



# *Phaëton*

The Official Newsletter of the  
Maryland Entomological Society

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EDITOR: **Eugene J. Scarpulla**  
FACULTY SPONSORS: **Frank E. Hanson** and **Austin P. (Bob) Platt**  
Department of Biological Sciences  
University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC)  
1000 Hilltop Circle  
Baltimore, MD 21250

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## Meeting Announcement

The Maryland Entomological Society's 279<sup>th</sup> regular meeting will be held **Friday, March 18, 2011**, beginning at **8:00 p.m.**, in **Room 004** (one floor below the street level), **Biological Sciences Building**, University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC). Bring a friend and specimens/observations to share. Refreshments will be provided. Presentations are scheduled to begin at 8:15 p.m.

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**Speaker:** **Warren E. Steiner, Jr. – Research Collaborator**  
**Department of Entomology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution**

**Title:** **"New Light on Darkling Beetles: Some Studies North and South"**

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**Warren Steiner** will illustrate the diversity of the Tenebrionidae, the fifth largest family of beetles, from the back yard to the Bahamas and beyond. He will review several studies of new discoveries in the field and in museum collections, with discussions on systematics, life histories, island biogeography, faunistics, spread of non-native species, and sub-fossil pest beetles from an ancient Egyptian cave.

Warren is a Research Collaborator at the National Museum of Natural History at the Smithsonian Institution since his retirement in 2010 after 30 years as Museum Specialist with the museum's Department of Entomology. His interests and research involve the biosystematics of Coleoptera, especially Tenebrionidae (darkling beetles), Phalacridae (shining flower beetles, shining mold beetles), and the various families of aquatic beetles. Moreover, his work includes zoogeography, dispersal and the spread of adventive species and plant-insect interactions. Warren participates frequently in biodiversity surveys and often lectures to various scientific societies on his research findings and travels to more than 20 foreign countries and remote islands. He serves as instructor for the short course "Introduction to the Natural History of Beetles" offered by the Audubon Naturalist Society. Warren has published approximately 70 scientific papers and is a member of many scientific societies.

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## Meet for Dinner before the Lecture

If you are interested in meeting for dinner before the lecture, you are invited to join the guest speaker and your fellow MES members at **Kibby's Restaurant and Lounge**, "Home of Baltimore's Best Shrimp Salad Sandwich." Kibby's is located inside the Baltimore Beltway at 3450 Wilkins Avenue, just 15 minutes from UMBC. Coupon specials can be printed online at <http://kibbysrestaurant.net>. We meet at the restaurant at 6:00 p.m.

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For more information concerning this meeting, please contact one of the following people:

Annapolis Area:	<b>Harold Harlan</b>	(410) 923-0173 (Home)	<a href="mailto:haroldharlan@comcast.net">haroldharlan@comcast.net</a>
Baltimore Area:	<b>Fred Paras</b>	(410) 374-0425 (Home)	<a href="mailto:bugandrockman@msn.com">bugandrockman@msn.com</a>
	<b>Phil Kean</b>	(410) 944-4630 (Home)	
	<b>Frank Hanson</b>	(410) 455-2265 (Biological Sciences, UMBC)	<a href="mailto:hanson@umbc.edu">hanson@umbc.edu</a>
Southern MD:	<b>Bob Platt</b>	(410) 586-8750 (Home)	<a href="mailto:platt@umbc.edu">platt@umbc.edu</a>

**18 FEBRUARY 2011 MES MEETING MINUTES**

The 278th general meeting of the Maryland Entomological Society was held on Friday, 18 February 2011 at UMBC and began at 8:26 p.m. with a welcome by **Fred Paras**. We launched immediately into the speaker's presentation, which is summarized below. After this program and a period of refreshments and conversation, a short business meeting was held. The November MES minutes were read and approved and the treasurer's report was given, showing a combined funds total of \$2253.74, which represents an increase of over \$300 since November 2010. Fred announced that the spring slate of speakers was full, and he read a letter from member **Harry Pavulaan** in which Harry volunteered to lead a Society field trip to Spruce Knob, WV, a unique, high elevation central Appalachian habitat, this June. **Mike Turell** offered his attractive "bug" T-shirts with a catalog from [www.wildcotton.com](http://www.wildcotton.com) again at a reduced price through his Frederick, MD 4-H Club. **Ed Cohen** mentioned that Dr. **William E. Bickley**, whose specialty was mosquitoes, who was a member of the Chesapeake Area Professional Entomologists (CAPE), and who served as head of the Department of Entomology at the University of Maryland College Park from 1957 to 1972, had passed away last year. **Bob Platt** mentioned that Society Historian **Bob Bryant** had undergone heart bypass surgery last summer and was presently back at his home in Ten Hills. We wish Bob well.

Respectfully submitted, **Richard H. Smith**, MES Secretary

**18 FEBRUARY 2011 MES LECTURE**

**"The Exotic Pests Knocking on Maryland's Door" – Speaker: James D. Young, Ph.D. – Entomologist Identifier – United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), Baltimore, MD**

Dr. **James D. Young** began his talk explaining the current process of identification of foreign species. His office makes their own determination when possible, but many specimens are delivered to the USDA Systematic Entomology Laboratory. Over the entire U.S., interceptions of exotic species at airports and seaports have increased dramatically, as one would expect, from increased trade. Approximately 75,000 interceptions were recorded in 2005, and in 2010 the number increased to over 203,000. In Maryland ports alone, and mainly at the Port of Baltimore, recent interceptions have totaled nearly 1300. Exotic pest species of interest consist mainly of insects, but many other invertebrate animal groups, such as mites, mollusks, and nematodes as well as certain plant groups are included under PPQ inspection procedures. Almost 200 countries conduct direct shipments to Maryland ports, so the expected and actual pest diversity is immense. Dulles International Airport has recorded an even greater diversity of pest species. Pest escapes into the local area around ports are

monitored using several-foot-long, hanging Lindgren funnel traps, which are especially good at attracting beetles. Whenever insect larvae of any type are discovered, identification, usually only to family or genus, must be determined immediately from the intercepted specimen. The threat of escape precludes any rearing to adult. Dr. Young went on to describe with numerous colorful slides the many pest species that his organization has intercepted in recent years at the Port of Baltimore. The following is a sampling of the species discussed (except where mentioned more specifically, these species are native to the Palearctic region):

**Orthoptera**

- *Sphenarium purpurascens* (Pyrgomorphidae) – a wingless grasshopper species from Latin America and a pest of corn, sorghum, and alfalfa.

**Hemiptera**

- *Nysius thymi* (Lygaeidae) – a pest of thyme.
- *Lygus rugulipennis* (Miridae) – European Tarnished Plant Bug; a pest of fruit trees, wheat, and lettuce.
- *Rhaphigaster nebulosa* (Pentatomidae) – a European stink bug; a pest on broad-leaved trees and a pest to hazelnut. Looks much like the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, *Halyomorpha halys* (Pentatomidae), but it originates from Europe rather than Asia, and thus is more adapted to our temperate climate.
- *Palomena prasina* (Pentatomidae) – Green Shield Bug; a pest of fruit trees and hazelnut in Europe.
- *Rhyparochromus vulgaris* (Rhyparochromidae) – a seed bug; pest of seeds and grasses.
- *Pyrrhocoris apterus* (Pyrrhocoridae) – Fire Bug; bright red; pest on lime.
- *Rhopalus parumpunctatus* (Rhopalidae) – a scentless plant bug; a pest on geraniums.
- *Arocatus melanocephalus* (Lygaeidae) – Elm Bug; a pest on elm and invades dwellings although not harmful to people.
- *Lygaeosoma sardeum* (Lygaeidae) – a pest of sorghum.
- *Cuillana verticalis* (Cicadellidae) – a sharpshooter leafhopper; from Mexico; a pest on grasses.
- *Insignorthezia insignis* (Ortheziidae) – Croton Bug or Greenhouse Orthezia; a very small (length 1 mm) white-fringed scale insect; a pest on croton and coleus.
- *Vryburgia amaryllidis* (Pseudococcidae) – Lily Bulb Mealybug or Succulent Mealybug; a pest on amaryllis.

**Thysanoptera**

- *Thrips palmi* (Thripidae) – Melon Thrips; pest on melon and tomato and spreads plant viruses.
- *Thrips fuscipennis* (Thripidae) – Rose Thrips; native of Europe; attacks rose and shrub flowers.
- *Chirothrips manicatus* (Thripidae) – Cocksfoot Thrips; grass seed pest.

**Coleoptera**

- *Gonocephalum* sp. (Tenebrionidae) – a darkling beetle; a pest on general crop emerging seedlings.
- *Agilus* sp. (Buprestidae) – a metallic wood-boring beetle; blue dorsum. This interception was eventually determined

to be a new species to science!

- *Trichoferus campestris* (Cerambycidae) – Chinese Longhorned Beetle; pest of alfalfa, clover, and vegetables; destroys flowers and therefore a threat to beneficial bees.
- *Stenopteropion tenue* (Brentidae) – a straight-snouted weevil; attacks general crops; found as a hitchhiker on Italian ceramic tile.
- *Dorytomus mucidus* (Curculionidae) – a true weevil; discovered as a hitchhiker on Italian ceramic tile; pest to willows.
- *Anthonomus* sp. (Curculionidae) – a true weevil; genus includes major agricultural pests such as the Boll Weevil (*A. grandis*), Strawberry Blossom Weevil (*A. rubi*), and Pepper Weevil (*A. eugenii*).
- *Chelotonyx* sp. (Curculionidae) – a true weevil; genus includes general crop pests from Mexico and South America.
- *Trogoderma granarium* (Dermestidae) – Khapra Beetle; from South Asia; one of the world's most destructive pests of grain products and seeds.

#### Hymenoptera

- *Apis cerana* (Apidae) – Asiatic Honey Bee; carrier of bee viruses and the natural host for the Varroa Mite (*Varroa destructor* (Arachnida: Acari: Varroidae); readily nests on ships and cargo such as containers and pipes.

#### Lepidoptera

- *Caloptilia azaleella* (Gracillariidae) – Azalea Leafminer; a destructive pest of azaleas.
- *Spodoptera latifascia* (Noctuidae) – Garden Armyworm or Lateral Lined Armyworm; found from Central America and the Antilles into southern North America; pest of ornamental plants.
- *Helicoverpa armigera* (Noctuidae) – Old World Bollworm; pest of African marigold, alfalfa, apple and many others; native of Africa, Asia, and Australia.
- *Autographa gamma* (Noctuidae) – Silver Y; pest moth of a wide range of hosts.
- *Duponchelia fovealis* (Crambidae) – European Pepper Moth; Mediterranean; pest of peppers, begonias and other ornamentals.

#### Mollusca

- *Eobania vermiculata* (Gastropoda: Helicidae) – Chocolate-band Snail; pest to general foliage and fruit.

Many of these species, mounted in collection drawers, were brought to the meeting by the speaker.

Respectfully submitted, **Richard H. Smith**, MES Secretary

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#### MEMBER NEWS

**Nathan Erwin**, former MES President (1989-1990), was featured in an article in the *University of Delaware Messenger*. The article highlights his work as Manager of the O. Orkin Insect Zoo and the Butterfly Pavilion at the Smithsonian Institution's Natural Museum of Natural History. The article citation is Hernandez, C. 2010. It's a

bug's life for museum manager. *University of Delaware Messenger* 18(3): 44-45.

**Harold J. Harlan** presented a talk on "Educating to Reduce Failures in Bed Bug Control" at the Second Annual National Bed Bug Summit: Advancing towards Solutions to the Bed Bug Problem." The Summit was sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, DC on 2 February 2011.

**Eugene J. Scarpulla** has retired after 30 years of service with the City of Baltimore's Reservoir Natural Resources Section. For the past 8 years, he has headed the Section as the City's Watershed Manager in charge of Liberty, Loch Raven and Prettyboy Watersheds.

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#### HONORING MEMBER DONORS

MES wishes to honor these members who made charitable donations along with their recent membership renewals.

**Sue A. Ricciardi**  
**Robin G. Todd**

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#### IN MEMORIAM: WILLIAM E. BICKLEY

**William E. Bickley**, renowned culicidologist, of Silver Spring, MD passed away at age 96 on 2 August 2010. Dr. Bickley was a professor in the Entomology Department at the University of Maryland College Park for 30 years and served as department chair for 16 years. He also served as President of the American Mosquito Control Association and President of the Entomological Society of Washington. Dr. Bickley was a very active supporter of a certification system for professional entomologists, and a regular attendee of meetings and events sponsored by the Chesapeake Association of Professional Entomologists (CAPE) and the Entomological Society of America's American Registry of Professional Entomologists (ARPE), which later became the current Board Certified Entomologist (BCE) program. His obituary can be found at [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/10/AR2010081005461\\_2.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/08/10/AR2010081005461_2.html).

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#### IN MEMORIAM: THOMAS E. WALLENMAIER

**Thomas E. Wallenmaier**, avid microlepidopterist and former MES President (1985-1986, 1991-1992), of Royal Oak, MI passed away at age 69 on 2 March 2011. Dr. Wallenmaier began work at USDA in New York, NY as an agricultural inspector; was promoted to USDA headquarters in the D.C. area; and later moved to Detroit Metro Airport as a USDA supervisor. Besides MES, Dr. Wallenmaier was a member of the Entomological Society of Washington and the Michigan Entomological Society, serving in various leadership roles in the societies. His obituary is found at [http://www.lynychfuneraldirectors.com/death\\_notice.aspx?Operation=preview&noticeid=2112](http://www.lynychfuneraldirectors.com/death_notice.aspx?Operation=preview&noticeid=2112).

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**ODONATA OF MARYLAND & DC  
2010 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Richard L. Orr**'s annual report summarizes the status of the distribution of the known Maryland/DC odonates at the close of the 2010 field season. Thirty-three (33) new Maryland county records were added. Best finds for this year? *Somatochlora georgiana* was found in three counties on the Eastern Shore. These were the first records of this species for Maryland. A number of dedicated individuals helped hunt down this species and/or helped in verifying other's finds. **Harold (Hal) B. White**'s cadre of Eastern Shore dragonhunters along with Rick Cheicante from Harford County added a wealth of information on this species for the Maryland record books – a great team effort. The other significant find was two cast skins of the yet-to-be described Chesapeake Snaketail (*Ophiogomphus* sp.) along the Potomac River. This species was previously known in Maryland only from a single male collected back in 2002. Steve Roble's keen eye for cast skins made this happen. Richard Orr's updated MD/DC odonate list can be found at <http://www.marylandinsects.com/MDDCOdonateRecords.html>.

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***NATURAL HISTORY OF DELMARVA DRAGONFLIES  
AND DAMSELFLIES***

The new book *Natural History of Delmarva Dragonflies and Damselflies* will be published in late April 2011. This book written by MES member **Harold B. White** provides the first comprehensive coverage of the dragonflies and damselflies of the Delmarva Peninsula. It includes photographs of all 129 species known to occur in the region. However, it is more than a field guide for these beautiful insects. Each species serves as a prompt for a short essay. Taken together, the collection offers an eclectic introduction to the world of dragonflies and the people who study them. The author draws on over fifty years of experience in his wide-ranging reflections on a spectrum of topics including the sociology of science, biographical and historical snapshots, biology education, climate change, ethics of collecting, suggestions for science projects, behavior, physiology, anatomy, paleontology, evolution, and much more, but with a persistent theme of habitat conservation. The stories are memorable and the explanations clear. There is something here for everyone from the casual reader to the expert.

The book is being published by the University of Delaware Press in collaboration with the Delaware Nature Society. It will appear in late April. Sales will be handled by Rowman & Littlefield: toll free (800) 462-6420; local (717) 794-3800; e-mail: [orders@rowman.com](mailto:orders@rowman.com).

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**BORNEO EXPEDITION**

**Peter R. Houlihan**, Behavioral Biology undergraduate at The Johns Hopkins University, will be returning to Borneo

this summer as a member of the Borneo River Initiative for Nature Conservation and Communities (BRINCC) Expedition. The BRINCC expedition will take place over four months starting in June 2011 and will conduct biodiversity surveys and work with local communities in the Murung River region of Central Kalimantan in Borneo. The aims of the biodiversity section of the expedition is to document the species present, understand the interactions of these species with the environment, and evaluate the level of human disturbance, as well as other threats, to the rainforest. The community component will look at water pollution levels, forest resource use, and evaluate local livelihood and health needs. BRINCC's entomological studies will provide greater insight into the abundance and distribution of insects on Borneo, most notably focusing on the use of Lepidoptera as indicators of ecosystem health, analyzing the biogeography of insects along an elevation gradient with the use of DNA barcoding, and in general, documenting the species (including potentially new species) present in this diverse and unknown rainforest environment. In the past year, BRINCC has gained worldwide support and they are excited to announce that BioQuip Products has recently agreed to sponsor all of the equipment for the expedition's entomological studies. In order to make their conservation efforts as successful as possible, BRINCC needs your support, too. Peter encourages you to visit their website at [www.brinccexpedition.org](http://www.brinccexpedition.org) for more information. If you have any questions or if you would like to know how you could help to support their research, please contact Peter at [phoulih2@jhu.edu](mailto:phoulih2@jhu.edu).

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**MEMBER CLASSIFIEDS**

**WANTED: Used Stereoscope and Used Microscope**  
Reasonably good quality scopes are being sought for insect taxonomy. Please call or email details and prices to: (410) 429-6035 or [harmangeorge@hotmail.com](mailto:harmangeorge@hotmail.com).

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**MEMBERS' "POTPOURRI" PRESENTATIONS  
NIGHT**

Friday, 21 May 2011 will be our annual Member's "Potpourri" Presentations night. The night is generally a grouping of presentations shorter than those given on regular lecture nights. If you would be interested in giving a short presentation (~20 minutes), please contact **Fred Paras** at [bugandrockman@msn.com](mailto:bugandrockman@msn.com).

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**SUBMITTAL DEADLINES**

APR 2011 issue of *Phaëton*:

Please send member news items by 1 April 2011.

SEP 2011 issue of *The Maryland Entomologist*:

Please send first drafts of articles and notes by 1 April 2011.

Send drafts for both publications to [ejscarp@comcast.net](mailto:ejscarp@comcast.net).

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