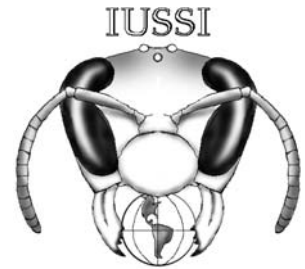




NORTH AMERICAN SECTION

NAS/IUSI NEWSLETTER July 7, 2009



NORTH AMERICAN SECTION

NAS/IUSI Officers

President: Blaine Cole
President-elect: John Wenzel
Past President: Marla Spivak

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Dear NAS members:

Summer is officially here, and in Arizona that means the Monsoon season has started. This past weekend we had our first major haboub (a visibility-eliminating sand storm that can be murder on eyes, lungs and cars) followed by a torrential downpour that created a delightful layer of mud on everything. While a nuisance for us two legged types (my dogs weren't overjoyed either), the rains have triggered a frenzy of activity in the ant colonies living in and around my house. Workers have gathered into massive foraging parties, stealing away the food crumbs to which my dogs normally lay claim. Alates are flying everywhere, many successfully taking up residence in my indoor plants. And my backyard looks like a miniature artillery practice range. While many Arizonans dread this time of year (not much to like about spiking humidity and >110°F days), those of us who are social insect enthusiasts can at least take some perverse joy in all this activity. Of course that child-like glee can sometimes create an additional annoyance to our already stressed spouses. I find it best to feign some indifference towards insects during summer, at least when the weather is worst. If you find yourself in a similar predicament, you can use the contents of this newsletter as fodder for conversations safer than waxing poetic about the elegant efficiency of the foraging trail that just happens to cross over your bed.

First, membership is down this year compared to last. While there is still a trickle of members renewing, we have approximately 25% fewer dues payers at this point. So here is a gentle reminder for those of you who might have accidentally overlooked sending in a check this year. There is a membership form at the end of this letter and I hope you will use it. If you have any changes in your contact information, be sure to let me know so that the website can be appropriately updated. And now a slightly less gentle reminder to those individuals who are still receiving the benefits of being members while not having paid dues in several years. According to the society constitution, member names are to be removed after just a three month delay in renewal. While I have been a bit more generous than required, I have started the process of culling the membership rosters. For this year, any students that have not paid in two years have been stricken from the membership list. Senior members (which

I find are more prone to “senior moments”) were excluded for failure to pay for four or more years. Next year I will reduce these grace periods quite substantially. If this doesn't work as a motivator, I will have to take additional steps such as personalized “reminders”. Trust me, no one wants one of those. If you are still receiving emails but no longer wish to participate in the society, please let me know and I will drop your name from the member list.

Second, the NAS/IUSSI has two important meetings coming up over the next 12 months. The first is at the annual conference of the Entomological Society of America. This year the conference occurs in Indianapolis, Indiana from December 13-16. The early-bird registration deadline is September 18. On one of those evenings (I'll share the date once I know), there will be a short meeting of our society, during which our president, Blaine Cole, will present some of his research. This will be followed by a quick business meeting and then a social mixer. Also coming up is the IUSSI conference in Copenhagen (www.iussi.org/iussi2010) on August 8-14, 2010. Several important announcements are expected in the next few weeks so please monitor the website. Blaine Cole and John Wenzel have just recently submitted grant proposals for travel awards to help support student members. During this meeting there will also be a discussion of the draft constitution for the IUSSI. In the same email as this letter, I have attached a copy of the draft so that you can familiarize yourself with the contents. Joan Herbers and I have already provided some comments and edits to the language. Please send me any remarks you may have and these will be passed on to the Secretary General prior to the meeting.

Third, I have included the Eickwort and Nutting Award announcements for this year. The nominations for these are due by the end of October, so there is plenty of time to begin sizing up potential candidates (and getting those student memberships in order). Award winners will be announced at the aforementioned ESA conference.

Please let me know if you should have any announcements you would like to make about upcoming events, grants, scholarships, job postings or other important developments. In addition to conveying the news by email, it will also be posted on our web page (<http://iussi.bees.net/>).

I hope you are all having an enjoyable and productive summer.

Colin

Colin Brent
Research Entomologist
US Department of Agriculture
Arid-Land Agricultural Research Center
21881 N. Cardon Lane
Maricopa, AZ 85238
Office: 520-316-6337
Fax: 520-316-6330

email: colin.brent@ars.usda.gov

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: William L. and Ruth D. Nutting Student Research Award

Due October 30, 2009

Purpose: To support research by graduate students in the field of basic termite biology. The William L. and Ruth D. Nutting Award is named in honor of the late Bill Nutting, an outstanding termite biologist who made major contributions to termite biology, both through his own research and mentoring of students, and in honor of Ruth Nutting for her support of Bill's work.

Nature: For 2009, the award shall consist of a plaque and a research grant of \$1,000. The recipient of the award will be announced at the 2009 NAS/IUSSI meeting to be held in association with the ESA annual meeting Dec. 13-16 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Eligibility: The award will be given to the NAS/IUSSI graduate student member, who in the opinion of the Nutting Award Committee, shows the most distinguished record of research and scholarly activity in the area of basic termite biology. Any student member of NAS/IUSSI may be nominated. The student shall not have received a Ph.D. or terminated studies earlier than 12 months prior to the award. Students continuing beyond a master's degree will remain eligible. Previous award recipients are not eligible for a second award.

Nominations: Nominations may be made by the student or by others familiar with her/his work. Each nomination must include in electronic form: name of the nominee; CV of the nominee; title and brief (not to exceed one page) description of the work; a short biographical sketch; reprints of up to *two* publications (published or accepted preferred, although submitted manuscripts and/or thesis/dissertation summary may also accepted); and at least one letter of recommendation. If possible, a single PDF file containing all information except recommendation letter(s) would be preferred. ALL documents must be **received by** the Chair of the NAS/IUSSI Awards Committee by October 30, 2009: Kenna MacKenzie, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, 32 Main St., Kentville, NS B4N 1J5 Canada; fax: 902-679-2311; e-mail: mackenziek@agr.gc.ca.

Nutting Award Committee: One member of the IUSSI-NAS Awards Committee with an expertise in Isoptera will chair the Nutting Award Committee. For this year, Michael Haverty will be the chair. The Nutting Award Selection Committee shall consist of five members, including Michael Haverty, Kenna MacKenzie, Ruth Nutting, and two other members selected by the chair of the Nutting Award Committee.

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: George C.
Eickwort Student Research Award**
Due October 30, 2009

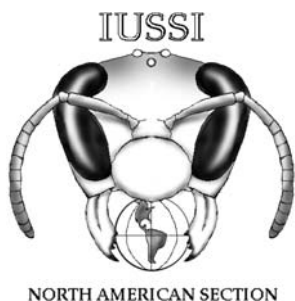
Purpose: To recognize research by students in the field of social insect biology for graduate or undergraduate work accomplished in North America or by a student member of NAS/IUSSI pursuing studies elsewhere.

Nature: The award shall consist of a certificate, an honorarium, and a one-year subscription to *Insectes Sociaux*. The award will be presented at the 2009 NAS/IUSSI meeting to be held in association with the ESA annual meeting Dec. 13-16 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Eligibility: The award will be given to the student who in the opinion of the award committee shows the most distinguished record of research and scholarly activity in the area of social insect biology. Any student doing work in North America or any student member of NAS/IUSSI may be nominated. The student shall not have received a PhD or terminated studies earlier than 12 months prior to the award. Students continuing beyond a baccalaureate or masters degree will remain eligible. Previous award recipients are not eligible for a second award.

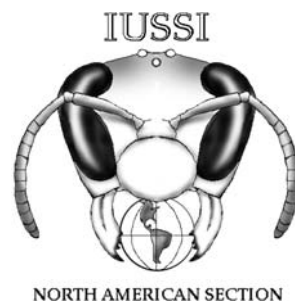
Nominations: Nominations may be made by the student or by others familiar with his/her work. Each nomination must include in electronic form: name and curriculum vitae of the student nominee; title and brief description (not to exceed one page) of the research; reprints of no more than *five* publications or submitted manuscripts; biographical sketch of the nominee; and two letters of recommendation. If possible, a single PDF file containing all information except recommendation letters would be preferred. ALL documents must be **received by** the Chair of the NAS/IUSSI Eickwort Student Award Committee by October 30, 2009: Kenna MacKenzie, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, 32 Main St., Kentville, NS B4N 1J5 Canada; fax: 902-679-2311; e-mail: kenna.mackenzie@agr.gc.ca

Eickwort Award Committee: Kenna MacKenzie (Chair), Phil Starks, Ulrich Mueller, Bryan Danforth, and Andrew Suarez.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2009

**INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE
STUDY OF SOCIAL INSECTS
NORTH AMERICAN SECTION**



NAME: _____

CURRENT ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE: _____

FAX: _____

EMAIL: _____

PLEASE **CIRCLE** YOUR CHOICE BELOW

Regular Member: \$22.50 Student Member: \$9.00 Household Member: \$5.00

Students – have your advisor or chair certify your status below

Advisor's signature, printed name, & Title

Donations (for Eickwort Award; Nutting Award; etc.):

Intended Use: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Make check payable (in US funds) to NAS/IUSSI. Please send it and this form to:

**Colin Brent
USDA-ALARC
21881 N. Cardon Ln.
Maricopa, AZ 85239**

For subscriptions to *Insectes Sociaux*, please contact petra.stromberger@birkhauser.ch