) can we develop some mechanism for more direct participation of student members in Society affairs—maybe we need to have a graduate student representative on the Executive Committee; (2) should we develop affiliations with other entomological organizations within our state such as the Florida Anti-Mosquito Association and
the Florida Pest Control Association and broaden the program at the annual meeting to meet the needs of these groups?

I could ramble on further, but I believe I have made my point which is to make you aware of some of our Society's needs and goals. Most of the things I have mentioned can be handled by our future administrations. For example, Dr. Howard Weems is already working on guidelines for the various committees and offices, but we need to have input from you members to indicate your feelings and attitudes about your Society. Are you satisfied you are getting more for your $10 dues than the opportunity to pay them again next year? Speak up to your Executive Board and let us know how you feel. This is your Florida Entomological Society and it will be only as good as you want it to be.

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BOOK REVIEW

Wilderness Photography—A unique guide to successful backpacking and picture taking for amateurs and experts. Boyd Norton. 1977. Reader's Digest Press, New York. 179 p. $14.95. "My primary purpose in this book is to provide a proper blend of information and inspiration for those who wish to express themselves creatively in capturing the world of nature on film. . . . The pictures here were selected with that blend of inspiration and information in mind. . . . any book on nature photography, in order to be meaningful today, must also include helpful information for the photographer who backpacks, ski-tours, climbs mountains, or runs the white water of our wild rivers." Chapters include: wilderness camera, lens, composition, technical (film, exposure, lighting, filters, field work), close-up, backpacking and climbing, winter wilderness, raft and canoe trips, cameras for a cause (conservation, publicity), and submitting photos for publication; appendices and a good index. The title and the author's introductory comments pretty well indicate what is to be found. Photographic information is largely general and elementary, but, the color photographs are among the most striking and beautiful I have ever seen. The author's comments on them are the most valuable part of the book, and these deal not at all with specific rules to duplicate, but with general techniques and principles. The book is inspirational, and literally asks questions where others usually provide rules. Quotable quote: "I feel that anyone insensitive enough to use a snowmobile to see the wilderness would also roar through the halls of the National Art Gallery on a motorcycle."

J. E. Lloyd