



Division of Ecology & Evolution

Contents

Message from the Chair	1
Message from the Program Officer	1
Message from the Secretary	2
Researcher in Focus	2
2014 Meeting Information	3

DEE Officers & Representatives

Michael Angilletta
Chair-Elect 2013-2015

H. Art Woods
Past-Chair 2013-2015

Aaron Krochmal
Secretary 2013-2015

Elizabeth Dahlhoff
Program Officer 2012-2014

Donald Miles
Program Officer-Elect 2013-2014

Abigail Cahill
Student/Postdoc Representative 2011-2014

Message from the Chair

Michael J. Angilletta, Jr., Chair.DEE@sicb.org

Get pumped for Austin!

Hello DEE members:

Fresh off the wave of cultural experiences in San Francisco and longing for the warm breeze and ocean views of West Palm Beach, we will gather in one of the nation's most interesting (if not weirdest) places: Austin. Home to the largest urban bat population (Mexican free-tails) and the greatest concentration of musicians in the US, Austin should be the perfect backdrop for a band of biologists to strut their stuff by day and blow off steam by night. Get ready for the best live music that you will have heard in a long time, possibly better than the music at New Orleans in 2004. If you are lucky, you may even catch DEE's secretary, Aaron Krochmal, jumping on stage with his harmonica.

DEE will do its best to make the meeting memorable. In addition to supporting some great symposia, we will sponsor two signature events. First, seven finalists will face off in a special session to compete for the second **Raymond B. Huey Award for Best Presentation**. The diversity and quality of presentations should match that of last year's competition. The timing of this award as a tribute to Ray could not be better; this year, he announced his retirement from academia, although fortunately not from science. Be sure to stop Ray in the conference hallway and congratulate him on his amazing career. Second, we will host the first social event designed to unite the current and future stars of ecology and evolution: DEE's **Beer and Brains**. Eight of our collective heroes in the field will gather at a pub near the conference hotel, raring to chat with the young and ambitious students of our division. Students, never will you have a better chance to glean the wisdom of your idols while enjoying the company of your peers. Look for an email in November with instructions on how to sign up for this event.

I look forward to seeing you in Austin. Feel free to contact me beforehand or find me at the meeting if you have any suggestions about how to keep our division thriving.

From the Program Officer

Elizabeth Dahlhoff, DPO.DEE@sicb.org

Howdy all!

Well, I am just back from a rip-roaring planning meeting in Austin, and man, we are going to have a fantastic meeting this year. The hotel is in the heart of downtown Austin, just a few minutes' walk from the center of the day and nightlife, and just a short drive from the Edward's plateau, one of the most interesting and unique



habitats in the US, the heart of the "Texas Hill Country." Golden-cheeked warblers, anyone? And unlike my wonderful, wacky hometown San Francisco, you will not have to pay \$15 a bottle for bad beer!

We have some wonderful symposia lined up, headlined by a fantastic Grand Challenges Symposia—[**"How animals walk the Tightrope between Stability and Change,"**](#) organized by Diana Padilla, Billie Swalla and Brian Tsukimura. We also have the fascinating [**"Stress, condition, and ornamentation."**](#) Geoffrey Hill put together a fantastic group of speakers for this one, and we can all put renewed understanding of the topic by examining (and participating in?) the colorful, wonderful weirdness that is Austin. So bring your students, post-docs, and friends and join us in Austin!

From the Secretary

Aaron Krochmal, Secretary.DEE@sicb.org

2013 was another B-I-G year for the DEE, with new programmatic changes being, particularly in the way we mentor and provide for our students and post-docs.

The division rolled out the **Raymond B. Huey Best Student Presentation Competition** in 2013. In the new format, students submit 1-page abstracts, which are reviewed by committee and from 6 finalists for each category (oral and poster) are chosen. During the meeting, finalists will be grouped into a single session (oral or poster) allowing the DEE to prominently showcase our best and brightest at the meeting. Judging will occur during the sessions, and winners are announced the DEE social.

The first student competition of its kind in SICB, the DEE Raymond B. Huey Best Student Presentation Competition, met with huge success at the 2013 meeting and has inspired other divisions to overhaul their own student presentation competitions. The novel structure first seen in the DEE Raymond B. Huey Best Student Presentation Competition is now the standard for some student presentation competitions across SICB. Just another example of DEE's trend-setting programming!

Expanding the division's emphasis on student mentoring, we will be rolling out a new program in Austin – DEE's **Beer and Brains**. A SICB meeting is a great place graduate students and postdocs to meet the prominent players in the field. Of course, these people are often difficult to get one-on-one because

they've got a litany of friends and collaborators to see during the meeting, manuscripts to write, and generally, are plenty busy. That's where DEE's *Beer and Brains* comes in. The DEE rounds up a collection of household names in your field, whisks them away to a nearby bar, and invites divisional students and postdocs to join them in an evening of unhurried conversation. Just another way DEE is striving to provide its students and postdocs with career-changing opportunities! Students and postdocs, keep your eyes peeled for an email advertising this unique event.

Finally, The DEE officers have been busy updating and managing the DEE Researcher Database which we maintain to promote our division and the work of our members. If you've not checked out the database, go [here](#) to get a feel for the strength and breadth of our members and their work. To add your research profile to the DEE page, or to update an existing file, send text files (.doc, .docx or .txt), images (.tif, .jpg, .png, or .gif), or movies (.avi or .mpeg) to secretary.dee@sicb.org.

With your help – and only with your help – can the DEE continue to support existing programs and develop new ones, so please contribute to and support these initiatives...and suggest new ones!

Researcher in Focus – Deborah Lutterschmidt

Deborah Lutterschmidt is an Assistant Professor of Biology at Portland State University. Broadly trained as a comparative animal physiologist, her research interests lie at the interface of ecology, evolution, physiology, behavior, and neurobiology. Deborah has had a long-standing interest in the environmental and hormonal cues that regulate seasonal transitions in reproductive behavior in ectotherms.

One of Deborah's main study organisms is a population of red-sided garter snakes in Manitoba, Canada. In these northern populations, snakes hibernate for 8 months each year, followed by an intense but brief period of mating activity during the spring. Deborah's lab group recently found that significant changes in reproductive hormones (including gonadotropin-releasing hormone in the brain) occur during winter dormancy, and these changes are specifically induced by low temperature exposure. Her research shows that this so-called "dormancy" period is an important puzzle piece for understanding the regulation of seasonal reproduction and, ultimately, the evolution of reproductive regulatory mechanisms.



In addition to studying reproductive activation, Deborah utilizes a second approach that focuses on the inactivation of sex behavior during spring migration to summer feeding grounds. She found that glucocorticoid hormones are critical to this behavioral life history transition, and that reproductive and feeding behaviors are not mutually exclusive during spring migration. Her studies suggest that temporal differences in the activation of feeding behavior and inactivation of courtship behavior allow individuals to maximize reproductive opportunities and increase reproductive fitness. Building on this work, Deborah's research is now particularly directed at understanding the mechanisms underlying sex and phyleographic differences in reproductive timing. Her work will not only lend insight into the evolution of these regulatory mechanisms, but it will also provide an important window into the potential impacts of climate change on seasonally breeding vertebrates.



Deborah Lutterschmidt

2014 Meeting Information

The 2014 SICB Annual Meeting and Exhibition will be held 3-7 January 2014 at the Hilton Austin, Austin, Texas. As was the case with recent meetings, 7 January will be a full day – with presentations lasting until 4pm – and meeting attendees should make their travel plans accordingly.

The full meeting website can be found [here](#). Click [here](#) for the full meeting brochure including paper registration form)

Registration

Registration for the 2014 SICB Annual Meeting and Exhibition is now open!

There are three ways to register for the meeting:

1. Register online by clicking [here](#).
2. Register by fax: Fax your completed form (found [here](#)) with credit card information (Visa, MasterCard or American Express) to (703) 790-2672.
3. Mail your completed form (found [here](#)) with payment to:

SICB Business Office
1313 Dolley Madison Blvd., Suite 402
McLean, VA 22101

To qualify for discounted early registration, forms and payment must be received at the SICB Business Office by Friday, December 3, 2013.

Lodging

The SICB Annual Meeting hotel is the Hilton Austin, 500 East 4th Street, Austin, Texas, 78701, USA Tel: 1-512-482-8000; Fax: 1-512-469-0078

Group rate is \$145/night available January 2-January 8, subject to availability. To receive this rate, you MUST make your reservation through [this](#) link.

Travelers' Information

For key information about transportation, click [here](#). Keep your eyes out for forthcoming information on touring and food and drink options in Austin.

SEE YOU IN AUSTIN!

