

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Clayton W. McCoy

Members of the Florida Entomological Society, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure and satisfaction to address you this morning as the 67th President of the Florida Entomological Society.

I sincerely appreciate the opportunity you have given me to serve as your President during the past year; it has brought many rewarding experiences and I would like to thank the members of the Executive Committee, our Business Managers, Editors and member volunteers for their hard work, guidance, and support throughout the year. I would like to particularly recognize Mr. Fred Petitt, our Local Arrangements Chairman for an outstanding job. You might say this has been a tumultuous year for local arrangements, but Fred has taken it in stride while holding down a key position at the EPCOT Center and traveling back and forth to Gainesville finishing up his PhD. It is this kind of commitment or lack of apathy on the part of our many volunteers that has made this year enjoyable for me. In my opinion, this strong commitment by our members makes this Society successful.

Three years ago, Past-President Norm Leppla summarized the legacy of recent past Presidents of FES with this salient message; "Develop a structure for incorporation of managerial improvements but preserve the informality necessary to function on a personal level." When we add commitment by our membership, we have the ingredients that has made our Society dynamic and successful in 1984. Much credit for our success must go to the Long Range Planning Committee for their sound recommendations to the Executive Committee. It is obvious the vision and leadership of previous leaders has served as a stimulus to present members to contribute to the continuing growth and development of our Society.

Can the Florida Entomological Society sustain its reputation for high standard in promoting entomology in Florida and around the world in the future? Can we do more? Yes, I believe we can but we must do more in the future.

In the next few minutes, I would like to focus on some of the events of this past year and thoughts I have for the future that will keep us on top. Certainly, a key component in maintaining our reputation is through the quality of our journal. Under the leadership of our Editor, Carol Sutherland, the distribution and quality of the *Florida Entomologist* has improved and we are now recognized in the U.S. and around the world as a quality entomological journal. Our excellent reputation has been very visible this year when the Georgia Entomological Society requested our editors to attend a "Journal Management Workshop" in conjunction with their annual meeting for the purpose of improving their journal. Past-President Bill Peters and Associate Editor John McLaughlin attended and contributed at this meeting. Also, the *Florida Entomologist* has been recognized by Current Contents as a frequently referenced journal in their listing. This is certainly something in which we can take pride.

What is most exciting about our Publications Committee is the fact it continues to strive for improvement. Yesterday afternoon at a meeting here at the hotel, they addressed new challenges such as: 1) the need to more

clearly define the role and responsibilities of the associate editors and the editor, 2) the need to ensure even-handed treatment of "basic" and "applied" papers, 3) how we can expedite review, 4) how to improve abstracts and 5) the question of a style manual.

Historically, we have learned that to maintain the ideals of our Society we must make our journal, our annual meeting and general business self-supporting components of the Society. The issue of increased page charges has surfaced during the year. I have appointed President-elect Louis Wright, Chairman of an ad hoc committee to thoroughly investigate this matter.

Finally, we must mention the recent decision of the Executive Committee to return the Editor position to Florida to strengthen logistics between the editor, editorial staff, the Executive Committee and the membership. Obviously, this was a most difficult decision for the Executive Committee and me in view of the outstanding job Carol Sutherland has done over the past 6 years. As a past Associate Editor under Carol, I remember the fun I had working for her and the long thankless hours expended to do the job. Thank you Carol for a job well done!

For some time now, the Long Range Planning and Americas Committees within our Society have envisioned an opportunity to strengthen the Florida Entomological Society and tropical entomology in general through greater cooperation and interaction with Caribbean countries that share mutual entomological problems. The *Florida Entomologist* moved quickly to support this purpose by requiring Spanish abstracts for papers written in English and welcoming papers written in Spanish. We have gone so far as to add an associate editor proficient in Spanish.

In 1985, we will take another major step in achieving better interaction with our Caribbean friends by coordinating a joint Conference in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, W.I. from 5-8 August. Dr. Carl Barfield and his committee of 5 have done an outstanding job planning and organizing this meeting. Dr. Will Whitcomb has played a crucial part in the planning of the 2-1/2 day program featuring many symposia and many of our traditional events such as the Student Paper Contest and the "Bull Session."

Naturally, the success of this meeting will depend on our willingness to participate professionally under most difficult circumstances—the soft tropical breeze and white sandy beaches. Let us all pull together and support this great opportunity to strengthen our Society.

At this time, I feel it is appropriate to speak briefly about the general business aspects of our Society. As you will recall, an Ad hoc Search Committee under the guidance of Dr. John Mulrennan, Jr. was appointed to seek a replacement for business manager, Dan Wojcik, at the end of last year's meeting. At my request, Dan continued active as interim manager until 5 December 1983 at which time John's committee presented two outstanding candidates. Mrs. Ann Knapp was hired by the Executive Committee under a new contract agreement. Ann comes to the Society highly-qualified in business management and has done an outstanding job since coming aboard. With Ann's appointment, the Society business office has been moved to P. O. Box 7326, Winter Haven, FL 33883-7326. With the addition of a new computer and the necessary software, Ann plans to have the membership and financial matters of the Society computerized in 1984.

Presently, the Florida Entomological Society membership stands at approximately 750 including sustaining and student members. Although the FES membership has common entomological roots, we have tremendous diversity in terms of employment and interest. If our Society is to grow in the future, we must maintain this diversity and grow in all areas particularly those with fewer members. As an example, independent agricultural consultants represent a small segment in our Society. If we offer a strong program paralleling their interests at our annual meeting and promote this group by identifying their needs in relation to what the total membership has to offer, we should be able to strengthen their efforts and our Society. The key to our success in strengthening different areas, in my opinion, is to show them opportunity for involvement within our Society. We must remember that some entomological groups within our membership have active organizations already; therefore, we should find ways to interact. However, if our major purpose as a leader is to promote entomology as a science and as a profession—all should find a common denominator in our Society and benefit professionally. I envision a time when our program is divided into specific sections with individual chairmen under the direction of the Vice President, concurrent sessions are a necessity and 3 full days are required to promote entomology in Florida.