

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS
82ND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
FLORIDA ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

JOHN SIVINSKI

Dear Members: I would like to say how much I enjoyed being your President over the last year. Our society consists of remarkable scientists, naturalists, and agriculturalists, and I am always gratified to belong in the company of such an enquiring and dynamic group. A good deal has happened over the last year, including the consolidation of our move unto the internet, the “electronic” organization of our meetings, the completion of placing the entire 82 years of the Florida Entomologist on the web, and the first steps to reformatting the appearance of our journal. I want to mention the members responsible for this progress. It is largely due to Tom Walkers vision that the Florida Entomologist is a pioneer “cyber-journal”, Richard Mankin has donated considerable time and energy in his role of web-master, and Richard Baranowski has proposed the physical improvements in our journal.

Some members have expressed concerns over the expenses involved with the construction of our web page, but these are one time costs and will be recouped over time (even small things, such as having the meeting schedule on the web rather than printed, will save the society hundreds of dollars a year). In addition, new revenues can be generated through our web page, i.e., by banner advertisements, and the increased convenience for members and the increased exposure of our society to the world will be “priceless”. While speaking of money, I should bring to your attention that our meetings have become increasingly expensive and that it was the opinion of the board that we needed to raise our registration fees. This added money, coupled to a modest increase in dues, should shortly see the society back into the “black”.

On a more serious note, our membership underwent a sharp decline this last year. This may be due to our having an out-of-country 1999 meeting, increasing dues, having the journal freely available on the web, or be part of general and poorly understood decline in the sponsorship of scientific societies. Whatever the reason, it is problem that will require our close attention in the future.

Let me close by thanking the executive committee and all of our other members for making this an exciting year. I am looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting and wish our new president, Lance Peterson, a fulfilling and productive administration.