

# *Phaëton*

The Official Newsletter of the  
Maryland Entomological Society

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## Meeting Announcement

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The Maryland Entomological Society's 269<sup>th</sup> regular meeting will be held **Friday, May 22, 2009**; beginning at 8:00 P.M., in **Room 004** (one floor below the street level), Biological Sciences Bldg., University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). Bring a friend and specimens/observations to share. Refreshments will be provided. Presentations are scheduled to begin about 8:15 P.M.

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### **Speaker 1: Mr. Bob Gardner**

**Title: "Rare and seldom encountered Maryland moths, beetles and insects".**

Bob Gardner is an avid and diligent collector who submitted numerous species records at the last meeting (see file in MS Word™ attached to the April 2009 *Phaëton*). He will discuss these and other unusual species which are seldom seen, and will provide a small exhibit of some of the insects.

### **Speaker 2: Dr. Harold Harlan**

**Title: "Brief notes on the resurgence of the common Bed Bug (*Cimex lectularius* L.)".**

Dr. Harlan is a Medical/ Veterinary (& Urban Pest Management) entomologist who will discuss several aspects of the recent resurgence of bedbugs in across the country. He has raised a strain of bed bugs for the last 36 years and has helped other professionals worldwide to respond to this problem.

### **Speaker 3: Mr. Fred Paras**

**Title: "Basimentos Island, Panama- Paradise lost?"**

Fred Paras will present a travel slide show from Bastimentos island featuring the idyllic and relatively unspoiled island archipelago of Bocas del Toro and the juxtaposition of habitat destruction for luxury development. Pristine jungles which reach to the sea are home to thousands of animal and plant species, including the famous Red Frog (*Dendrobates fjd*n). The recent land rush and an enormous luxury condominium development (Red Frog Beach) threaten the fragile jungle and coral reef ecosystems which surround the island.

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If you want more information concerning this meeting, contact one of the following people:

Annapolis Area - Harold Harlan (410) 923-0173 (Home) "haroldharlan@comcast.net"  
Baltimore Area - Phil Kean (410) 944-4630 (Home)  
Fred Paras (410) 374-0425 (Home) "bugandrockman@msn.com"  
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Frank Hanson (Biol. Sci., UMBC x-2265/-2228) "Hanson@umbc.edu"

### Minutes of the April 2009 MES Meeting

The 268th general meeting of the Maryland Entomological Society was held on Friday, April 17, 2009 at UMBC and was begun at 8:26 p.m. with a welcome by president Fred Paras and then a short business meeting. The March 2009 meeting minutes were read and approved, and the treasurer's report was delivered, showing that the MES Funds now total \$2378.32. Sites for the society field trip were discussed, but no location was settled upon at this time. The Jug Bay, Patuxent River Park (Prince Georges Co.) Bioblitz on May 30-31, where Phil Kean will lead the butterfly and general insect contingent, was announced as a society event and will well serve the role as one of our 2009 field trips. Fred announced that the speaker schedule for much of next year was already full. The meeting then proceeded into the main program (summarized below) which was followed by fine discussion and refreshments (with ice cream! kindly provided by the Cohens).

The main program, titled "The Natural History and Population Viability of Some of Maryland's Rare Butterfly Species," was presented by Dr. Richard H. (Dick) Smith, professionally an engineer at the Johns Hopkins Univ. Applied Physics Lab in Laurel, MD, but also MES Secretary and contractor with the Maryland Natural Heritage Program (MNHP). Dick started his presentation with a discussion of the Maryland Natural Heritage Program, an endangered plant and animal conservation program within MD DNR's Wildlife and Heritage Service and having several zoologists and botanists working around the state. Dick presented the goals of the program. Since 1979, the MNHP has been the lead state agency responsible for the identification, ranking, protection and management of rare and endangered species and natural communities in Maryland. The program seeks to sustain populations of rare plants and animals through the maintenance of healthy natural ecosystems. This is accomplished by restoration of degraded habitats, field surveys, research into natural history requirements and public education. The program also reviews proposed development projects for potentially harmful effects on rare species. In exceptional cases, the program may work with other agencies within the MD Department of Natural Resources and with private organizations to purchase properties supporting natural communities. Dick also reviewed the rank and status categories given to its listed species. The rank (from Highly State Rare to Watchlist)

signifies, for the most part, the number of colonies of a natural element or species occurring within the state. The state status, when applied, signifies the severity of a species' vulnerability. Species marked as Endangered, Threatened, or In Need of Conservation are legally protected by the Code of Maryland Regulations. A more recent project with which Dick is involved additionally divides the approximately 50 listed butterfly species into three separate categories: (1) species with apparently stable population conditions, regardless of whether State Rare or Watchlist, (2) species that appear to be either stray, historical, or now extirpated in the state, and (3) species whose populations statewide appear to be in decline, regardless of whether State Rare or Watchlist (this may also include currently unlisted species). The project's attention is focused on the species in category (3), where besides checking on and attempting to identify new colony locations, an attempt will be made to determine causes of declines and plan and initiate proactive measures where possible to stem the declines. Having received attention by Maryland naturalists for over 60 years and experiencing significant recent declines, several of Maryland's butterfly species easily and uniquely, but also unfortunately, fall into this category. Dick's talk then launched into discussions of the biology and population viability factors of the 11 butterfly species currently assigned to category (3). These include the following:

- (1) West Virginia White (*Pieris virginiensis*) – strong colonies confined now to remote state forests in Garrett Co. Conservation efforts are concentrating on applying herbicide to near-colony stands of Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), an alien plant on which females mistakenly oviposit but which is eventually lethal to their larvae.
- (2) Northern Hairstreak (*Satyrium favonius ontario*) – locate colony areas for this species around the state (usually in terrain dominated by oaks, the favorite hosts of gypsy moths), preserve habitat, and prohibit spraying *Bt* there despite any gypsy moth infestations known to be present. It would also help to erect deer exclosures around Scrub Oak saplings on which deer browse.
- (3) Edwards' Hairstreak (*Satyrium edwardsii*) – this species requires ants as larval protectors (a sugary reward is given in exchange - this symbiosis is termed myrmecophily) as well as hostplant Scrub Oaks (*Quercus ilicifolia*). Locate colony areas for this species around the state (usually in terrain dominated by oaks, the favorite hosts of gypsy moths), preserve that habitat,

and prohibit spraying *Bt* there despite any gypsy moth infestations known to be present. It would also be helpful to erect deer exclosures around Scrub Oak saplings to stop or reduce deer browsing.

(4) Cobweb Skipper (*Hesperia metea*), (5) Leonard's Skipper (*Hesperia leonardus*), and (6) Delaware Skipper (*Anatrytone logan*) - locate colony areas for these species around state (usually in Little Bluestem grass (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) dominated serpentine, shale, and sand barrens, and preserve habitat. Little Bluestem is the primary host. The Delaware Skipper may be safe on the Eastern Shore where it is suspected of utilizing switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) as a host.

(7) Baltimore Checkerspot (*Euphydryas phaeton*) - locate colonies [usually in wet meadows with White Turtlehead (*Chelone glabra*)]. Preserve wetlands and protect turtlehead host plants with simple fencing covering adequate to prevent deer browsing. Butterfly larval introduction efforts are also being tested at ideal habitats in the Piedmont.

(8) Mulberry Wing (*Poanes massasoit*) and (9) Black Dash (*Euphyes conspicua*) - locate colonies [usually in permanently wet freshwater and partially wooded marshes with Tussock Sedge (*Carex stricta*)]. Preserve these wetlands habitats.

(10) Chermock's Mulberry Wing (*Poanes massasoit chermocki*) - known MD colony declining, possibly due to frequent flooding from water level rising, a generally troubling phenomenon for the entire Delmarva. Locate new colonies in higher elevation habitats and preserve. Hope is strong for a newly discovered colony in Sussex Co., DE, which is on slightly higher ground.

(11) King's Hairstreak (*Satyrium kingi*) - occurs in forest and forest perimeters in Worcester Co. Pocomoke River drainage area with host plant sweetleaf (*Symplocos tinctoria*). We need to ensure that such forest perimeters are not exposed to insecticidal drift.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard H. Smith  
MES Secretary

### Announcements

1. Distributing this newsletter by e-mail saves costs of printing and mailing, and allows rapid distribution of information. Members with no current e-mail address will still be sent hard-copies for the foreseeable future. For questions, please contact any person listed at the

bottom of the first page. **Also** please provide your current e-mail address. Dues for 1 Oct. 2007 through 30 Sep. 2008, are **\$10.00/year**. Please send dues & any address or other corrections to:

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2. Regular MES meetings are usually held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each of 6 months each year: Oct., Nov., Feb., Mar., Apr. & May (parallel to UMBC's academic year). The final meeting for the 2009 "MES year" will be:

<u>month</u>	<u>date</u>	<u>speaker</u> (if known)	<u>topic</u>
May 09	22 <sup>nd</sup>	See Front Page	members' "pot-pourri"

3. The Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS) offers a variety of Nature education events & experiences for all ages. They are currently featuring youth education and summer camp opportunities. They have a wide range of special nature-oriented programs throughout the year for preschool, family, scouts, schools, and available through their 3 wildlife sanctuaries: Woodend, Rust, & Webb. They also offer adult natural history classes, local outings, & national & international travel experiences. They work with various civic, environmental and conservation groups on issues related to the watershed, rural lands, and more. They offer PDFs of local & regional Nature activities, & you can download the Naturalist News. Some classes, events, & nature walks are free, but most require pre-registration & a fee. For details, or to register, call: (301) 652-9188, ext. 10, or go to their website at: "[www.AudubonNaturalist.org](http://www.AudubonNaturalist.org)".

4. An MES member has requested that I forward this announcement, which was recently posted on the ESA's website, Eastern Branch subpage. Entomologists are needed to help with a "BioBlitz" event on the Saw Mill River in Westchester County, NY, this coming September 25-26. The event is to begin at 4:30 P.M., Fri., September 25, in Yonkers and will include several preserves along a 20 mile watershed section of the river. "Volunteers are welcome, but an honorarium will be given to those who request it." NO monetary figure was specified in the announcement. This event is being organized by Groundwork Hudson Valley, ". . . an environmental justice non-profit organization which works with communities to improve their physical and social environment." Interested persons should contact Emily Eder, their Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator, at: [emily@groundworkyonkers.org](mailto:emily@groundworkyonkers.org), or call: 914-375-2151.

5. The **Maryland DNR** website this month includes news about several current state programs including: recycling programs in schools; tuition-free teacher professional development; safe boating; the “keep fawns wild” program; public meetings on some wildlife regulatory issues; volunteer opportunities; current nature programs scheduled soon on MPT. Their website also describes a wide variety of nature walks, canoe trips, nature crafts exhibits & shows; & hours of operation and access to “on line” reservations at many different state parks & recreation areas from now throughout this coming summer season. There are lots more details & links about hunting & fishing, bird watching & related regulations, seasons, & advice for outdoorsmen & campers. For more details, or to make reservations go to: [www.dnr.state.md.us](http://www.dnr.state.md.us).

6. The Maryland Science Center has ‘magnets’ as its monthly theme for May 2009. This month they are also launching several new features, including the IMAX movie “Night at the Museum,” starting Fri., May 22<sup>nd</sup>; the traveling exhibit “Chinasaurus,” with 15,000 sq. ft. of full-sized dinosaurs recently discovered in the deserts of Mongolia (including examples of well-feathered, but probably flightless, specimens) starting Sat., May 23<sup>rd</sup>. This exhibit will remain here through September 27, 2009; & Maryland’s Place in Space Day (Sat., May 30) will include >100 exhibits, many of them interactive; which will showcase selected work done by Goddard Space Flight Center, Johns Hopkins Applied Physics lab, *etc.* For more details or for reservations (where required), go to: [www.mdsci.org](http://www.mdsci.org), or call 410-545-5982.

7. The Navy’s demonstration aerobatic flight team, the Blue Angels, will give a demonstration performance over the Severn River near Annapolis (as part of the graduation celebrations of the U.S. Naval Academy) on Wed., May 20 starting at 2:00 P.M.

8. The Maryland native orchids workshop and hike will take place at the Smithsonian Environmental research Center, Edgewater, MD; starting at 9 A.M., Sat., May 30. Fee \$10.00 per person, for more details or to make a reservation, call: 301-238-2737.

9. The National Zoological Park (National Zoo), at 3001 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, DC, usually has >4,000 species of animals on free public displays. Some popular attractions include: giant pandas; exotic birds; amphibians (frogs, toads), & reptiles; Great apes; elephants; *etc.* a considerable number of these can be viewed on “live” web cameras. On Friday, June 12, from

6 to 8:30 P.M., they are featuring the Guppy Gala, a fundraising event focused on families and younger children (fees: \$15.00 for FONZ members, \$25.00 for non-members). The zoo’s web site includes many scientific articles from current & recent research, w/ related images & many “links” to other resources. Interesting sub-pages include the ones that feature “Wildlife Gardening” and “Invertebrates”. You may wish to help support these animals by joining the Friends of the National Zoo (FONZ). For more details, call: (202) 673-4717, or go to: [www.nationalzoo.si.edu](http://www.nationalzoo.si.edu).

10. Some additional websites worth checking include:

- the USDA website, <http://soils.usda.gov/education>

- the National Aquarium (in Balto.), “[www.aqua.org](http://www.aqua.org)”

- the Maryland Science Center, “[www.mdsci.org](http://www.mdsci.org)”

- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) (then search by topic)

- The Jug Bay Nature Center, at Jug Bay, Lothian, MD. at: [www.jugbay.org](http://www.jugbay.org), or call (410) 741-9930.

11. If you wish to take part in a wide range of seasonal, local or regional educational, nature-related, or sporting events in the Baltimore, Washington & central Maryland area, you might want to check out the “**What’s Up? Annapolis**” magazine. They offer a wide range of details about local restaurants, entertainment, cultural or other special events. They have unique feature stories every issue, & their advertisements are varied, readable, concise, & detailed. There is a live “harbor cam” on their website. And they have an active connection (link) on “[www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)” (give’m a ‘tweet’ ?). For a free hard copy subscription, mailed to your home (Annapolis & nearby areas only), or for specific information, contact them at: What’s Up?, Inc., 929 West St., Suite 208A, Annapolis, MD 21401; or by phone: (410) 267-9390; or go to their website at: [www.whatsupmag.com](http://www.whatsupmag.com).

## 12. Current (SocietyYear 2009) MES Officers

President	Fred Paras
Vice-President	Phil Kean
Secretary	Dick Smith
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