



Phaëton

The Official Newsletter of the
Maryland Entomological Society

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EDITOR: **Eugene J. Scarpulla** – ejscarp@comcast.net
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
WEBSITE: <http://www.mdentsoc.org/>

February Meeting Pre-Announcement

The Maryland Entomological Society's 296th regular meeting will be held **Friday, 21 February 2014**, 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, and books to share. Refreshments will be provided. Presentations are scheduled to begin at 8:15 p.m.

Speaker: **Andrew W. Ulsamer** – Biological Science Lab Technician, Bee Research Laboratory, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Agricultural Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Maryland
Title: “Colony Collapse Disorder and Pollinator Decline” (The full topic description will appear in the February *Phaëton*.)

March Meeting Pre-Announcement

The Maryland Entomological Society's 297th regular meeting will be held **Friday, 21 March 2014**, 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, and books to share. Refreshments will be provided. Presentations are scheduled to begin at 8:15 p.m.

Speaker: **TBA**
Topic: **TBA** (The title and full topic description will appear in the March *Phaëton*.)

April Meeting Pre-Announcement

The Maryland Entomological Society's 298th regular meeting will be held **Friday, 18 April 2014**, 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, and books to share. Refreshments will be provided. Presentations are scheduled to begin at 8:15 p.m.

Speaker: **TBA**
Topic: **TBA** (The title and full topic description will appear in the April *Phaëton*.)

Meet for Dinner before the Lectures

If you are interested in meeting for dinner before the lectures, 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, Baltimore, MD 21229, just 15 minutes from UMBC. Meet at the restaurant **promptly at 6:00 p.m.**

For more information concerning upcoming lecture/meetings, please contact one of the following people:

Annapolis Area:	Harold Harlan	(410) 923-0173 (Home)	haroldharlan@comcast.net
Baltimore Area:	Fred Paras	(410) 374-0425 (Home)	bugandrockman@msn.com
	Phil Kean	(410) 944-4630 (Home)	— — —
	Frank Hanson	(410) 997-0890 (Home)	hanson@umbc.edu
Bowie Area:	Gene Scarpulla	(301) 464-3170 (Home)	ejscarp@comcast.net
Southern MD:	Bob Platt	(410) 586-8750 (Home)	platt@umbc.edu

*****DON'T FORGET TO RENEW***
IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME
OCT 2013 – SEP 2014 MEMBERSHIP YEAR**

Membership renewal forms were inserted in the front of the September 2013 issue of *The Maryland Entomologist* that was mailed out in September. If the date on your address label reads 2013, it is time for you to renew for the "October 2013 – September 2014" membership year. Please check that your contact information is correct and return the form along with your dues to: **Edgar A. Cohen, Jr.** (MES Treasurer), 5454 Marsh Hawk Way, Columbia, MD 21045.

**LOVE BUGS, OR JUST BUG GEEKS?
JOIN THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF
WASHINGTON**

We meet monthly in the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History (NMNH) and welcome anyone interested in entomology.

Benefits include:

- A chance to visit the NMNH after hours and meet local natural history buffs
- A quarterly [journal](#)
- Occasional family movie nights
- Field trips with our Young Entomologist's Group ([more info](#))
- Monthly e-mail newsletter with info on local natural history happenings
- Invitation to our annual banquet at the [Woodend Nature Sanctuary](#)
- Knowledge that your \$30 is supporting our new \$3000 annual student award

You get all this for the price of a dinner out in DC!

Visit the website at [this link](#) to renew and pay your dues online using PayPal.

Or to pay by check, please print the [membership application form](#) and send the completed form to:

Dr. Abigail Kula
Treasurer, ESW
8305 Mary Lee Lane
Laurel, MD 20723
(240) 425-2198

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Submitted by [Shelah Morita, PhD](#), Media and Communications Officer, Entomological Society of Washington

TWO NATIVE BEE IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS

We are pleased to announce two bee identifications workshops. Each will run for two days. Day 1 will be at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. Day 2 will be at the USGS's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (PWRC). Day 2 is optional and can either be a continuation of identification work or there will be discussions of specimen processing, photography, and monitoring. Dates are the

weekends of 25-26 January 2014 and 22-23 February 2014 and people from out of town are welcome to stay at my house, plenty of bed and floor space.

People running the workshop include Sean Brady (Smithsonian Institution), Nate Erwin (Smithsonian Institution), Deana Crumbling (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency), and myself (USGS-PWRC). Nate is the person to contact for attendance (erwinn@si.edu). First come, first served. As government servants we are happy to say that there are no fees associated with this class whatsoever. Details are in the attached announcement. Feel free to distribute.

*Submitted by MES member [Sam Droege](#), sdroege@usgs.gov
USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center*

CHRYSINA BEETLE INFORMATION REQUESTED

I am interested in photographing species of *Chrysina* Kirby (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae).

- Are there good places to observe these scarab beetles in our area?
 - I am also interested in purchasing specimens. Some of these are pricey and there are several vendors such as BioQuip Products and Insect-Sale, etc. I wanted to know if MES members prefer a particular vendor or not. I would hate to pay a certain amount and then get a beetle that wasn't up to par.
- My plan is to acquire 12 particular ones and photograph them. Once I have a photograph, I plan to do an art project.
- If MES members have photographed beetles up close, what digital camera have been used?
 - Can anyone offer advice on getting good photographs?

Thank you.

*Submitted by Sofia Montebianco, (301) 639-8015,
sofiamontebianco@gmail.com.*

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT THE
SMITHSONIAN INSECT ZOO AND BUTTERFLY
PAVILION**

The Smithsonian Institution's [O. Orkin Insect Zoo](#) and [Butterfly Pavilion](#) in the National Museum of Natural History are looking for volunteers. This is a great opportunity for entomologists as we have over fifty species of arthropods and hundreds of live tropical butterflies. Our volunteers work with the public to educate and excite them with live insect handling, interactive demonstrations, and conversations.

For additional information, please see the attached flyer.

Submitted by Jessica Grant, Volunteer Recruiter, Insect Zoo/Butterfly Pavilion, (202) 633-0147, GrantJI@si.edu.

**DIGITAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
INSECT POSTERS**

Alex Surciã from Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, has created impressive photographic posters of several insect orders. So far he has prepared posters for bees, wasps, flies, beetles, and true bugs and their allies, and is working on more. Each 24" x36"

poster showcases 30 species common to the Eastern United States. For each species, there are dorsal, lateral, and frontal photographs, as well as a United States range map. The posters would be excellent for anyone giving insect presentations. An example of Alex's beetle poster is shown below.



Ordering information can be found at: <http://www.dmnh.us/>. More of Alex's insect photography can be seen at: <https://www.facebook.com/Digital.Museum.of.Natural.History>.

[Editor's Note: I have purchased the bee, wasp, and fly (which includes bee and wasp mimics) posters for my native bee activities with the public. I plan to laminate the posters and use them for fieldtrips as well as for inside presentations.]

"PHILADELPHIA CBP INTERCEPTS FIRST IN NATION BEETLE"

A 26 December 2013 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) news release reports that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) - Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) identifier confirmed that CBP agriculture specialists at the Philadelphia Seaport discovered a first in nation beetle. The specialists intercepted a darkling beetle, *Parepitragus pulverulentus denticeps* Gebien H (Tenebrionidae), while inspecting a shipment of grapes from Peru on 14 December 2013.

The full news release can be accessed at: http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/newsroom/news_releases/local/12262013.xml.

LOCAL TRANSMISSION OF CHIKUNGUNYA VIRUS DOCUMENTED IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

On 13 December 2013, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a travelers' alert for the island of St. Martin in the Caribbean. This followed a 12 December news release from the World Health Organization (WHO) that reported 10 cases of chikungunya in residents of St. Martin. The viral disease is transmitted by *Aedes* mosquitoes. The CDC traveler's alert and additional information can be accessed at: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/watch/chikungunya-saint-martin>. An 18 December 2013 radio interview with Roger S.

Nasci, PhD, (Chief of the Arboviral Diseases Branch in the Division of Vector-Borne Diseases, CDC) discusses this recent development. The interview can be accessed at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=UpeOXSrGU4.

BEETLES REQUESTED FOR SEM WORK

To whom this may concern,

I am looking to source a collection of beetles, as shown in the image below, to carry out high-resolution montage imaging on a scanning electron microscope (SEM) (Hitachi S-4300). In return of a donation, I would be willing to share my images and I can also scan any features of interest you may wish to see at different magnifications.



I am based in Ireland and have access to a large range of microscopy techniques. I do scanning electron microscopy art as a hobby in my free time and you can view some of my images on my Flickr portfolio:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/38484518@N07/> and my Bēhance portfolio: <http://www.behance.net/karlgauff>.

I also would be willing to scan any other types of insects which retain their structure when dried out or fixed by means of glutaraldehyde. The subject would have to be smaller than 25 mm as this is the diameter of my stub (the stage holder).

Thank you and kind regards,

Karl Gaff

gaffkarl@gmail.com

Submitted by MES member **Sam Droege**

(To clarify a bit further, in addition to the size limit Karl is also interested in specimens that are both particularly beautiful in either form or coloration. He is willing to swap some technical photos if you can supply some particularly beautiful, clean, specimens.)

INTERSTATE PEST MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

Wed-Thu, 29-30 January 2014

The University of Maryland Department of Entomology and Maryland Extension Service present the 36th Annual Interstate Pest Management Conference. The Conference attracts hundreds of professionals in urban and structural pest management each year for comprehensive training by leading experts from industry, government and academia.

Maritime Institute of Technology - Training and Conference Center, 692 Maritime Boulevard, Linthicum, Maryland
<http://entomology.umd.edu/interstatepestmanagementconference>.

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY ENTOMOLOGY SEMINAR

Fri, 31 January 2014, 3:00 p.m.

“Honey Bee Host-microbe Interactions and Disease”

Seminar by Dr. Jay D. Evans (Research Entomologist, United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Bee Research Laboratory, Beltsville, Maryland)
The George Washington University, Corcoran Hall 106, 2023 G St. NW, Washington DC
<http://departments.columbian.gwu.edu/biology/about/seminars>.

ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON PUBLIC MEETING

Thu, 6 February 2014; 7:00 p.m.

Topic: TBA

Speaker: TBA

National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC
<http://entsocwash.org/>.

2013/2014 PROPOSED MES EVENT SCHEDULE

Regular MES lecture/meetings are held at UMBC on the 3rd Friday of each of the 6 months coinciding with UMBC's academic year. Proposed events for the upcoming MES membership year are:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Sep 8	Crab Feast/Meet-&-Greet at J. KING'S Restaurant	
Oct 18	Harold Harlan	New & Novel Mosquito Control Options
Nov 15	Sam Droege	High Resolution Insect Photography
Feb 21	Andrew Ulsamer	Colony Collapse Disorder
Mar 21	Lecture	TBA
Apr 18	Lecture	TBA
May 16	Members' Potpourri Presentations & Elections	
TBA	Survey/Field Trip	TBA

OCT 2013 – SEP 2014 SOCIETY YEAR OFFICERS

Co-Presidents	Timothy Foard & Frederick Paras
Vice President	Philip J. Kean
Secretary	Richard H. Smith
Treasurer	Edgar A. Cohen, Jr.
Historian	(vacant)
Faculty Sponsors	Frank E. Hanson & Austin P. Platt
Publications Editor	Eugene J. Scarpulla

SUBMITTAL DEADLINES

FEB 2014 issue of the *Phaëton*:

Please send member news items by 7 February 2014.

SEP 2014 issue of *The Maryland Entomologist*:

Please send first drafts of articles and notes by 1 April 2014.

Send drafts for both publications to ejscarp@comcast.net.

Be an Insect Ambassador; Volunteer With Us! Smithsonian's Insect Zoo & Butterfly Pavilion



Come join our team of Insect Ambassadors at the Smithsonian's Insect Zoo and Butterfly Pavilion in the National Museum of Natural History! Help the public better understand the natural world by participating in any combination of the following exciting opportunities:

- ☐ Working with live tropical butterflies from around the world
- ☐ Encouraging visitors to get a closer look with live insect handling
- ☐ Leading activities highlighting amazing butterfly adaptations
- ☐ Giving tarantula feeding demonstrations
- ☐ Sparking visitor curiosity through engaging interactions
- ☐ And so much more!

Requirements for Ambassadors:

- ☐ Volunteers must be at least 18 years old
- ☐ Able to work a minimum of two four-hour shifts a month
- ☐ Minimum of a one year commitment
- ☐ Must complete a one day orientation
- ☐ Must pass background investigation
- ☐ Able to actively engage visitors throughout the four hour shift, breaks available
- ☐ Able to tolerate moderate to high temperatures and humidity (Butterfly Pavilion)

How to Apply to become an Insect Ambassador:

For questions or an application email Jessica at insectzoo@si.edu

Native Bee Identification Workshop

January 25 and February 22, 2014*

National Museum of Natural History

Smithsonian Institution

Washington, DC



Ceratina smaragdula, male, Sam Droege photographer

Learn how to identify native bee species with bee specialists from the Smithsonian Institution, U.S. Geologic Survey and the U.S. EPA. Microscopes, online identification keys, and real specimens provided. This workshop is targeted to individuals who want to learn the basics of native bee identification and possibly participate in future citizen science projects. Participants need to be 16 years of age or older and plan to attend at least all day Saturday.

Location: National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Leaders: Sam Droege, U.S. Geologic Survey; Seán Brady, Smithsonian Institution; and Deana Crumbling, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Nate Erwin, entomologist.

Registration: Register for either 1/25 or 2/22. Only twenty four spaces are available for each date on a first come, first served basis. E-mail Nate Erwin erwinn@si.edu to register. If you are interested in participating on both dates, please indicate a first and second choice. If space allows, we'll take on those who want additional practice.

* **An optional Day 2** will take place on January 26 and on February 23 at the USGS's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Beltsville, MD where we will continue taxonomic work and review

washing, drying, processing, and databasing, of bee specimens captured in soapy water or glycol. Project work flow and macro-photographic techniques for bee projects will also be on the agenda. Approximately 10 microscopes will be available, but let us know if you can bring one and a light. Please indicate interest when registering for 1/25 or 2/22. If you are only interested in the day at USGS, please let us know.

Seán Brady grew up in southern California and received his Ph.D. in Population Biology at the University of California at Davis. He conducted postdoctoral work in the bee lab of Bryan Danforth before moving to the National Museum of Natural History. He now serves as Chair of the Department of Entomology as well as Curator of Hymenoptera (bees and stinging wasps). His research focuses on using comparative approaches to study the evolution of bees and other Hymenoptera. His current interests in bee evolution include the reconstruction of evolutionary relationships, historical biogeography, social evolution, investigating bee-pollination networks, integrating morphological and genetic approaches in species discovery and identification, and comparative genomics. Seán also enjoys driving around Caribbean locales with Sam, collecting bees.

Sam Droege grew up in Hyattsville, received an undergraduate degree at the University of Maryland and a Master's at the State University of New York – Syracuse. Most of his career has been spent at the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. He has coordinated the North American Breeding Bird Survey Program, developed the North American Amphibian Monitoring Program, the Bioblitz, Cricket Crawl, and FrogwatchUSA programs and worked on the design and evaluation of monitoring programs. Currently he is developing an inventory and monitoring program for native bees, online identification guides for North American bees at www.discoverlife.org, and with Jessica Zelt reviving the North American Bird Phenology Program.

Deana Crumbling has worked for EPA in Washington, DC, since 1997 in the Superfund (Site cleanup) program. She volunteered for 5 years with the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District biological and chemical stream monitoring program. In 2008, she heard about a native bee identification class offered by Sam Droege, attended, and has been doing volunteer bee identification under his supervision ever since--having lots of fun!

Nate Erwin has worked with insects, plants, and birds over the past 30 years. For over 20 of those years he curated the Smithsonian's Insect Zoo and continues to work on other natural history field and exhibition projects.