



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**
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1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, MD 21250

Meeting Announcement

The Maryland Entomological Society's 285th regular meeting will be held **Friday, 16 March 2012, at 8:00 p.m.** at the [United States Department of Agriculture \(USDA\) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service \(APHIS\) Plant Protection and Quarantine \(PPQ\) Professional Development Center \(PDC\)](#), 69 Thomas Johnson Drive, Suite #100, Frederick, MD 21702. See Page 5 for directions from the Baltimore and Washington areas. If you wish to meet at 6:45 p.m. and carpool from the I-70 Park-&-Ride inside the Baltimore Beltway, please contact Fred Paras at bugandrockman@msn.com or at (410) 374-0425 (home) or (410) 458-6682 (cell) or Phil Kean at (410) 944-4630 (home).

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This meeting is not being held at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC)

Speaker: **Daniel J. Otto** – Training Specialist, Professional Development Center
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine

Title: “Overview and Tour of the USDA-APHIS-PPQ Professional Development Center”

Daniel J. Otto will give a tour of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) Professional Development Center (PDC) training facility and demonstrate the technology and equipment used in the various laboratory courses. His PowerPoint presentation will cover such topics as the role of the PDC and how it fits into the mission of the USDA, the laboratory curricula taught at the PDC, and a few examples of some insect invasive species making the news. Microscopes, practice specimens, live specimens, examples of invasive species (insect and non-insect), and instructional material used in the laboratory courses will be on display for meeting participants.

Daniel Otto received his undergraduate degree from Illinois State University with a B.S. in Biology, specializing in entomology. His undergraduate research was on the reproductive cycle and biological control of the Eastern Lubber Grasshopper, *Romalea microptera* (Beauvois) (Orthoptera: Romaleidae). He then attended the University of Tennessee for a Masters in Entomology, specializing in biological control. His graduate research and thesis looked at the population dynamics of the Japanese Beetle, *Popillia japonica* Newman (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae), and the incidence of biological control agents in eastern Tennessee.

Daniel Otto was hired by the USDA in July 2000 as a PPQ Officer at Chicago O'Hare International Airport. He joined the PDC in August 2002 as a training specialist and continues to work there. He designs, develops, and delivers courses for Department of Homeland Security (DHS) agriculture employees and USDA employees. These courses teach students how to enforce agricultural laws and regulations and also how to identify agricultural plant pests. He teaches some regulatory (manuals) courses, but his focus is the laboratory. He teaches acarology, entomology (both general and order specific), malacology, and seed identification. In addition, he helps curate the various PDC insect collections and maintains the practice and test kits used for the laboratory courses.

For more information concerning this meeting, 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) 455-2265 (Biological Sciences, UMBC)	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

17 FEBRUARY 2012 MES MEETING MINUTES

The 284th general meeting of the Maryland Entomological Society was held on Friday, 17 February 2012 at UMBC and began at 8:32 p.m. with a welcome by President **Fred Paras** and then an introduction of the main speaker and program, which is summarized below. Refreshments and informal discussions were enjoyed by all after the main program, and this was followed by a business meeting. Business elements from the October and November 2011 meeting minutes were read and approved. Reports were then issued by MES Treasurer **Ed Cohen** and Journal Editor **Gene Scarpulla**. The MES funds total \$2491.15. Gene has a full slate of manuscripts scheduled for submittal by authors for the 2012 issue of *The Maryland Entomologist* (published annually now in September), and two manuscripts are already scheduled for the 2013 issue. There were no other MES business items, but there were several announcements.

The March MES meeting will be held at the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Training Center in Frederick, MD (detailed announcement and carpooling plans to be distributed to members by e-mail later). The April meeting program will be on the [Barito River Initiative for Nature Conservation and Communities](#) (BRINCC) expedition to central Borneo and delivered by MES member **Peter Houlihan**.

MES member **Robin Todd** announced that Dr. **Eugene J. Gerberg**, a founding member of the MES, had passed away on 19 December 2011, at age 92.

Ed Cohen announced that an article in the winter 2011 issue of *News of the Lepidopterists' Society* noted that specimens of the Pink-spot Sulphur, *Aphrissa neleis* (Boisduval) (Pieridae), a species never-before recorded in the U.S., had been found among Florida-collected sulphur specimens in the [McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity](#) collection at Gainesville, FL. It is now believed to have always been a U.S. resident species, but regularly confused with Statira Sulphur, *Aphrissa statira* (Cramer) (Pieridae) and Cloudless Sulphur, *Phoebis sennae* (Linnaeus) (Pieridae).

MES member **Gaye Williams** announced the publication of a delightful new book on tales of Smithsonian collection acquisitions, *Old Ways in the New World: A Mystery at the Smithsonian* by Richard Timothy Conroy. Gaye also had supplies of her popular "Brown Marmorated Stink Bug" T-shirts available for purchase.

MES Historian **Bob Bryant** brought in drawers of spectacular North and South American moth species for display. At the November meeting, Bob displayed the White Witch or Great Owlet Moth, *Thysania agrippina* (Cramer) (Noctuidae), which has a wingspan of up to 30.5 cm (12 in), the largest lepidopteran wingspan.

At the November meeting, and again at this meeting, **Sandy Barnett**, MES member and retired Research Associate at the [National Aquarium Baltimore](#), brought in entomological books from her collections for free distribution to MES members.

Ed Cohen displayed a collection of beetles, and **Dick Smith** displayed a collection of larger fritillary, *Speyeria* spp. (Nymphalidae), butterflies, showing the close resemblance to each other of the several fritillary species occurring in the national forests of western Wyoming. Lastly, MES member **Steve Lingafelter** displayed several of the beetle specimens he collected in Vietnam.

Respectfully submitted, Richard H. Smith, MES Secretary

17 February 2012 MES LECTURE

"Beetle Collecting in Vietnam" – Speaker: Steven W. Lingafelter, Ph.D. – Research Entomologist, United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Systematic Entomology Laboratory (USDA-ARS-SEL)

Dr. **Steven W. Lingafelter**, Research Entomologist at the USDA-ARS-SEL at the Smithsonian Institution since 1996, presented the main program. From 20 May to 30 June 2011, Dr. Lingafelter joined a major expedition to northern Vietnam. The expedition was funded through the joint USDA [Forest Service International Programs/Agriculture Research Service](#) Cooperative Agreement. The goals of this trip were to establish a longer cooperative relationship with the [Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology](#) (VAST) [Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources](#) (IEBR), collect specimens of woodboring beetles related to the Emerald Ash Borer, *Agrilus planipennis* Fairmaire (Buprestidae), synthesize data on the biology and distribution of Vietnamese woodboring beetles, and help to build reference collections for Vietnamese beetles in the United States and Vietnam.

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a resident of eastern China and Southeast Asia that was inadvertently introduced into North America several years ago and has become a national pest on all North American ash trees, *Fraxinus* spp. (Oleaceae). (Remarkably, Steven said the EAB does not decimate native Asian ash species.)

The trip was very successful in meeting the above goals, thanks to the hard work and dedication of Pham Hong Thai (IEBR) who organized the expedition and provided support. Six weeks of collecting yielded over 2000 specimens of woodboring beetles, including over 200 specimens in the genus *Agrilus*. All of these specimens are currently being identified and a full list of species will be provided once this time-consuming process is complete. Several species are believed to be new to science.

Steven's team in Vietnam consisted of Eduard Jendek, Eduard Vives, and Pham Hong Thai. Another team investigated areas throughout Yunnan Province in China.

Transportation was by a large van, and a large generator was purchased locally for blacklighting.

The first Vietnamese site visited (for about 2½ weeks) was the Phja Den area in the northernmost Cao Bang Province. Here, many Lucanidae (stag beetles) were found, as well as hand-sized Tipulidae (crane flies). Malaise traps were baited with a cerambycid pheromone, perfected by Larry Hanks (brother of

actor Tom Hanks!) and Jocelyn Millar (and sold through [BioQuip Products](#)), and hoisted into the canopy. Telescoping-handle tropical nets which extend to ~5.5 m (~18 feet) were used to reach beetles in treetop flower clusters.

The next 2½ weeks were spent in the hills areas of the Tam Dao National Park in Vinh Phu Province at elevations of 1500-1600 m (0.9-1.0 mi). Beetle collecting was conducted from clearings on the hill peaks, since most beetle species fly up to these sites to find mates. Illegal collectors were briefly encountered at one site. Official permits, only authorized for scientific studies such as Steven's, take about six months to be processed through all the necessary channels. One detriment of walking in heavily vegetated areas in Vietnam is terrestrial leeches, which perch and wait on vegetation and cause profuse bleeding during feeding.

Total species collected from various families, subfamilies, and tribes included the following:

Cerambycidae (longhorned woodboring beetles): > 370 species

- Prioninae (borers of rotting wood or roots): 10 species
- Lepturinae (flower longhorns): 36 species
- Disteniinae & Dorcasominae: 3 species
- Cerambycinae: 165 species
 - Callichromatini: 33 species
- Lamiinae (flat-faced longhorns): > 160 species

Buprestidae (metallic woodboring or jewel beetles)

- 109 species from 21 genera.

One of the collected cerambycids was *Necydalis araii* Niisato, a large wasp-mimic which is prized by collectors and sells for hundreds of dollars.

Eduard Jendek took many detailed and colorful beetle close-up shots, which Steven showed. Steven also presented some videos of collecting activities and large beetle behavior during his talk.

Respectfully submitted, Richard H. Smith, MES Secretary

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS OF MES

MES welcomes the following new members to the Society:

Sandra Barnett	Catonsville, MD
Chia-Hua Lue	Ellicott City, MD
Daniel J. Otto	Frederick, MD
Tracy A. Zarrillo	Hamden, CT

HONORING MEMBER DONORS

MES wishes to honor the following members who made charitable donations along with their recent membership renewals. These donations help with the printing and mailing of *The Maryland Entomologist*.

Stephen S. Israel

EUGENE J. GERBERG – IN MEMORIAM

Dr. **Eugene J. Gerberg**, founding member of the Maryland Entomological Society, passed away in Gainesville, Florida on

19 December 2011. Dr. Gerberg served as MES President during 1986 and 1987. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY and his Ph.D. at the University of Maryland, College Park, MD. Dr. Gerberg served as a Colonel in the [U.S. Army Medical Services Corps](#). In 1946, he co-founded [Insect Control & Research \(ICR\)](#) in Baltimore, MD and served as its President until 1990. Since 1972, Dr. Gerberg was a Research Associate for the [Florida Department of Agriculture](#) in Gainesville. He also served as Adjunct Professor with the [Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences](#) in Bethesda, MD from 1986-1991, and as Adjunct Professor of Entomology at the [University of Florida](#) in Gainesville from 1991 until his passing.

An obituary, written by U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Terry Carpenter and Dr. Graham B. White, can be viewed at: http://www.afpmb.org/sites/default/files/whatsnew/2011/Gerberg%20brief%20death%20note_2011-12-19.pdf

The obituary published in the Gainesville Sun can be viewed at: <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/gainesville/obituary.aspx?n=eugene-j-gerberg&pid=155162915>

Friends and colleagues of the late Dr. Gerberg are invited to join with his family for an informal celebration of his life. The commemoration will be held 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. on 31 March 2012 at the [BEST WESTERN PLUS Gateway Grand](#), 4200 NW 97th Boulevard, Gainesville, Florida 32606-3742, (352) 331-3336. For further information on arrangements, and to notify of your intention to attend, please contact Graham White at gbwhite@ufl.edu or (352) 328-9473.

NEW COUNTY BUTTERFLY RECORDS FOR MARYLAND AND DELEWARE

The following new county butterfly records for Maryland and Delaware have been recognized in 2011, based on the historical database maintained at the Butterflies and Moths of North America (BAMONA) website:

<http://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/>. The new sighting entries (and photograph[s], if they accompanied the record submission) may also be viewed at the BAMONA website. Additionally, county and state butterfly lists for Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia are annually updated and available for review at the Washington Area Butterfly Club website at <http://leplog.wordpress.com/washington-area-butterfly-club/local-and-regional-lists-and-info/butterfly-records-for-maryland-delaware-and-the-district-of-columbia/>. All new data contributors are to be congratulated and commended for their diligence in keeping a watchful eye while out in the field and for recording verification or establishing a careful identification for these new species not heretofore officially recorded in the listed jurisdictions.

Caroline County, MD

Southern Broken-Dash – *Wallengrenia otho* (J. E. Smith)

15 JUL 2011; [Idyllwild Wildlife Management Area](#)

MES member **Richard L. Orr**

Charles County, MD

Gulf Fritillary – *Agraulis vanillae* (Linnaeus)

11 SEP 2011; Morgantown

Jim Stasz

Dorchester County, MD

Eastern Pine Elfin – *Callophrys niphon* (Hübner)

6 APR 2006; off Jones Thicket Road west of Marshyhope Creek

MES member **Jennifer A. Frye**

Garrett County, MD

Northern Azure – *Celastrina lucia* (W. Kirby)

7 MAY 1988 (Harry's earliest collected specimen record; this new species has recently been described); Friendsville

MES member **Harry H. Pavulaan**

Harford County, MD

Southern Broken-Dash – *Wallengrenia otho* (J. E. Smith)

24 JUL 2011; [Anita C. Leight Estuary Center](#)

Rick Cheicante

Kent County, MD

Coral Hairstreak – *Satyrrium titus* (Fabricius)

10 JUN 2011; [Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge](#)

David Amadio

Kent County, MD

Northern Pearly-eye – *Lethe anthedon anthedon* (A. Clark)

5 AUG 2011; [Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge](#)

David Amadio

Queen Anne's County, MD

Southern Broken-Dash – *Wallengrenia otho* (J. E. Smith)

29 JUL 29 2011; [Chesapeake Bay Environmental Center](#)

Rick Borchelt

Somerset County, MD

Mourning Cloak – *Nymphalis antiopa* (Linnaeus)

10 APR 2011; Princess Anne

Lance Biechele

Kent County, DE

American Snout – *Libytheana carinenta* (Cramer)

13 AUG 2011; [Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge](#)

David Amadio

Kent County, DE

Wild Indigo Duskywing – *Erynnis baptisiae* (W. Forbes)

13 AUG 2011; [Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge](#)

David Amadio and Chris Herz

Submitted by MES member **Richard H. Smith**, MD, DE, and DC Butterfly Records Coordinator for BAMONA

ELECTION OF MES OFFICERS

The annual election of MES officers will be held at the 18 May 2012 meeting. Nominations for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer are currently being solicited. Nominations can be made by any paid member, but need to be received at or before the 20 April meeting. Officers serve for a one-year term (which is renewable). If nominees run unopposed, the election slate is voted on as whole. If there are two or more nominations for an office, that office will be voted

on individually by secret ballot. Please forward the names of nominees to the *Phaëton* Editor at ejscarp@comcast.net. Names will be published in the May issue, one week prior to the May meeting. Members must be present at the May meeting to vote.

ANNUAL MES FIELD TRIP

Please give some thought to where you might wish to go for this year's annual MES field trip. Please bring your suggestions to the March meeting or e-mail your suggestions to President Fred Paras at bugandrockman@msn.com.

FAIRFAX, VA MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

The Fairfax Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists has scheduled an upcoming training session and field trip and would very much appreciate the time and talents of an entomologist to teach an overview of entomology for the classroom session and to conduct an entomology-related field trip. The entomology class is scheduled for Thursday, 3 May 2012 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the [Huntley Meadows Park](#) visitor center. The field trip to [Mason Neck State Park](#) is set for Saturday, 12 May, where the program will be covering forest ecology/dendrology in the morning, and entomology and herpetology in the afternoon. To volunteer, or for further information, please contact Cheryl L. Rash Jones, the Chair of the Fairfax Master Naturalist Basic Training Committee, at RashJonesC@aol.com.

ALATE ANT EMERGENCE IN EDGEWATER, MD DOCUMENTED ON VIDEO

Tyler Bell from the [Smithsonian Environmental Research Center](#) (SERC), Edgewater, MD, posted the following note to [MDOsprey](#), the listserv for Maryland birders, on 31 May 2011.

“OK, they're not birds but they have wings. I was out doing streams today at SERC and noticed something odd about a standing dead stump. There was a swarm of insects above it. I grabbed the work camera and flipped it over to video. The camera is old so the quality isn't great, but it was really something! The ants were crawling up out of the dead stump and when they got to the top, they took off. Shortly after I stopped shooting, it tapered to almost no insects at all. Timing is everything!”

The video of this impressive event can be viewed at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/8671193@N08/5781654061/in/photostream/>

A close-up still photo can be viewed at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/8671193@N08/5782309040/in/photostream/>

SUBMITTAL DEADLINES

APR 2012 issue of the *Phaëton*: 6 April 2012.

SEP 2012 issue of *The Maryland Entomologist*: 1 April 2012.

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

**PLANT PROTECTION AND QUARANTINE
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER
69 Thomas Johnson Drive, Suite 100
Frederick, Maryland 21702**

**Directions to the Professional Development Center via I-270 North
(From Washington Area and Points South)**

1. Take I-270-North to Frederick. I-270 North turns into US-15 North. Take US-15 North towards GETTYSBURG.
2. Take US-15 North to Exit 16—MOTTER AVENUE/OPPOSUMTOWN PIKE.
3. Bear RIGHT at the end of the exit ramp onto OPPOSUMTOWN PIKE (toward Frederick Community College). You'll go back over Route 15.
4. Go approximately ½ mile on Opposumtown Pike to the third traffic light.
5. Turn RIGHT onto THOMAS JOHNSON DRIVE.
6. Go approximately 1¼ miles to the NORTH AMBER BUSINESS PARK on the **LEFT** side of the road (**NOT** the North Amber Business Park on the right).
7. Turn LEFT into NORTH AMBER BUSINESS PARK and go straight ahead to 69 THOMAS JOHNSON DRIVE, SUITE 100. The main entrance is located by the flag pole.

**Directions to the Professional Development Center via I-70 WEST
(From Baltimore Area and Points East)**

1. Take I-70 West to Exit 53B (US-15 North towards GETTYSBURG).
2. Take US-15 North to Exit 16—MOTTER AVENUE/OPPOSUMTOWN PIKE.
3. Bear RIGHT at the end of the exit ramp onto OPPOSUMTOWN PIKE (toward Frederick Community College). You'll go back over Route 15.
4. Go approximately ½ mile on Opposumtown Pike to the third traffic light.
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