

News and Views

The Center for Systematic Entomology plans to publish four Newsletters each year, but these are usually not kept as permanent records. Therefore, the following items are printed here since they concern primarily changes in our journal as well as matters of great concern to CSE.

Dr. Willis W. Wirth, Associate Editor, has, for a number of years, greatly assisted the editorial process for *Insecta Mundi* by logging in manuscripts and sending them out for peer review. This has been a great help in catching up and expanding the issues. Now, however, we must accept Bill's resignation as associate editor due to declining health.

Many of our readers are familiar with Bill's long career as a dipterist at the U.S.D.A. Systematic Entomology Laboratory at the National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. He joined that institution in 1949, and retired several years ago, moving to Gainesville where he has been very active as a research associate at the Florida State Collection of Arthropods.

We all thank Bill for his help with *Insecta Mundi* as well as his contributions toward the advancement of World Diptera systematics. We wish him the very best.

Dr. John M. Kingsolver has replaced Dr. Wirth as associate editor. His help by logging in manuscripts, contacting authors, and sending out manuscripts for peer review is gratefully accepted. John also spent a long career as a coleopterist at the U.S.D.A. Systematic Entomology Laboratory at the National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C. He joined that institution in 1962, and retired a few years ago, moving to Gainesville where he too has been very active as a research associate at the Florida State Collection of Arthropods.

Membership dues: Those of you reading this column who are not members of the Center for Systematic Entomology, Inc. are invited to become members. The dues are low, \$35.00 a year, which includes the issues of the journal, *Insecta Mundi*, and the *Newsletter*. Also, as a member, you are invited to apply for a research grant. [See inside back cover for further details, and write for information.]

Current members who have not sent in membership dues for 1994, may do so now, still only \$35.00. We also urge you to have your library become a member at the same rate (we have only members, no longer subscribers).

We plan to continue to expand the journal as funds permit. We hope to eventually include more full color photos. Also, as a member, you may publish up to 26 pages per issue free of page charges.

The Center for Systematic Entomology is a World class organization with the single purpose of promoting, through publications and grants, the declining science of systematic entomology. It is strange that in this new world of concern over the extinction of species, systematics is declining at our universities and museums. Systematists are not being replaced as retirements continue to deplete our ranks. Lack of jobs discourage students from considering systematics as a career, and understandably so. Courses in systematics are cut out and registration drops in the few existing courses.

How, then, can we expect those concerned with the decline of habitats and extinction of species to know or recognize what is here and what has gone? The tropical rainforest fauna and flora are very poorly known, but certainly, this is not restricted to this habitat alone. The botanists continue to show strength and continue to record the species, as do the vertebrate zoologists. Yet most of our invertebrate species remain unknown. We don't know what exists, so we can't really tell what is becoming extinct. Years ago I sampled the mosquito fauna of the Chagres River valley in Panama. As you may recall, this valley was flooded to make what is now the Panama Canal. Many species of sabethine mosquitoes described from this limited area before the building of the Panama Canal are now known only from the types. It seems most likely that these beautiful mosquitoes are extinct, and would never have been known if it were not for the early work of the dipterists. Multiply this by the thousands of square miles of rainforest now destroyed: what have we already missed? Who will know without systematists to study these areas, and all areas throughout the World? We must encourage young people to specialize in systematics and we can only do this if we get the attention of government, museum, and university administrators to see the need for this and provide funds for jobs for systematists. Currently in a small way CSE is helping to do this. With your support, we will continue to do this, eventually in a large and significant way. - **R. H. Arnett, Jr., Treasurer.**