

# IGA Newsletter

Keep Informed—Stay in Touch—Get Involved

- Fostering the use of goats to provide for the needs of humankind.
- Encouraging research with and development of goats to increase their productivity and usefulness throughout the world.
- Perpetuating the International Conferences on Goats.



## 7th International Conference on Goats

The Seventh International Conference on Goats was held at the historical city of Tours, France, between the 15th and 18th of May 2000. This successful event was attended by more than 700 participants, with more than 600 paper presented. In addition to the opening ceremony, four plenary sessions, seven scientific sessions, and sixteen roundtable discussions were well attended. The plenary sessions covered the topics of goats and sustainable development, technology transfer, transgenesis, and north-south relationships. Nutrition and feeding strategies, pathology, genetics and selection, production systems, reproduction, quality of milk and dairy products, economic and social issues, and meat, hair and skin products were the themes of the scientific sessions. The discussions during the roundtable sessions focused on the detection and prevention of mastitis, integrated control of nematode parasites, meat production in the tropics and sub-tropics, publishing research results, contribution of women



to goat production, goat genome, mother-young relationships, meat diseases in hot climates, speci-

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## IGA President Reveals a Four-year Plan

By Pierre Morand-Fehr

Substantial progress has been made over the last four years concerning IGA membership, regional representatives, budget, contact among directors, organization management, conference preparation, publishing of Small Ruminant Research, and IGA Newsletter. Nevertheless, there remains the need to improve efficiency and increase activities.

One of the most important tasks is to increase IGA membership. Several active organizations in the goat sector

may have never heard of IGA, particularly in developing countries since there is a lack of activities in the time period between international conferences which amounts to four years. This situation is probably due to the limited budget of the organization and small group of IGA officers. I am very aware of the difficulties facing all of us in this regard. For this reason, I suggest to prepare a preliminary program before Tours which could be discussed at the board meetings. This should give our organization

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## Do Smallholder Farmers Benefit more from Crossbred Somali x Anglo-Nubian than from Indigenous Goats?

By Workneh Ayalew Kebede

In countries like Ethiopia, development programs on improving livestock production in the dominant smallholder sector nearly always promote improved management combined with the introduction of exotic animals for crossbreeding. The crossbreds have been promoted in many donor-funded as well as regular rural development programs based on the thesis that they are more productive than the indigenous animals. This was also the concept of the Dairy Goat Development Program (DGDP), which implemented a comprehensive programme of crossbreeding and improved goat management in the Ethiopian highlands between 1989 and 1997. A year after the DGDP was concluded, this study was set up to test the general hypothesis that the net benefits that accrue to households from raising crossbred goats under improved management are greater than those from indigenous goats under traditional management.

The field data collection, conducted between April 1998 and June 1999, followed through the management, performance, and utility of 275 crossbred (Somali x Anglo-Nubian) and 537 indigenous (Somali, Hararghe Highland) goats belonging to 121 DGDP participant and 37 non-participant (control) households in Gursum and Kombolcha Districts of eastern Ethiopia. Three complementary flock-level composite productivity indices were developed, stemmed from the actual uses of the flocks by aggregating both physical as well as quantifiable socio-economic functions of goats under subsistence production. The indices measure the monetary value of total physical net production (meat, milk, and manure), and deduct the total value of purchased external inputs to produce the “values added” of the flocks. Addition of the socio-economic benefits in asset (financing) and security (insurance) to the added values gives the total benefits, or the realized net benefits. These were then divided by the three major resources used to produce the benefits, namely size of cultivated land, or metabolic body size of the annualized average flock size, or the estimated household labor input. The resultant three indices, referred to as “unit net benefits”, were used to test the hypotheses in the comparison of crossbred and indigenous goats.

A large number of farmers maintain a mix of crossbred and indigenous goats, and manage them under improved level of care in terms of feeding, health care, and housing. Comparison of the net benefits from these mixed flocks with those of indigenous

flocks under traditional management showed that, during the one year observation period, the mixed flocks generated significantly higher unit net benefits than the indigenous flocks for the available land and labor input ( $p = 0.05$ ), but not for metabolic bodyweight. These higher unit net benefits were attributable to both the crossbred and the indigenous goats performing under improved management. The good response of indigenous goats to the improved management was confirmed by comparing them with those kept under traditional management. The improved management practices also produced significantly higher unit net benefits than traditional management for the land available ( $p = 0.01$ ) and average labor input ( $p < 0.03$ ). However, the assortment of crossbred goats did not produce higher unit net benefits than the indigenous goats on comparisons based on land, metabolic bodyweight, or labor input. Therefore, the superiority of mixed flocks over the traditional flocks also came from the indigenous goats producing in the improved environment, particularly where land was scarce and farmers had less time for goat husbandry.

Crossbreds did, however, produce significantly ( $p < 0.001$ ) more milk per doe than the indigenous goats, but not per unit bodyweight ( $p = 0.58$ ) or per unit of metabolic bodyweight ( $p = 0.30$ ). Similarly, the crossbreds produced significantly higher net bodyweight gains per unit bodyweight ( $p < 0.001$ ) and per unit metabolic bodyweight ( $p < 0.001$ ) of the same goat. However, the cumulative total bodyweight losses of the crossbreds were significantly greater than those of the indigenous goats when comparisons were made per unit of bodyweight ( $p < 0.02$ ) and per unit metabolic weight ( $p < 0.005$ ). The greater weight losses of the crossbreds lead to a higher risk of reaching critically low body conditions during the dry season.

The desirable attributes of crossbreeding had not been maintained after the DGDP because the pool was too small to maintain 50% exotic blood level in the crossbreds, which ranged from 6.25 to 75%, with the 50% crosses representing less than a quarter of the crossbred population. Shortages of crossbred breeding males also led to gradual backcrossing of the does, resulting in an increasingly mosaic mix of crossbreds. Collaborative local institutions were unable to ensure the necessary supply of the improved stock, or to deliver the necessary

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...improvements in aggregate productivity of smallholder flocks can be achieved with indigenous goats alone and a higher level of management can be upheld without the incentive of introducing crossbred goats.

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minimum institutional support for basic animal healthcare, improved forage, and farmer training. As a result, activities relating to the introduced technologies have declined after the DGDP was phased out. However, farmers continued to sustain some components of the technology package (supplementary feeding and basic healthcare) since these enabled them to generate higher net benefits

from the indigenous goats. Therefore, improvements in aggregate productivity of smallholder flocks can be achieved with indigenous goats alone and a higher level of management can be upheld without the incentive of introducing crossbred goats. Thus, the core hypothesis that the net benefits are greater from crossbred goats than from indigenous goats under improved management is rejected.

## Message from the Outgoing President

By Adel M. Aboul Naga

IGA, as a voluntary organization, has a remarkable history and has served its purposes well in promoting goat production, development and research over the past three decades especially in developing countries.

Each member of IGA contributed to supporting the objectives of the association. I am grateful to our Board members for supporting me personally during my presidential term. Especially, thanks are due to our past Vice President and new President Pierre Morand-Fehr, our past Secretary/Treasurer Rosalee Sinn and to our past President J. Boyazoglu for their tremendous efforts and absolute dedication to our association.

The success of the 7<sup>th</sup> ICG in Tours was obvious. I would like to congratulate the French Committee, especially Lucas Gurner and Yves for a well-planned conference and recognizable achievement in bringing together producers, industrialists, and extensionists together with the scientists as active participants to Tours Conference.

We trust that our South African colleagues will lead us more successfully to the 8<sup>th</sup> ICG. The efforts of our Vice President Norman Casey for early preparation of the 2004 ICG is highly commended.

The *Small Ruminant Research* Journal has established itself as well-recognized scientific journal and we are all proud of it. I want to commend M. Fahmy, Editor-in-Chief, and his associate editors for their excellent work and commitment of time and efforts to our journal. We have had excellent cooperation in this regard from Elsevier, thanks to Ken Plaxton and his colleagues.

IGA membership has been improved detectably over the last years. Thanks to Chris Lu for a good job organizing the Country Representatives and Regional Coordinators, they will sure have a significant role in promoting the objectives and membership of our association in their own countries. Since Beijing, our Constitution and By-laws have

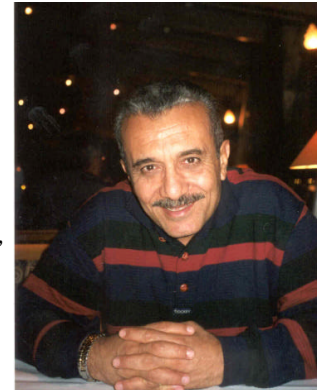
been revised as a joint effort by all Board members, with special efforts from IGA founders, Warren Foot, John Boyazoglu, and myself.

We had been able to issue a number of IGA newsletters, thanks to the efforts of Rosalee Sinn, but not as regular as we have wished. One of the key reasons is that our members are not providing material for the newsletter. I want to thank Chris Lu for his willingness to take responsibility of the newsletters during the next term and expect all of you to provide him with a flow of information to share it among ourselves through the Newsletter.

The partnership of Heifer Project International (HPI), which became a formal agreement in 1997, is deeply appreciated. HPI hosted the Secretary of IGA for the past nine years. I want to express thanks to Robert Pelant, who brought this support to fruition and extend our thanks to Jo Luck and to Jim DeVries of HPI for their support and partnership. We are also grateful to Beth Miller who agreed to carry on the responsibility of Secretary/Treasurer of IGA and continue the tradition of hosting the IGA Secretary by HPI.

We have now a new slate of officers and newly elected Board members; E. Sinapis (Greece), J. Honmode (India), P. Jiabi (China), C. Peacock (UK), J. Vries (USA), and J. P. Dubeuf (France). I trust that all new officers will devote their efforts to supporting our association.

We have full trust in our friend and colleague Pierre Morand-Fehr our new President, who supported our association for years. He is full of energy and good ideas which will move our association ahead. I expect all of us to give our maximum support and wish him luck in his presidential term.



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## Goatmeat Exports from Australia

By Peter J Holst

Australia, with over 11,000 tons of product, is the largest exporter of goatmeat (57% of global trade). Some 68% of this product is shipped as frozen carcasses and 31% as bone-in cuts. The largest importers are Taiwan (41%), North America (42%), and the Caribbean (6%).

There are features of Australia's goatmeat production that are uncommon. First, the domestic market is very small. Second, many of the goats are derived from feral goats on rangeland and these represent a healthy, chemical free source of meat. Finally, a significant number of the goats exported to Taiwan, China, and the United States are exported skin-on. This product is sold in traditional wet markets or prepared as an ingredient in hotpots which are consumed during the winter months.

The introduction of alternative meatgoat genetics, the depressed wool market, and the healthy export trade have generated interest by livestock farmers and a few entrepreneurs who have interests in the domestic market. The domestic market has a res-

taurant component but little trade in the food service and supermarket industries.

The development of a domestic industry is seen as an opportunity to increase the profitability of goatmeat production. Kellaway suggested at the National Agricultural and Resources Outlook Conference in Canberra that simply increasing meat production was not the answer and that product distribution channels needed to be established and a marketing and promotional campaign initiated.

The domestic industry may have to struggle because the export market is already competing for any quality product. Demand for capretto and young goat is strong. In the past six months, the United States imports of goat meat from Australia increased 52% on last year.

Perhaps the most significant event will be the further introduction of quality assurance through the SAFEMEAT program.

The development of a domestic industry is seen as an opportunity to increase the profitability of goatmeat production.

## Identification and Classification of Organizations Working on the Goat Sector

By Jean-Paul Dubeuf

Nowadays, the goat sector is renewing all over the world and many organizations are involved in activities related to goat production and marketing. Nevertheless, these new initiatives are faced with a rather high scientific, technical, or intellectual isolation with few regular links with other homologue organizations. This situation can be critical and become a limiting factor for achieving higher efficiency of their actions, and can sometimes hinder the progress to reach their operative objectives.

People belonging or working in these organizations would have specific need for information. More directly, many goat sectors would be often marginalized and without any national or international strategy, and networking seems to be very limited.

The **International Goat Association (IGA)** could help by organizing links at an international level between goat organizations. The first stage would be to identify such organizations, develop contacts, exchanges and collaborations, and consequently stimulate initiatives.

The precise objective of the **inquiry form** we developed and ask goat organizations to answer is to

inventory organizations with goat activities at a regional, national, or international level all over the world. This inventory could help us to define a typology of the several existing structures.

Consequently, IGA could more easily propose to its members several adapted services: list of organizations and contacts, forum of organizations in the IGA Newsletter, an access to CIRVAL database, and organization of specialised meetings or workshops during the 8<sup>th</sup> International Goat Conference in Pretoria.

This involvement with the goat organizations should be a priority for the development of an association like IGA. A strong support and relationship with local or interregional structures would be a way for IGA to progress and to be better known. One reply form will be prepared for each organization. For further information, please contact Jean-Paul Dubeuf at

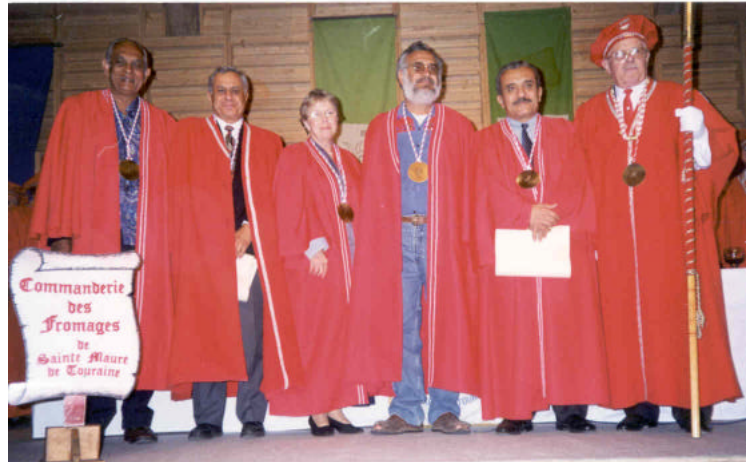
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... involvement with the goat organizations should be a priority for the Development of an Association like IGA.

## 7th International Conference on Goats

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ficity and quality of goat products, goat milk as health food, genetic resources, feeding strategies in arid rangelands, goat farming and the environment, detection and prevention of CAEV, organization of goat research, and effects of European sanitary policy on dairy farms and products. Participants and their companies enjoyed a nearly five-hour conference gala event. Thanks go to the organizing committee chair and members. A two-volume conference proceedings was published and distributed to the participants. These proceedings are available from Technipel, 149 rue de Bercy 75595 Paris Cedex 09, France. Contact Yves Chabert at [technipel@inst-elevage.asso.fr](mailto:technipel@inst-elevage.asso.fr).



Devanya (left to right), Fahmy, Sinn, a Spanish national, and Abdul-Naga received the honorary Knighthood of Cheese during the Conference Gala Dinner.

## A Small Ruminant Research and Development Network for the SADC Region

By E. F. Donkin and H.C. Els

A regional workshop on goat development in Southern Africa was convened by the Bunda College of Agriculture of the University of Malawi from the 31<sup>st</sup> of July to the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 2000 at Mangochi in Malawi. It was an opportunity to meet other people working with goat development projects from SADC countries and other parts of Africa, including Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, Cameroun, and Burkina Faso. Delegates also came from Ireland, the Netherlands, and the USA.

Delegates reported on goat production and development in their countries. Some of these were verbal reports, but others were in the form of papers. The Proceedings of the workshop will be published in due course.

The main part of the Workshop consisted of discussion sessions, where an attempt was made to draw up vision and mission statements, and to identify appropriate strategies. Professor Donkin chaired the morning session on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

The main purpose of the Workshop was to develop consensus among scientists and stakeholders in the region, and make strategic plans to improve and sustain goat development in the region through networking and partnership. Delegates presented

papers on goat production and development in their countries. Workshop discussions were held to attempt to draw up vision and mission statements, and to identify appropriate strategies.

The workshop achieved the main objective of reaching agreement to set up a network of communication. Many areas of activity were identified. Details will be worked out subsequently.

The nominated representative for South Africa was E.F. Donkin, and the alternate was R.G. MacGregor. However, this was decided as an interim measure, and was not intended to be a permanent arrangement. The network in South Africa will determine the most effective system for ensuring optimal communication among all those interested. The network should be as inclusive as possible.

Another area that was not well defined was the scope of the network. The Workshop in Malawi was convened to discuss goat production, but the final recommendation was that the designation should be for small ruminants. Therefore, it will be necessary to establish communication with all those involved with research and development relating to sheep as well as goats. Delegates representing key areas relating to sheep and goats should plan to attend the Conference in Malawi in 2001.

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## IGA President Reveals a Four-year Plan

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the means to develop a successful program following the Tours meeting. Although this may prove to be a daunting task, I believe that it is the most suitable approach for our organization over the next four years.

As the incoming president of IGA, I would like to propose several initiatives for the next years. The first centers around the reorganization of the Board of Directors. The Board must be managed in a way to allow individuals to openly voice their opinions. Also, I would like to see every officer being responsible for an area. In areas where substantial work is expected, I propose to have more than one officer involved. I strongly feel that each Board member should have a defined responsibility. For future considerations of nominated officers, we need to take into consideration the individual's experiences, in addition to the need to balance the Board geographically and according to discipline. I also propose to decentralize the decision making process of officers with the president or secretary/treasurer being kept informed. Contacts between the president of IGA and the secretary ought to be permanent.

We also need to amend the constitution and by-laws of IGA to address the following issues. First, we need to introduce two categories of IGA members: national or international goat organizations, and individual memberships. Second, we need to register the IGA and its statutes in other countries, in addition to the United States. An international organization should have a status in more than one country. Finally, we should accept private organizations as members. Such organizations could be of financial assistance to IGA and will make the involvement of the private sector in several IGA activities more interesting.

The next priority issue that needs much attention during the upcoming four years relates to IGA membership. Although our organization made several strides in this area with contributions from many, especially our Vice President Christopher Lu, we need to pay special attention to the limiting factors of the organization's membership and define a realistic and efficient policy in this area. My suggestion is to involve the regional and national representatives of IGA and to organize their activities in collecting all IGA memberships of their respective



*Incoming IGA President, Pierre Morand-Fehr (left), and Secretary/Treasurer, Beth Miller (right).*

countries. As such, our organization will reduce the cost of banking across countries and increase its membership, especially if each representative was asked to find some 10 new members to join IGA. It may also be necessary to develop specific material for each targeted specialization of members. Finally, our organization must attract the young specialists of the goat industry to serve the future of IGA.

Another proposal is to have IGA adopt an active policy in financially helping young scientists and development specialists who work in the goat sector and plan to attend the next IGA conference. The financial support, to be funded by the private sector, will include the waiver of registration fees and payment of travel expenses of five or more young specialists (less than 35 years of age). These individuals will be chosen according to the quality of their submitted papers.

IGA awards must be given to authors of the best papers presented at each international conference on goats. Such awards may be given to the best presented papers (up to two awards) and the best presentations in applied and development work (up to two awards).

As for IGA publications, it is important for our organization to first and foremost support *Small Ruminant Research* and help it in publishing quality papers, without losing contacts with the extension and development field. I am in favor of one or two special issues per year that publish the best papers of the specialized symposia or conferences that take

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Substantial progress has been made over the last four years. . . Nevertheless, there remains the need to improve efficiency and increase activities.

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place between any two international meetings of IGA that occur once in four years. This will help in maintaining the visibility of our organization throughout.

On the other hand, the IGA Newsletter must be informative about goat news in different countries and serve as a link among IGA members. The newsletter was originally the responsibility of the secretary who did a good job. However, to have an IGA officer solely responsible for the newsletter without having to attend to other administrative responsibilities will help to elevate this publication to a level where IGA officers and country representatives are urged to submit articles for inclusion in the newsletter. Also, it will be interesting to see designated space for news from the main goat organizations such as the Heifer Project, FAO, and sheep and goat networks. An issue of the newsletter would have to be published once every six months.

Proper management of information and computerization is another area where IGA can have a major impact. As an international organization, IGA could manage specific databases for such information as the goat organizations and goat specialists around the world organized per discipline. To accomplish this, IGA could liaise with international organizations that perform similar functions. Another officer could be responsible for obtaining the information and overseeing the development of such databases.

Finally, I see the need to continue with our efforts to computerize several of our organization's activities. Currently, the list of IGA members and budget has already been computerized. One area that needs special attention is the internet and the development of web site for our organization. The IGA Newsletter could then become available online as well. Moreover, the content of *Small Rumi-*

*nant Research* could also be made available at this web site. An officer would need to help our Secretary-Treasurer in this endeavor.

The distribution of responsibilities among the IGA Board members should be done as follows:

- Membership and regionalization, coordination, and animation of IGA (one vice president and one to two officers).
- Preparation for the next IGA International Conference (one vice president).
- Funding, scholarships and awards (two officers).
- Bylaws and regulations (two to three officers, with preference to including experienced individuals in this area including having a honorary member).
- Publications (the Editor-in-Chief of *Small Ruminant Research* along with one or two officers to help with special issues).
- Applied research, development, and extension (one to two officers).
- Information (one officer).
- Newsletter (one officer).
- Relations with governmental and non-governmental international organizations (one officer).

To succeed in all of these tasks, it is crucial to recruit the human power to take various responsibilities along with the availability of material support. As stated earlier, these proposals are open to discussion and I will be open to receiving critical comments on all these proposals as well as your own proposals and ideas. I will synthesize all your proposals and draft a consistent document for discussion during the IGA Board meeting.

## News and Events

The **International Workshop on "Trees and Shrubs in Tropical Livestock"** was held on November 29 to December 1, 2000 at the Plaza America Convention Center, Varadero, Cuba. The workshop included lectures and exposition of posters, as well as visits to the livestock areas of Matanzas province where silvopastoral systems are successfully carried out.

The **Proceedings of Nicosia International Symposium** organized by CMIO, IDF, CIRVAL, EDA, EAAP and Cyprus Ministry of Agriculture

are now available. To order a copy, write to IDF, 41 Square Vergote, B-1030, Bruxelles (fax: 322 733 04 13, e-mail: info@fil-idf.org).

The new IGA office of the **Country Representative of France** is: Gilbert Toussaint, FNEC, Maison Nationale du Lait, 42 rue de Châteaudun, 75314 Paris Cedex 09, France (tel: 33 0149707187, fax: 33 0142806380, e-mail: gilbert.toussaint@wanadoo.fr).

To succeed in all of these tasks, it is crucial to recruit the human power to take various responsibilities along with the availability of material support.

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## News and Events

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The **8th International Conference on Goats** will be held in Septemeber 2004 in Pretoria, South Africa. For information, contact Dr. Norman Casey, University of Pretoria, Department of Animal and Wildlife Sciences, Pretoria 0002, Republic of South Africa (fax: 27-12-420-3290, e-mail: nhcasey@postino.up.ac.za).

**An article published in the 19th of June 2000 edition of the Post-Standard of Syracuse, NY**, reported on genetically-altered goats that are being bred with a spider gene to produce a unique protein in their milk. According to the article, the protein will be extracted from the milk to produce fibers for bulletproof vests, aerospace, and medical supplies. The Montreal-based Nexia Biotechnologies, Inc., that is conducting the operation obtained exclusive rights to patents resulting from spider silk research at the University of Wyoming.

### Appearing in the next IGA Newsletter:

- List of IGA Board of Directors
- Function and list of IGA Country Representatives and Regional Directors
- IGA Board of Directors activities and decisions

### To contribute to the articles and news and events of the IGA Newsletter, contact:

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Newsletter by  
sending articles and  
news and events to  
the IGA Newsletter  
Editor.