

**Founders Award Presentation**  
**Ed Holsten**  
**Penticton, BC, Canada**  
**March 26-29, 2012**

Preparing a Founder's Award presentation is an interesting experience, you can say anything you want, which is both a blessing and a curse; while you can talk about anything, you *do* need to talk about *something*.

First, I am honored to be the recipient of the Founders Award along with Skeeter Werner. I have known Skeeter since 1974 and much of my success can be attributed to Skeeter's involvement and advice. I want to first thank Skeeter for his friendship for more than 30 years!!! Skeeter has just covered the most important projects.

As I have thought about this talk, I have concluded that if there are any actions that merit my nomination to this award, it is because of the people I have worked with. Instead of duplicating Skeeter's talk, I'd like to address how I became a Forest Entomologist and some of the more important people who helped/aided me in my career.

A little bit about myself:

I was born in San Francisco and grew up in the Bay Area, San Mateo to be exact. I lived on the out-skirts of town and seven miles of oak woodlands separated me from the Pacific Ocean. I spent most of my childhood running through the hills with my faithful dog Max, collecting everything from snakes to possums.



My first exposure to entomology: when I was ten, I "smoked out" a yellow jacket nest and re-constructed it in my bedroom. A few days later, to my mother's dismay, adult wasps emerged in my bedroom. That was the "end" of my first entomological career.

After High School, I attended California Lutheran College (surf's up!), Univ. of Calif. @ Davis then finally at UC Berkeley.

My first exposure to Forest Entomology was a class taught by Ron Stark, Don Dahlsten and David Wood at UC Berkeley. Can you get a better hand to draw from? Let me say their field trips were legendary!! I also spent one summer in 1966 working for the Forest Service, my first Forest Service job, as a heli-attack crewman on the Eldorado National Forest/ believe I was a GS-2.

After completing a BS in Forest Management in 1968, I entered the Peace Corps-Chile/Forestry Program. Dr. Bob Gara & Ron Billings (Ron was transferring from Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic to Chile) were looking for someone to help Ron establish a Forest Entomology Program in Chile. That sounded a lot better than planting trees on heavily eroded lands in Chile. A year or so later, Andy Eglitis joined us in Santiago. We spent more than two years traveling throughout Chile's forested lands establishing a collection of the more important forest insects. We also taught Forest Entomology at the University of Chile. One of our students, Rene Alfaro, ended up in BC, Canada as a Research Entomologist.

After Peace Corps, I entered the College of Forest Resources at the Univ. of Washington/Seattle in 1971 under the guidance of Dr. Bob Gara. I completed my Master's Degree (Biological Control using Coccinelids) and was ready to look for work. I didn't want to continue on for a PhD working with bark beetles as everyone seemed to be working with these critters. Little did I know that more than half my time in Alaska was spent researching spruce beetles. My fellow classmates included Ron Billings, Andy Eglitis, Roy Hedden, Dave Overhulser, Dave Bridgewater, Dennis Suoto, Mark Deyrup, and Gene Lessard.

However, Bob Gara received some \$\$ for a PhD project on the Mahogany Shootborer in Costa Rica. So in 1972, I loaded up my 1966 VW van and drove to Turrialba, Costa Rica, 5500+ miles. One year later, I drove back to Seattle and 2 weeks later, spent the summer working for the Center of Northern Studies (Wolcott Vermont) along the Noatak River in north western Alaska. This was the first of 4 summer work trips to Alaska. I met Roy Beckwith in





Fairbanks in 1973; he was working as a Research Entomologist with the USFS, Institute of Northern Forestry at Fairbanks. I then met Skeeter Werner in 1974; he replaced Roy at the Institute of Northern Forestry.

Skeeter's sage advice at that time was that if I ever worked for the Forest Service I should move around every five years; would be good for my career. As if that worked out for the both of us!!!

One more year long trip to Costa Rica to finish up my PhD happened in 1977 (Mating Behavior of the Mahogany Shootborer, *Hypsipyla grandella*, in Costa Rica). I also taught a graduate course in Forest Entomology at the University of Costa Rica. After completing my PhD and looking for work, I undertook a Post-Doc (Sitka Spruce Weevil) for Crown Zellerbach in Western Washington.

In the summer of 1977, I arrived in Anchorage, Alaska as a new Forest Entomologist for Forest Health Management, R-10. I was hired on by Bruce Baker, who resigned a week before I arrived. I replaced Pete Rush who resigned in 1976 from the Forest Service. A year later, Andy Eglitis, who just finished his PhD, arrived in Juneau as the FHP entomologist for Southeast Alaska. Andy worked for a number of years before transferring to Bend, OR, where he still does a hell-of-a job as an entomologist.

A few years later, I was fortunate enough to be part of a "new" position. Paul Hennon (pathologist for USFS in Juneau) and I became "split positions": (part PNW and part FHP). These positions arose due to the "lack" of USFS research positions in Alaska. Terry Shaw, Research Pathologist in Juneau, transferred out. Skeeter Werner and John Hard, Research Entomologists in Fairbanks, were retiring. The "good news" was we could now be paneled, the "bad" news was we had two bosses: one from FHP (Gene Lessard and later Jerry Boughton) and one from PNW Research (Gary Daterman and later Rick Kelsey).



A few years later (1970's), fortunately or unfortunately for me, there began a large spruce beetle outbreak which kept food on the table for many years. While I was in Alaska, I was also fortunate to have four over-sea work trips: two to



Chile along with Andy Eglitis, one to Guatemala and one in Mexico. I also had two work trips to the Yukon Territory and northern British Columbia, Canada dealing with their spruce beetle outbreak.

Working in Alaska was great -- a huge State and few entomologists. I was able to work on basic and research entomological issues (semiochemical and life history studies of bark beetles, defoliators, and pesticide studies), as well as cooperate on wildlife and competing vegetation projects, Spruce Beetle Expert system with Keith Reynolds (PNW), and biological control of the birch leafminer complex (in cooperation in with Chris McQuarrie in Canada). I also was able to see more of Alaska than most folks during our annual Forest Insect and Disease Surveys. These annual aerial survey trips, lasting ten days with camping and a little fishing, were one of the highlights of my tenure in Alaska. I used up a few of my 9-lives on these trips with more than a few aerial mishaps including a crash landing. Many people asked me what I did for a "living". I told them I did somewhat the same thing when I was ten; walked around the woods with my dog and collected things. Except now I got paid for it!!

I was fortunate to be working in Alaska which is/was a great draw for visiting and cooperating scientists. I also understood quickly to surround myself with the "best": John Hard and Skeeter, Pat Shea (PSW), Mark McGregor (FHP/Montana), Steve Seybold (PSW), Warren Web (OSU), Mike Newton (OSU), Ken Raffa (Univ. of Wisc.), Barbara Bentz (RMS), Gary Daterman (PNW) to mention a few. I wish John Hard was here as an important component to the Founders Award as much of my "success" can be attributed to John's influence and friendship. I had the opportunity of having a few great Technicians: Bob Wolf, Kathy Matthews and the "bug-chick", Cyndi Snyder. I also was able to work with Roger Burnside, entomologist, (DNR, State of Alaska) on various Ips and birch leafminer projects.

Last but not least, I owe a debt of gratitude to my Principal Technician, Ken Zogas. Ken came to FHP in 1978 and was my principal "go-to-guy" till my retirement in 2005. My "success" was due in a great part to Ken's help and friendship for close to thirty years!

I have been truly fortunate and blessed with a very rewarding career that has been greatly aided by associations with many fine and talented people. In addition to the science progress that Skeeter and I made, we also had one hell-of-a good time.

I retired in 2005 after 30+ years of Federal Service and moved to Cooper Landing, Alaska with my wife Sandra. Cooper Landing is a small town of ~280 folks on the Kenai River. I've been spending my retirement time fishing, Volunteering as an EMT 2, fishing, being involved in local and borough committees, and fishing.

Again, I am deeply honored and appreciative of receiving the Founders' Award with Skeeter. I'd especially like to thank Drs. Steve Seybold and Andy Graves for preparing and submitting our nomination packet; to the Nominating Committee and to those who wrote supportive letters.

