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It's that time of year again, and I'm requesting questions and team members for the upcoming Linnaean Games competition at the Southwestern Branch ESA meetings in Ft. Worth, Texas on February 23-26, 2008. I sincerely hope you can encourage your teams' participation in the games. If you are serving as a coach, please submit a list of names of your participants as soon as possible. I would prefer you send those to me by email at phil.mulder@okstate.edu. You may submit up to five names if you have an alternate who will be attending. In addition, if you have more than one team, please provide the names, numbers of teams and specify which students are on each of the teams. Please get these names to me soon and be certain of the correct spelling. If you think assistance with pronunciation is needed, please provide this also. Some new changes are coming down from ESA concerning Linnaean Games participation so please follow the protocol established in this letter. The names submitted for your team before the competition, may not be substituted or changed at the meeting site, therefore, it is to your advantage to specify an alternate now. Only one alternate may be specified.

In addition to submitting names, I am always in need of questions and it is never too late. If you are on the Linnaean Games committee you are expected to send a minimum of twenty questions at least once in a two year period. If you did not send questions last year, then you need to send them this year or you will be taken off the committee. As you can see from the enclosed rules, I need plenty of questions from the areas of morphology, insect behavior, ecology, economic entomology, medical and veterinary entomology, physiology and biochemistry, taxonomy and systematics, and toxicology. We also need questions relating to history and/or people. Two questions from each category would help, but submit whatever you can.

We will be awarding the 1st place team a traveling trophy and \$50.00 per team member. The runners-up will receive a smaller wall plaque. Both teams will be eligible to represent the Southwest Branch at the 2007 National Meetings in Reno, Nevada; however, only the first place team is guaranteed monetary support (\$500.00) to offset travel expenses. Occasionally, in the past, the Branch has provided support for both the winning and runner-up teams. We'll see what can be done. Thank you all in advance for your help on these matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Phillip M. Mulder, Jr.".

Phil Mulder
SWB-ESA Linnaean Games Chair