

Phaëton

The Official Newsletter of the
Maryland Entomological Society

EDITOR: Harold J. Harlan
FACULTY SPONSOR: Frank E. Hanson and Austin P. (Bob) Platt
Department of Biological Sciences, UMBC
1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, MD 21250

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Meeting Announcement

The Maryland Entomological Society's 272nd regular meeting will be held **Friday, February 19, 2010**; 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.

Speaker: Dr. (LCDR) David A. Florin, Assistant Prof., Pvnt. Med. & Biometrics, USUHS
Title: "The Sand Flies of Maryland"

Dr. David Florin earned a B.S. in Biology in 1982 from the State University of New York, Stony Brook; then an M.S. in Biology in 1993 from Adelphi Univ., Garden City, NJ. He earned his Ph.D. in Medical Entomology in 2006 from the USUHS. David's early years as a Biologist were focused on Herpetology, including biology of some pit-vipers of the Northeastern U.S., and he worked in Biological public outreach. He joined the Navy as a commissioned officer in the early 1990's, serving as an Environmental Health Officer from 1994-1999, then switched specialties and has served as an active duty Navy Medical Entomologist since January 2000. He has served in deployed assignments at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Suriname; and Iraq. His typical military responsibilities have included: vector-borne disease prevention and related functions, environmental health (like food and water potability surveys and support actions) and Preventive Medicine training and vector and pest management assistance to Navy, Marine Corps, and other uniformed services members wherever they may be in the world. He has conducted vector surveillance, identification, and control in domestic and deployed settings as needed. His research interests include vector biology, management, identification, and taxonomy to include molecular biology techniques. He was the Entomology Program Director for the Naval Medical Research Center in Lima Peru, where he worked at length with the bionomics and potential Leishmaniasis vector functions of the new world sand flies. David has published 20 scientifically peer reviewed articles, so far.

This evening, David will speak to us about the sand flies of Maryland.

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"
Bob Platt (Biol. Sci., UMBC x-2261) "platt@umbc.edu"
Frank Hanson (Biol. Sci., UMBC x-2265/-2228) "Hanson@umbc.edu"

Minutes of the November 2010 MES Meeting

The 271st general meeting of the Maryland Entomological Society was held on Friday, November 20, 2009 at UMBC and was begun at 8:26 p.m. with a welcome by Fred Paras and then immediately launched into the main program, which is summarized below. After a period of fine discussion and refreshments, the meeting reconvened with the business segment. The October 2009 meeting minutes were read and approved, and then the treasurer's report was delivered, citing an MES Funds total presently of \$2004.32. This represents an increase of over \$500. since October stemming from dues receipts and the sale of many copies of the recent society journal issue. Under new society business, Dick Smith opened discussion regarding potential MES endorsement of an easement for a natural butterfly preserve in Garrett County, MD, that is being promoted by Dick and members Pat Durkin and Jennifer Frye, invertebrate ecologist at the Maryland Natural Heritage Program, as well by the property owner. The property harbors at least five Heritage-listed butterfly species. The endorsement would be addressed to the Board of the Maryland Environmental Trust (MET), which is chartered to establish such easements and which strongly considers endorsements by natural history organizations in making its decisions. Although the MET Board actually voted in favor of the easement before the current MES meeting, an endorsement by the MES would establish the society's official position on the easement. A motion was made and seconded and the attending members at the MES meeting voted in favor of endorsing this easement. Later in December 2009, Secretary Dick Smith drafted and sent a letter, signed by Fred Paras and Dick, to the MET Board announcing this decision by the MES. Next, Ed Cohen asked a question as to the period of honorary society membership conferred upon MES meeting program speakers. Although not specifically stated in the bylaws, the consensus by the officers and members at the meeting was that it should apply to a normal (fall-spring) society year for Oct-Nov. speakers and to the current

spring and the fall of the following society year for Feb-May speakers. Next, Harold Harlan asked how we should serve the requests of non-MES members who only want copies of specific articles in a current society journal. To help support our publication costs and since a sufficient quantity of journal issues were still available, it was decided that we would ask such inquirers to buy the full journal issue, which is currently only \$9.00. Under announcements, Fred named some planned speakers for future meetings and also that one of the spring meetings would be held at the new Natural History Society of Maryland's headquarters in the Overlea suburb of Baltimore. Ed Cohen gave some memorial notes on two icons of lepidopterology, George Austin and William Howe, who had passed away in 2009. In concert with the main program, Phil Kean displayed a collection of his choice fly (Diptera) and fly-related species from Maryland and nearby states.

The main program, "Diptera of DelMarVa, A Re-focus on Our Local Biodiversity," was presented by Drs. Chris Thompson and Wayne Mathis of the Entomology Department, Smithsonian Institution National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC. Dr. Thompson is a world expert on flower (syrphid) flies, and Dr. Mathis is Curator of Diptera at the Smithsonian. The speakers have been engaged in an effort to catalog the biodiversity of Diptera abroad and within the U.S. for a number of years. This effort had its foundation during the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Convention on Biodiversity in which all attending countries resolved to initiate their respective inventories of total species biodiversity. Some of the early work in this effort was by Prof. Daniel Janzen of Univ. of PA, who spearheaded a bio-inventory in Costa Rica. In the U.S., the idea transferred to the National Park Service with their All-Taxa Biological Inventory (ATBI) conducted in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and started with a very successful kickoff bioblitz in 1998 (see: www.dlia.org). The ATBI has already identified 16,570 species within the boundaries of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, including 6,129 species new to the park, and 890 that are

new to science. Another recent effort is the Moorea Biocode Project, started in 2008, funded with a \$5.2M grant, and chartered to conduct a bio-inventory in French Polynesia. More locally, Drs. Thompson and Mathis contributed to an inventory effort in the Washington, DC area with the first so-called bioblitz in Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens, May 31-June 1, 1996. In 1997, Harvard biologist E.O. Wilson and Massachusetts wildlife expert Peter Alden developed a program to catalog the organisms around Walden Pond, MA, which led to a state-wide program known as Biodiversity Days, a similar concept to a bioblitz. A bioblitz has dual aims: to establish the degree of biodiversity in an area, and to educate the public about natural diversity. Bioblitzes have become a global activity. The on-line Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) accepts and organizes a broad range of biodiversity data. Nearly 2,000,000 records are contained in their Diptera database: <http://data.gbif.org/species/13141197>, worldwide. There are 8212 Diptera records from the MD area, and Drs. Thompson and Mathis have contributed most of them. One-fourth of all GBIF Diptera records are of syrphids. Worldwide Diptera diversity information is also available at the Discover Life – Diptera website at: <http://www.discoverlife.org/20/q?search=Diptera>. The Encyclopedia of Life website at: <http://www.eol.org/pages/421> provides additional worldwide Diptera information. Several other websites (e.g., U. of MI Animal Diversity Web, ZipcodeZoo) are now available. Drs. Thompson and Mathis have widened their study area for Diptera bio-inventory to include VA, WV, MD, and DE (these states comprise the colonial definition of “DelMarVa”). Historical data are available, mostly from the immediate vicinity of DC (e.g., from Plummerville Island in the Potomac River), from the early 20th century. A recent report on the Potomac Gorge 2006 Bioblitz appeared in *Banisteria*, No. 32 (2008). The Smithsonian collection houses 19,000 records of fly types. Of these, 2582 are syrphids representing 232 documented species. Using many of his local survey field records, Dr. Thompson is currently

working with others to publish a book: Field Guide to Flower Flies of Northeastern North America. To highlight the status of syrphid distribution information, Dr. Thompson discussed three syrphid species. *Merapioidus villosus* Bigot only flies in March, and there are 20 known specimens of it from the U.S. Ohio, GA, and DC each have only one record of it. Dr. Thompson now has 14 records of this species in VA. *Sericomyia carolinensis* Metcalf, a bee mimic, only has four known specimens – one from College Park, MD. *Euceratomyia pergandei* Williston also flies in March and only has early 20th century records from the DC area. Dr. Mathis spoke second and covered some of his survey work with Ephydriidae, the shore flies. There are 155 species in 51 genera of ephydriids documented for the DelMarVa, as defined above. He has recorded 29 species at Plummerville Island, & 75 species at Turkey Run & Great Falls Park, VA. He has done much of his collecting near his home in Lion’s Park and at Aquia Harbour, Stafford County, VA. He has recorded 81 species in 37 genera there, and 6 of those species (some in the genus *Hecamedoides*) were new to science. Many records represented major range extensions of the species. The ratio of genera to species there represents a so-called “harmonic” distribution (i.e., no missing groups). Drs. Thompson and Mathis encouraged MES members to include Diptera collecting and surveying in our field activities, since ID and distribution information (alpha-level info) on most species in the entire order is lacking in entomological databases. Even less data are available on species natural history, population dynamics, & DNA bar-coding. Fly collection is a diverse activity necessarily involving all the known entomological gathering techniques – bait traps, malaise traps, sweep & aerial netting, & simple container capture.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard H. Smith
MES Secretary

Announcements

1. I am sorry for the delay in sending out this issue of the *Phaëton*. Several significant and unexpected “challenges” arose during the past two weeks at both my work and home. If anyone else has an interest in compiling and distributing this newsletter, please let me and/ or any other MES officer know. I will gladly step aside and even help that person get started.
Harold Harlan

2. 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. 2009 through 30 Sep. 2010, are still only **\$10.00/year**. Please send dues & any address or other corrections to:

Edgar Cohen, Jr., MES Treasurer Phone" (410) 740-0481
5454 Marsh Hawk Way
Columbia, MD 21045 e-mail: edcohenfam@yahoo.com

3. Regular MES meetings are held the 3rd Friday of each of 6 months each year: Oct., Nov., Feb., Mar., Apr. & May (parallel to UMBC’s academic year). The remaining meetings for the 2010 “MES year” include:

<u>month</u>	<u>date</u>	<u>speaker</u> (if known)	<u>topic</u>
Feb.	‘10 19 th	David Florin	(See Front Page)
Mar.	‘10 19 th	TBA	TBA
Apr.	‘10 16 th	TBA	TBA
May	‘10 21 st	TBA	members’ “pot-pourri”

4. Charlie Staines has asked that we announce he has some used BioQuip™ collecting equipment for sale:

1 heavy duty D-shaped aquatic net (Catalog # 7412D; list: \$56.50), 12 yrs. old, good condition - **\$10**.

2 AC/DC blacklight (sets): (Catalog # 2804; list price \$94.55) with battery pack, carrying case, and charger; and (Catalog # 2861; list price \$137.50). Both are 5 yrs. old, in working condition - **\$100. per set**. Contact him at: 410-956-2174 or stainesc@si.edu .

5. The 2010 annual meeting of the Eastern Branch, ESA, will take place March 7-9, at the Sheraton Annapolis Hotel, Annapolis, MD. At least 3 MES members are scheduled to present talks or posters there. To see more details, and the program, go to: www.ebesa.ento.vt.edu/index.html .

6. The Jan., 2010 issue, *Agricultural Research* [Vol. 58 (1): 16-17] featured invertebrate collections of the

USDA/SI, NMNH, with some neat images of beetles intercepted in commerce. Go to: www.ars.usda.gov/ar .

7. Additional websites and Natural History or Biological information sources worth checking:

- the USDA website, <http://soils.usda.gov/education>
- the National Aquarium (in Balto.), “www.aqua.org”

- for details on Maryland DNR programs, licenses, training, news, volunteer opportunities, and parks & recreations resources, go to: www.dnr.state.md.us

- the National Zoo, 3001 Conn. Ave., NW, Washington, DC www.nationalzoo.si.edu or call: (202) 673-4717

- the National Aquarium (in Balto.), “www.aqua.org”

- the Maryland Science Center, “www.mdsci.org”

- The Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS) for details, or to register, call: (301) 652-9188, ext. 10, or go to their website at: “www.AudubonNaturalist.org”

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

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

8. For current details on a very wide range of topics for central Maryland & DC; like sports, restaurants, special events, & ads, check out the “**What’s Up? Annapolis**” magazine. They have a live “harbor cam”. For a free subscription mailed to your home (limited to Annapolis & nearby areas), or for further information, contact them at: What’s Up?, Inc., 929 West St., Suite 208A, Annapolis, MD 21401; by phone: (410) 267-9390; or via their website: www.whatsupmag.com .

9. Current (SocietyYear - 2010) MES Officers

President	Fred Paras
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