

# **Minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Georgia Entomological Society**

## **Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**April 9, 2025. Brasstown Valley Report, Young Harris, GA**

Attending: Brett Blaauw (Scholarship and Awards), Ash Sial (President), Stan Diffie (Secretary-Treasurer), David Shapiro-Ilan (Past President), Kris Braman (Historian), Nancy Hinkle (Necrology), Shimat Joseph (President-Elect), Erich Schoeller (Site Selection and Local Arrangements), Ed Mondor (Scholarship), and Wayne Gardner, Dan Suiter, and David Buntin (JES).

General Comments (Ash Sial) –Called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for the work they had done to make the meeting a success. This is a unique opportunity in that we were scheduled for Unicoi but had to move due to renovations, and South Carolina cancelled their meeting due to the hurricane and asked if they could join us.

Local Arrangements Report (Erich Scholler) – Lindsay McDonald brought the poster boards from Tifton, and these are set up in the conference room hallway. The projector support package purchased through the resort did not include a projector. Fortunately, Brett brought one as a back-up and this will be used as the primary projector. The Lund Club from UGA Athens will have a table from which they will sell various entomology related items. An artist from South Carolina will also have a table from which she will sell items she has painted and/or created. Paper presentations and the luncheon will be in the same room. The buffet line will be set up in the hallway. Registration is across the hall from the conference room.

Program Committee (Shimat Joseph) –Brett volunteered to format the program and have it printed in Athens. The program includes 85 submissions from the GES and SCES. There were two cancellations due to newly implemented USDA travel restrictions. One person from Saudi Arabia submitted a presentation title but asked for a virtual session last week. It was denied. The Founder Lecture will honor Will Hudson and will be given by Nancy Hinkle.

Registrations (Stan Diffie)—Stan distributed graphs of meeting registration for the past 12 years. These included total registrations and registrations by category (regular members, students, etc). This year, 137 people pre-registered and/or were expected. This was higher than any meeting in the past 13 years by 25 people.

Site Selection (Erich Scholler)—Erich delivered a presentation with three possible sites for 2026. These included Lanier Islands Resort, Callaway Gardens, and Villas by the Sea. He presented finances of each as well as amenities and distance from campuses to each. Villas will be about the same as in 2024, Callaway requires \$20,000 in food/drinks to be purchased, and Lake Lanier is a little pricier than Villas but would offer a new venue.

Awards/Recognition (Brett Blaauw)—Will Hudson was selected as this year's Founder's award recipient with Nancy Hinkle delivering the lecture.

Scholarship Report (Brett Blaauw) – Only one person applied for the M.S. scholarship and 6 applied for the Ph.D scholarship. The M.S. competition had only one applicant, but it was a very worthwhile applicant, Gillian Johnson. Pedro Toledo was selected as the winner of the Ph.D scholarship.

Journal of Entomological Science Annual Report (Wayne Gardner)—In 2024, the JES published Volume 58. Online articles are all open access now. The early online application platform allows for articles to be accepted, proofed, and paid for in a timelier fashion. In 2024, 119 papers were submitted with a 50% acceptance rate. Currently, the journal has over \$80,000 in the bank but some of this comes from articles that have been prepaid for 2026. Obviously, this figure will drop when the papers are published and the bill from the publishers comes due. The early online platform has given JES some needed flexibility. Print costs total about \$10,000 per year and the JES may elect to cancel hard copies in the near future. Wayne will poll the membership in the final business meeting. Susan Thornhill has informed Wayne that she will be stepping down soon as business manager. Wayne and David Buntin have identified a potential candidate. Susan is paid a stipend of \$1000 per year for her work. Wayne suggested we up that amount for the new person as the amount of work involved is overwhelming at times. It was suggested that GES provide a \$2500 annual stipend. Ash moved to provide this amount and David seconded the motion.

Ash, Brett, and Shimat spoke with the editor of the Florida Entomologist about their working model. It is different from the JES model and may be something to investigate further when Wayne steps down. Wayne said South Carolina has a third model that may be something to see, also.

Wayne said the majority of our submissions come from China and Mexico. The current tariff trade wars may affect the number of submissions this year.

Ash suggested a \$100 gift card for Susan. Kris made a motion and Shimat seconded that we provide a gift card to Susan for her service.

Operating Guidelines (Ash Sial)—Ash said we need to finalize and adopt the new version of the operating guidelines. Stan informed the committee that Ed Mondor made a few changes but the whole document needs to be updated. Past and present presidents need to work on this soon.

Nominations Committee Report (Dan Suiter) – Dan recognized Stan for 13 years of service as Secretary/Treasurer and suggested the society look for a replacement for when Stan decides to step down.

Financial Report (Stan Diffie) – Stan passed out copies of the financial report and graphs showing the trend in the society's finances. The society maintains \$55,000 to \$60,000 in assets. The current financial increases at the venues suggest we may need to increase registration to \$200 for regular

members and \$50 for students. Members agreed after noting this is the least expensive meeting any of them attends.

Necrology—Ray Noblet, Ron Oetting, Jim Todd, Tracie Jenkins, Dac Crosby, and JC Champion were recognized as former members who passed away in 2023.

Bug Run—Cera Jones volunteered to head the Bug Run this year. Also, she designed and printed T-shirts to give to the participants. The society will reimburse her for the expense.

The Georgia Mountain Experiment Station invited participants to tour their plots on Friday afternoon at 2:00.

## **Final Business Meeting Minutes**

**April 11, 2025. Brasstown Valley Resort, Young Harris, GA**

Ash Sial presided over the Final Business Meeting of the 87th annual GES meeting. He thanked everyone for their work in putting the meeting together.

Ash recognized Stan Diffie to read the minutes of the last meeting. David Buntin made a recommendation to forgo the reading and adopt the minutes as published. Mark Abney seconded the motion.

Secretary/Treasurers Report (Stan Diffie) – Stan reported a final tally of 144 registrants for the 2025 annual meeting with 11 no-shows. There were about 65 of each, regular members and students. The financial report covering activity from 2024 was distributed to attendees and discussed. Stan Diffie reported an operating budget of \$61,000 at present but this does not include expenses related to the 2025 meeting. The society has been maintaining an account of \$55,000 to \$60,000 the past few years. (See below).

Necrology Report (Ash Sial)—The names of former GES members who passed away in 2024 included Jim Todd, Ray Noblet, Tracie Jenkins, Ron Oetting, and Dac Crossley.

Audit Report (Phillip Roberts) – Phillip reported that he and Stormy Sparks audited the books and records of the society recently and everything was found to be in good order. (The report is attached).

Journal of Entomological Science (Wayne Gardner) – The journal is sound financially. Wayne discussed the possibility of eliminating the print copies to save money—almost \$10,000 annually. Wayne reported that the online format is working well and encouraged people to use this. He informed the member sof Susan Thornhill’s decision to step down soon leaving a void in the business manager spot. He said a potential candidate had been identified and hoped to have this person trained before he stepped down as editor. Ash thanked Wayne for his 30+ years of service. Ash informed the society that a \$100 gift card would be purchased for Susan. Also, the stipend for the new person would be raised from \$1000 to \$2500 per year. David Buntin will step into the Associate Editor role and may move up to Editor upon Wayne’s retirement. (The complete report is attached).

Nominations Committee (Dan Suiter) – Josh Gibson and Babu Srinivasan agreed to run for President-Elect. Ballots were distributed during the Friday morning session and Josh Gibson received the most votes and will serve as President-elect in 2025-2026.

Insect Survey (Mark Abney) – Mark described the survey and its purpose for new faculty and others in attendance. He encouraged everyone to compile their reports and send them to him as soon as possible. Mark mentioned that this serves as good historical data and he uses it to compare insect numbers from different years. Upon completion, the report will be placed on the society’s webpage. He

said the current website does not allow good web searches for the report and suggested a new place to house the report may be worthwhile.

Fun Run – (Cera Jones) The Bug Run had 26 participants. The Bug Run t-shirts were revived with Malcom Peavey designing the shirts.

Fishing Tournament (Will Hudson) – Will gave an overview of the new rules for the tournament and referred back to these often during his presentation. He made an excellent slide show of all submitted images from the participants. After reviewing rules and submitted images, the committee declared Elmer Gray as the winner.

Silent Auction (Linda Smyth) – Linda thanked everyone for a successful auction this year. She brought a volunteer to help with the auction and several hundred items to sell. She set a goal of raising \$1000. The final tally at the end of the meeting was around \$1250 with the possibility of more after the conclusion of the meeting.

Resolutions (Ash Sial) – Ash gave the 2025 Annual Meeting Resolutions. (The resolutions are attached).

Snapp Award – (Stormy Sparks) The Snapp Award, for best presentation by a regular member, was presented to Josh Gibson for his presentation of “Behavioral Interactions in Two Ant Species in the Southeastern United States and Evidence for a Native Supercolony.”

Student Awards (Brett Blaauw)—Brett read the names of the winners from each of the papers and poster sessions as well as the scholarship winners. (See attached list).

Site Selection (Erich Scholler) –The options for the 2026 meeting included Lake Lanier Resort, Callaway Gardens, and Villas by the Sea. A slide show with the pros and cons of each venue was presented and their merits were discussed. A hand vote was taken, and the outcome was 25 for Lake Lanier and 25 for Villas by the Sea. After more discussion, a second vote was taken with 25 for Villas and 18 for Lake Lanier (a few people left during the second discussion).

Conclusion (Ash Sial) – Ash took time to thank several people who were instrumental in the success of the meeting. These included Erich Scholler (local arrangements), Mark Abney for delivery of the poster boards, Dan Suiter and Phillip Roberts for soliciting industry donations, Lisa Ames for the photo salon, and Stan Diffie for his tireless work in many aspects of the meeting and throughout the year.

Ash Sial passed the President’s gavel to Shimat Joseph.

Shimat Joseph presented Ash Sial a plaque in gratitude for his service as GES President during 2024-2025.

Shimat Joseph dismissed the meeting.



## GES Financial Report for the period from Jan. 1, 2024, through Dec. 31, 2024

ASSETS	2024
Checking	5111.24
PayPal	13598.87
CD	42409.77
Total	61119.88
Income	
Registration/Dues	10412.50
Meeting Sponsors	2500.00
Expenses	
Secretary of State	30.00
Bank Checks	0
Bank Account Fees	0
PayPal Fees	518.30
JES--administrative	2500.00
JES--support	0
Meeting Expenses	
Venue	6906.58
Supplies	239.36
Scholarships	1000.00
Awards	950.00
Plaques	557.28
Program	0.00
Current Assets (3/20/25)	
So. GA. Bank	45242.88
PayPal	25038.00
TOTAL	70280.88

## **2025 Report of the GES Audit Committee**

Report of the GES Audit Committee.

Stan Diffie provided monthly bank statements, PayPal statements, CD statement and receipts for review of financial activities of GES from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.

We completed a review of these materials on April 9, 2025.

In comparison of account information to the financial report, the beginning and ending balances for the Checking, PayPal and CD are accurately reflected in the report. These materials appear consistent with proper financial management of the Society.

All significant disbursements of funds were accompanied by appropriate receipts. Payment to Mr. Diffie for 2024 expenses were carried over into 2025

\$1,396.00 was paid to the Journal. Mr. Diffie explained that these are page charge funds collected through PayPal on behalf of the Journal and are simply passed through the GES account as a service to the Journal.

Alton N. Sparks, Jr.

Phillip M. Roberts



# JOURNAL OF ENTOMOLOGICAL SCIENCE

## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Volume 59 of the *Journal of Entomological Science* was published online and in print in 4 quarterly issues with a total of 533 pages, 36 scientific articles and 10 scientific notes. For the 46 manuscripts published in the volume, the average time from receipt of the manuscript to action taken on acceptance was 39 days (See Table 1 for summary data by volume from 2020 through 2024). Cover photos for each of the issues were provided by Tracie Jenkins of Macon, Georgia (no. 1), Brett Blaauw of the University of Georgia, Athens (no. 2), Jena Johnson of the University of Georgia, Athens (no. 3), and Karen Harris-Shultz of USDA-ARS, Tifton, Georgia (no. 4).

During 2024, 119 manuscripts were submitted for consideration for publication in the *Journal*. The acceptance rate for those submissions was 50%. A summary by year of total submissions, acceptance rates, and the account balances and net incomes for years 2020 through 2024 is shown in Table 2.

Susan Thornhill, Business Manager, reported a balance of \$80,887.65 in the Journal checking account at Regions Bank (Griffin, GA) as of 31 March 2025. The Financial Report, including deposits, disbursements, and balances for the year is listed in Table 3.

The Early Online Publication platform on our online offering is operating well. These articles can be accessed on the site under Available Issues > Online Early Articles. Requisites for placement in the listing are acceptance of the manuscript, final approval of the proof, and payment of the publication costs for the paper. Articles are moved to printed and online issues as scheduled quarterly. On the Early Online Papers, there are 14 and 15 articles designated for issues 3 and 4 of volume 60, and there are 10 articles already designated for issue 1 of volume 61, with 4 submitted for posting within the past 2 days.

Our use of the Early Online Papers platform has enabled the Journal to be open access for all those visiting our site at [gaentsoc.org](http://gaentsoc.org) as well as through the link <https://bioone.org/journals/journal-of-entomological-science/issues> on the BioOne site.

Respectfully submitted this 1<sup>st</sup> Day of April 2025,  
Wayne A. Gardner, Editor

**Table 1. Number of papers published, total number of pages printed, and the average time from receipt of the papers to acceptance by volume of the *Journal of Entomological Science*, 2020-2024.**

<b>Volume</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Scientific Articles</b>	<b>Scientific Notes</b>	<b>Total Articles</b>	<b>Total Pages</b>	<b>Time to Acceptance</b>
<b>55</b>	2020	44	15	59	587	61 d
<b>56</b>	2021	36	20	56	583	34 d
<b>57</b>	2022	41	11	52	627	37 d
<b>58</b>	2023	34	5	40*	483	61 d
<b>59</b>	2024	36	10	46	533	37 d
<b>Mean</b>		38	12	51	563	46 d

\*Total includes one published Erratum in volume 58

**Table 2. Manuscript submissions, acceptance rates, ending account balances, and net income by year for the *Journal of Entomological Science*, 2020-2024.**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Submitted</b>	<b>Accept Rate</b>	<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>Net Income</b>
<b>2020</b>	94	61%	\$24,505.75	\$9,047.50
<b>2021</b>	88	53%	\$35,575.74	\$11,069.99
<b>2022</b>	78	58%	\$37,628.67	\$2,052.93
<b>2023</b>	113	51%	\$54,118.24	\$16,489.57
<b>2024</b>	119	50%	\$80,887.65	\$26,769.41

## **Report of the GES Resolutions Committee**

**5 April 2024**

Whereas the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Georgia Entomological Society was convened April 3-5, 2024 at the Villas by the Sea in Jekyll Island, Georgia; and

Whereas President Brett Blaauw, through dedicated hard work, organized and directed the Georgia Entomological Society during 2023-24, and provided superb leadership for the 2024 annual meeting; and

Whereas Alton “Stormy” Sparks did make an excellent Founders’ Lecturer to honor David Riley as the 2024 GES Founder Honoree; and

Gaelen Burke did make an exceptional Fellows’ Lecturer to honor Michael Strand as the 2024 GES Fellows Honoree; and

Whereas Shimat Joseph and Apurba Barman and the Local Arrangements Committee organized and managed an excellent foundation for this meeting; and

Whereas, President-Elect Ash Sial organized an excellent paper and poster session, and coordinated the interesting and informative symposium “Expanding the horizons of IPM to address pest problems in the age of AI and data science” with presentations by Luan P. Oliveira, Glen C. Rains, Simer Virk, Guoyu Lu, and Md Sultan Mahmud; and

Whereas, the industry sponsors, AgLogic, Amvac Chemical Corporation, BASF, Corteva Agriscience, Nichino America, Orkin, Rentokil Terminix, Syngenta, and Valent USA Corporation generously provided funding to support our 2024 Annual Meeting;

Be it therefore resolved that the Georgia Entomological Society extends its sincere appreciation and thank you to all who have contributed to the success and enjoyment of the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Brett Blaauw, Chair

David Buntin, Member

## **2025 Award Winners**

### **Georgia Entomological Society Annual Meeting April 9-11, 2025, Brasstown Valley Resort, Young Harris, GA**

The following awards were presented at the 87th GES Annual Meeting:

Founder's Honoree: Will Hudson

Founder's Lecture: Nancy Hinkle

GES PhD Scholarship: Pedro Toledo

GES MS Scholarship: Gillian Johnson

J. H. Oliver Award (BS oral presentations):

First Place: Chiamaka Ogwara

Second Place:

Third Place:

T.L. Bissell Award (MS oral presentations):

First Place: Anne Stalvey

Second Place: Gillian Johnson

Third Place: Madhav Koirala

C.M. Beckham Award (PhD oral presentations):

First Place: Thomas Sheehan

Second Place: Rajesh Vavilapalli

Third place: Zia Williamson

U.E. Brady Award (Student poster presentation):

*Undergraduate*

First Place: Kay'la Brennon

Second Place: Kaitlyn Timmons

*Graduate*

First Place: Alice Mc Cloud

First Place: Rajesh Vavilapalli

O.I. Snapp Award (Non-student oral presentation)

Winner: Josh Gibson

2025 Annual Meeting Attendees/Registrants									
Regular members:			Regular Members (on-site):				Student:		
Abney	Mark	1				1	Adhikari	Rosan	1
Acharya	Rajendra	2					Abiola	Seun	2
Ames	Lisa	3					Artley	Nikolai	3
Anderson	Katherine	4					Bonn	Aidan	4
Barman	Apurba	5					Bowers	David	5
Basu	Saumik	6					Brennon	Kay'La	6
Benson	Erich	7					Calvert	Marissa	7
Bilbo	Thomas	8					Castaneda	Karielly	8
Blaauw	Brett	9	Student (on-site):				Davis	Julie	9
Blades	Amaad	10				1	Deeb	Susanne	10
Bramlett	Kayla	11				2	Degu	Rediate	11
Brown	Katherine	12				3	Dennis	Marcus	12
Buntin	David	13					Dralabu	Saviour	13
Croxton	Scott	14					Elgar	Sabrina	14
Diffie	Stan	15					Faith	Isabel	15
Dingha	Beatrice	16					Fitzpatrick	Raymond	16
Eremeeva	Marina	17					Fletcher	Allison	17
Ferro	Michael	18					Frick	Eden	18
Gandhi	Kamal	19	Emeritus/Fellows/Retired:				Ghani	Amna	19
Gibson	Josh	20	Braman	Kris		1	Ghimire	Surakshya	20
Gonzalez	Lidia	21	Cook	Colwell		2	Hughes	Allison	21
Gray	Elmer	22	Gardner	Wayne		3	Humphrey	Mary	22
Greene	Jeremy	23	Mitchell	Paula		4	Johnson	Gillian	23
Harvey	Alan	24	Smyth	Linda		5	Johnston	Kimberly	24
Hinkle	Nancy	25					Kelley	Shayla	25
Hudson	Will	26					Kessler	Julie	26
Jackai	Louis	27					Kiju	Pragya	27
Jantzen	Benjamin	28					Koirala	Madhav	28
Jenkins	David	29					Lyon	Miriam	29
Jennings	Alex Anne	30					McCloud	Alice	30
Johnston	Samuel	31					Muraleedh	Ahalya	31
Jones	Cera	32	Invited Speakers:				Musa	Padde	32
Joseph	Shimat	33					Nayak	Roopa	33
Lampert	Evan	34					Netla	Vamsidhar	34
McCravy	Kenneth	35					Ogwara	Chiamaka	35
Mondor	Ed	36					Oliveira	Andrea	36
Montalvo	Reagan	37	Guest Registrations:				Onyirimba	Chidimma	37
McCarty	Elizabeth	38	Benson	Lisa		1	Pal	Sourav	38
McCulloch	John	39	Braman	George		2	Parajuli	Sabina	39
McDonald	Lindsay	40	Diffie	Laurie		3	Peavy	Malcolm	40
Paradise	Christophe	41	Donovan	Carol		4	Pegues	Aletta	41
Park	Isaac	42	Elgar	Sabrina		5	Pelt	April	42
Patil	Vishal	43	Ghimire	Binita		6	Quarshie	Mohamme	43
Perier	Jemaine	44	Ingrisano	Chris		7	Ramey	Brad	44
Punnuri	Somashek	45	Shedd	Denisa		8	Royston	Jeret	45
Roberts	Phillip	46	Sial	Sarah		9	Sankuratri	Anvesh	46
Russell	Scott	47	Smyth	Rex		10	Shealey	Kailyn	47
Sangireddy	Manoj	48					Sheehan	Tom	48
Schoeller	Erich	49					Sofia	Madison	49
Shannon	Danica	50					Stalvey	Anne	50
Sial	Ash	51					Taipale	Madeline	51
Sparks	Stormy	52					Tan	Peilin	52
Stoiser	Allison	53					Tickner	Kara	53
Suiter	Dan	54					Timmons	Kaitlyn	54
Tabassum	Nusrat	55					Valter-Frar	Aura	55
Thudi	Mahendar	56					Vavilapalli	Rajesh	56
Vigil	Stacey	57					Veerlapati	Shivakuma	57
Yellin	Anna	58					Vutla	Sairam	58
							Whitfield	Adam	59
							Williamsor	Zia	60
							Yadav	Nisha	61

# Georgia Entomological Society

## 2025 Annual Meeting Financial Report

The 87th Annual Meeting held at Brasstown Valley Resort, Young Harris, Georgia.

### GES Meeting Financial Report:

#### Income

Industry Support	\$2250.00
Registration/Silent Auction	\$14676.00

Total Income	\$16781.00
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#### Expenses

Brasstown Valley Resort	\$10041.01	
Programs	415.84	
Bug Run T-shirts	413.10	
Plaques	563.76	
Awards	975.00	
Scholarships	1000.00	
Meeting supplies	136.46	estimated
Breaks	0	
JES Editor & Business Mgr.	2500.00	
Total Expenses	\$16045.17	

<u>Income - expenses</u>	\$735.83
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\*\*Figures are accurate as of 4/28/25