

# *Phaëton*

The Official Newsletter of the  
Maryland Entomological Society

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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

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The Maryland Entomological Society's 274<sup>th</sup> regular meeting will be held **Friday, April 16, 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.

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**Speaker: Dr. Mike Raupp, Professor, Dept. of Entomol., Univ. of Maryland College Park**

**Title: "Linking Diversity, Sustainability, and Ecosystem Services in Residential Landscapes"**

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Dr. Michael J. Raupp is a professor and extension specialist at the University of Maryland at College Park. He earned B.S. and M.S. degrees from Rutgers University in animal sciences and entomology, respectively and his Ph. D. in entomology at the University of Maryland. His research elucidates host and habitat mediated mechanisms by which plants escape attack from herbivorous insects. As an extension specialist, he develops and implements IPM programs for managed landscapes. The goal is to create sustainable landscape systems through the conservation and enhancement of biological diversity with special emphasis on natural enemy communities. His extension programs provide training on the theory and practice of IPM to growers, public and private sector landscape and park managers, master gardeners, and private citizens. Mike conducted several early demonstration and training programs in IPM for commercial arborists and landscapers, public and private park managers, and school systems. Mike's has taught larval taxonomy, advanced pest management, insect pests of ornamentals, general entomology, forensic entomology, extension education, and non-majors biology. He has more than 200 publications including refereed articles, books and book chapters, extension publications, and lay articles. He has made more than 800 professional and extension presentations here and abroad on the ecology and management of insect and mite pests in landscapes. He is a regular guest on Good Morning America and appeared on CNN, NPR, BBC, CBS, NBC, ABC, FOX, National Geographic, and Lehrer News Hour. His "Bug of the Week" website, [www.bugoftheweek.com](http://www.bugoftheweek.com), an information source on the natural history of insects, received more than 500,000 visits since its inception. Mike has received eight regional or national awards for excellence in extension programming and media communications including the Secretary of Agriculture's Award for Environmental Protection.

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

### Minutes of the March 2010 MES Meeting

The 271<sup>st</sup> general meeting of the Maryland Entomological Society was held Friday, March 19, 2010 at the Maryland Natural History Society's headquarters building in Overlea, MD. The meeting was begun at 8:18 p.m. with a welcome by Fred Paras to members, guests, and attending members from the Natural History Society and then immediately launched into the MES business meeting. The February 2010 meeting minutes were read and approved, and then the treasurer's report was delivered, citing an MES Funds total now of \$2111.53. Ed Cohen stated that the MES mailing list currently includes all members who have made one or more dues payments since 2007 (and those in arrears for any dues have already been notified). Fred said that the society field trip would be discussed at the April meeting, and members should offer their recommendations for the trip at this time. One idea from Fred was to visit Green Ridge State Forest in early to mid-May when the Appalachian Tiger Swallowtail (*Pterourus appalachiensis*), a relatively newly described swallowtail species, is expected to be flying there. Several notes and announcements were made at the meeting. Ed Cohen noted the observation of the colorful, orange-and-black-marked Picnic Beetle (*Glischrochilus fasciatus*), a Nitidulid or sap beetle, in Catonsville already in early March. Gene Scarpulla noted that Dr. Michael Raupp, who will speak at the MES meeting in April, was the keynote speaker at the March meeting of the ESA Eastern Branch. He talked on invasive species in the Annapolis, MD area. Gene was also recently in contact with Yong-Lak Park, who is on the faculty of WVU and is a representative for the West Virginia Entomological Society. Yong expressed an interest in arranging a joint meeting or field trip between his society and the MES. After the business meeting, Charlie Davis, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Natural History Society of Maryland (NHSM) spoke on several aspects of his society, and a summary is given below. After Charlie's talk, the meeting was adjourned, and we

all broke for refreshments and a tour and discussion of the NHSM's vast collection holdings throughout their giant two-story warehouse-like headquarters building. A final and monumental task actually completed by Fred Paras, Phil Kean, and Tim Foard toward the end of the evening was a curatorial re-arrangement, grouping as to insect order (often involving the movement of individual specimens and trays of specimens), and labeling of the tens of dozens of cabinet-held Cornell drawers, that comprise the NHSM's entire insect collection.

Charlie Davis, a recognized expert in field ecology and plant taxonomy and Board Chairman of the NHSM, spoke to us on some of highlights of the history of his society and on their current programs and goals. The society was founded in 1929, and from 1936 to the 1970's it maintained a museum at the Maryland House on the grounds of the Baltimore Zoo. From that time, its collections were moved to, and consolidated and exhibited at, its headquarters building, a large multi-story row house on Charles Street in Charles Village in Baltimore City. Beginning in the late-1990's, members became convinced that this facility was too small to house new collections and to conduct public display and educational activities. The society was finally able to purchase the 9000 sq. ft. facility in Overlea in 2007, which is sufficient to house current collections and act as an educational resource and meeting place for current programs. Valuable natural history collections from around the state now have a place to be stored, or at least carefully triaged, rather than dispersed to other states or sent to a landfill as has actually happened in recent decades. The total property consists of 0.8 acres, and there are future plans to extend the building into the west side of their parking lot. Charlie said that current educational programs will be mainly in the form of community outreach. Public environmental educational approaches have not been effective in general in recent years because not enough time is spent to teach intricate relationships among natural history topics. Rather than a one-day or weekend exposure to nature, the NHSM is sponsoring place-based programs. Projects and long-term

programs will be established at community centers around the city and suburbs. Small teams of experts will meet with students to explain selected natural phenomena (*e.g.*, migrational and nesting activity of a particular bird species). Teams of students will be assigned projects and directed to collect data which will be discussed at subsequent meetings. The Greater Baltimore Children and Nature Collaborative is one such effort in which the NHSM is involved. The NHSM is sponsoring a 4-year home study course to train mentors for this and related programs. The Maryland Herpetological Society is part of the NHSM and meets at their headquarters. As with the MES, Maryland fossil and mineral societies and the Baltimore Bird Club have had or plan to schedule selected meetings at the NHSM Overlea facility

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. 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](mailto:edcohenfam@yahoo.com)

2. Regular MES meetings are 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 remaining meetings for the 2008 "MES year" include:

<u>month</u>	<u>date</u>	<u>speaker</u> (if known)	<u>topic</u>
Apr. 10	16 <sup>th</sup>	Dr Raupp	( See Front Page )
May 10	21 <sup>st</sup>	TBA	members' "pot-pourri"

3. Dr. Matt Buffington, of the USNM recently sent the following self explanatory e-mail message about free availability of many specimens from eastern MD.

"Mike Gates, Robert Kula & Matt Buffington, have been running a series of Malaise Traps (MT's) around

American Chestnut Land Trust, Warrior's Rest and Jug Bay area MD for the last 3 years (2006-2009). Our sampling is now finished, & we have about 150 MT samples that have all the target Hymenoptera removed from them. We need more space for new projects, so we want to get rid of these samples ASAP.

These samples are rich & cover a broad diversity of habitats in one of the few intact watersheds into the Chesapeake. Traps were located on beach strand, in Spartina 'meadows', & hardwood deciduous forest.

All the samples are on a metal cart on the Hym Floor of the NMNH, in far corner near the freight elevator. Please take what you like, the only thing we want in back are the bottle, the lid & the gasket. We'd also like a count of what you took so we can tell the land managers the whereabouts of this biological material.

Please let me make clear: we are not going to go sort samples for you; you must come and grab them yourself (*i.e.* You must be present to win!).

**THIS OFFER ENDS 24 APR 2010. AFTER THIS DATE, THE SAMPLES WILL BE DUMPED.**

Cheers, Matt

4. Dr. Mike Merchant, President, Med. Urban & Vet. Entomol. Sec., ESA, recently forwarded a request from Dr. Patricia Hessab Alvarenga, currently at NIAID/NIH, for possible private donations of text books (the Biol. Of Disease Vectors – either 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) for possible use by students in a small university in Brazil where she has recently accepted a teaching position. That school, the Federal Rural Univ. of Rio de Janeiro State in Seropedica, Brazil, and its students have very limited funds. Dr. Alvarenga will still be in the Rockville area for the next few months and would ship or take any donated books with her. If you are interested, you can contact her at: [alvarengap@niaid.nih.gov](mailto:alvarengap@niaid.nih.gov).

5. The USDA's Northeast IPM Center, currently sited at Cornell Univ., NY, publishes a quarterly newsletter, "Integrated Pest Management Insights." They are considered a non-profit organization but offer a variety of specially focused books, training aids, & public info. outreach products. One such richly illustrated, 160 page current book is "Managing alternative pollinators: A handbook for beekeepers" by Eric Mader, Marla Spivak, & Elaine Evans for only \$23.50. For this book, go to: [www.nraes.org/nra\\_map.html](http://www.nraes.org/nra_map.html). For more details & links, go to: "[www.NortheastIPM.org](http://www.NortheastIPM.org)". This website has links and additional info. about grants and other programs available through the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

6. Most everyone who earned an entomology degree from any college or university before 1990 was certainly taught how basic it is to do a certain amount of classical “collecting” involving killing, mounting (usually including pinning), and displaying specimens. We also occasionally encountered “opposition” to such endeavors. Today that is a much more common event. This whole issue is discussed in an interesting 2-page article in the “terminal segment” entitled: “Pins, poisons, and psychology” [see Vol. 56(1): 64-63, in the Spring 2010 issue of the American Entomologist].

7. Since this is ‘Tax month,’ it may be appropriate to point out how legislators in some states find creative ways to spend the tax money their government has collected (or will collect). In New York, State Senate Bill # 7065 (nearly identical to Assembly Bill # 10081) will establish a tax credit of up to \$750.00 (or 15% of qualified claims, whichever is less) to replace personal property tenants discard due to “damage due to bed bug infestation” (might be “per year”/per individual).

8. The **National Zoological Park**, 3001 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, DC, currently displays more than 4,000 species of animals we can view for free. Main attractions include: The new twin cubs of the Indian Sun Bears, the new giant octopus (potentially soon to be named “Octavius”), exotic birds, big cats, & more. Many species can be viewed on “live” web cameras. Their web site also includes many very informative articles from current & recent research, w/ related images & lots of “links” to other resources. Interesting sub-pages include: “Invertebrates” and “Wildlife Gardening”. You may want to join Friends of the National Zoo (FONZ). For more, go to: [www.nationalzoo.si.edu](http://www.nationalzoo.si.edu) or call: (202) 673-4717.

9. If you think common “filth flies,” especially some common species of blow flies, are not a problem, a recent report (<1 week ago), from a reliable source within the CDC, but NOT for publication, and with all names omitted, pointed out that those may be a health risk in certain circumstances. Specifically, the case of an infant <6 mo. old, in Haiti, suffered an infestation in its head by Calliphorid flies, and died. The cause of death was listed as “brain injury.” NOT stated, but clearly implicated by the message chain, was a very large infestation (myiasis) of fly maggots in the child’s nose, sinuses and very likely some central nerve tissue. Based on a tentative ID, the infesting flies may have been the secondary screwworm, *Cochliomyia*

*macellaria* (Fab.), but no reliable definitive ID was possible due to no adequate sample being available. Nonetheless, that species occurs throughout most of the continental U.S. and could cause myiasis opportunistically anywhere in its range.

10. The Entomological Society of America (ESA) offers youth education and special events (like their former “Bug Fests”) scheduled throughout the year. To access their resources, go to: [www.entsoc.org](http://www.entsoc.org). It has concise & detailed info. about Entomology, job opportunities news, & resources for students & educators, with facts, text, images & points of contact.

11. Additional websites worth checking include:

- the USDA website, <http://soils.usda.gov/education>
- the Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources (MDNR) information & programs are at: [www.dnr.state.md.us](http://www.dnr.state.md.us)
- the Audubon Naturalist Society can be reached via their website: “[www.AudubonNaturalist.org](http://www.AudubonNaturalist.org)”.
- 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) at: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) (then search by topic)
- The Jug Bay Nature Center, at Jug Bay, Lothian, MD is at: [www.jugbay.org](http://www.jugbay.org), or call (410) 741-9930.

12. 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 & surrounding areas), or for specific info., 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](http://www.whatsupmag.com).

### 13. Current (SocietyYear 2010) MES Officers

President	Fred Paras
Vice-President	Phil Kean
Secretary	Dick Smith
Treasurer	Ed Cohen
Historian	Bob Bryant
Faculty Sponsor	Bob Platt
Newsletter Editor (‘09)	Harold Harlan

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