



# Phaëton

The Official Newsletter of the  
Maryland Entomological Society

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## \*\*\*Save the Dates\*\*\*

**Friday–Sunday, 12–14 July 2019**  
**Maryland Entomological Society BugBlitz**

**The Maryland Entomological Society will hold a BugBlitz at the Maryland Ornithological Society's Carey Run Sanctuary in Garrett County**



The Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) is interested in developing faunal and floral lists for its ten Maryland Sanctuaries. To assist with this effort, the Maryland Entomological Society (MES) will conduct a BugBlitz at MOS's Carey Run Sanctuary (162 acres) in Garrett County over the weekend of Friday–Sunday, 12–14 July 2019. Additional information about the Carey Run Sanctuary can be found at: <https://mdbirds.org/conservation/refuges-sanctuaries/carey-run/>.

The BugBlitz will be coordinated by Gene Scarpulla ([ejscarp@comcast.net](mailto:ejscarp@comcast.net)) and Marcia Watson, both MOS and MES members. Dormitory-style sleeping accommodations in the old farmhouse can be arranged through Gene, as can camping on the surrounding grounds. Motels are also available in nearby Grantsville or Frostburg.

**(For more details, please see the announcement that was e-mailed separately.)**

### MINUTES OF THE 329<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE MARYLAND ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The 329th meeting of the Maryland Entomological Society commenced at 8:25 PM on Friday, May 17, 2019. In the absence of President Fred Paras, Vice-president Phil Kean conducted the meeting. Ten members and two guests were in attendance.

Treasurer Ed Cohen reported a balance of \$4,966.64 in the Society's account. Secretary Janet Lydon read the minutes of the April meeting. The current slate of officers was proposed for the coming year and re-elected.

Discussion then turned to the annual MES field trip. Members Gene Scarpulla and Marcia Watson suggested a 'bugblitz' at the Garrett County Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) sanctuaries, of which there are three. They briefly described the three. The Carey Run sanctuary is in the Savage River watershed, contains deciduous and pine forests, grassy fields, orchard and streams, and a house built in 1862. The Caroline Wilson sanctuary is 88 acres in area, wooded, and located in the Little Youghiogheny River watershed. The Chandler and Eleanor Robbins Sanctuary at Red Run is 45 acres of bogland and mixed forest. Gene Scarpulla will provide details regarding collecting. Marcia Watson stated that the MOS is interested in learning more about the populations present in these sanctuaries. Two-spotted skippers and Baltimore checkerspot have been observed there. The trip will take place the weekend of July 13-14, 2019. A variety of accommodations are available - camping, hotels, and sanctuary buildings. Contact information for trip participation purposes will be provided in a separate communication.

The Members' Potpourri presentations followed the business meeting. Notes about those presentations will appear in the next issue of the *Phaëton*.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Janet A. Lydon, MES Secretary.

Due to a transmission problem, the minutes of the April 2019 meeting did not appear in the May *Phaëton*. They appear below.

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### MINUTES OF THE 328<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE MARYLAND ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The meeting, re-scheduled from the third Friday time slot, commenced at 8:35 PM with a welcome by President Fred Paras. Seven members and nine guests attended. The lecture ended at 9:50 PM. An abstract of the lecture and the speaker biography appear in the April 2019 issue of the *Phaëton*. Socialization and a brief business meeting followed.

Treasurer's report: In the absence of treasurer Ed Cohen, Vice-president Phil Kean reported a balance of \$ 4,956.64 in

the Society's account.

Old business: There was none to discuss.

New business:

Officer elections will be held at the May meeting. The Society is soliciting nominees for any of the positions.

The annual field trip will be discussed at the May meeting, and members are invited to forward destination suggestions to President Paras and/or Vice-president Kean.

The topic for the May meeting will be the annual Member's Potpourri. Gene Scarpulla is planning a presentation on beeings. The Society is soliciting additional presentations.

Maryland Entomologist editor Gene Scarpulla has received three submittals for the next issue of the journal. He reported that this year's Maryland Biodiversity Project BioBlitz has been cancelled. He also reported that EBSCO has contacted him regarding the placement of the Society's publications on their database. The MES members in attendance were not in favor of this move.

A column authored by member Robin Todd entitled 'Insect Declines Worldwide' appears in the May/June 2019 issue of *The Maryland Yellowthroat*, the newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS). Mr. Todd is the current president of MOS.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 PM.

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### 26 APRIL 2019 MES LECTURE

**Speaker: Roseanne Radavich, MS, BCE - Army Public Health Center**

**Title: "Entomology Education for Visually Impaired Students"**

Ms. Radavich began her talk with a description of visual impairment (VI). Normal visual acuity is 20/20; a person is considered legally blind at a visual acuity level of 20/200. As examples of legal blindness, some individuals can see objects close up, some have gaps in the field of vision, some can navigate but not recognize faces.

In 1998, there were 93,600 visually impaired students in U.S. special education systems. In preparation for her Master's degree work, she conducted a literature search on science education for VI students, and found no papers on teaching science to such students. She did locate science education materials published in the 1980's that ended at the 6th grade level. Ms. Radavich then developed lessons for teaching entomology to the visually impaired, and worked with a cooperating teacher at the Indiana School for the Blind, commencing in 2004.

The speaker described the methods and techniques she used to teach the students, the challenges she faced, and the lessons she learned. To start, she had the students create models of how they thought insects were structured using craft items such as styrofoam pieces and pipe cleaners. She showed slides of some of their creations. She then used everyday items to teach the anatomical parts. For the mouth, she used items such as pliers to demonstrate chewing functions, a juice box and straw to illustrate suction, and a noisemaker party blower for siphoning; for the legs, a flipper (swimming locomotion), a spoon to illustrate digging; for the wings items such as sequined fabric (scales) and overhead transparencies (membranous).

The instructional challenges the speaker faced were that she had no prior experience teaching at the K-12 level, had never worked with VI students, and faced the conflicts between the activities of teaching, conducting research associated with the teaching project, recording information, and transmitting information in Braille. She also noted, and worked with, the learning differences between blind students and those with visual impairments.

The lessons learned were that the blind need more time to handle specimens - for the blind touching isn't finding; and to use whole organisms rather than pieces. Orienting terms are different for the blind. Incidents which illustrated some challenges and lessons learned were:

- Some of the everyday items used in modeling insect anatomy easily fell on the floor (the use of cafeteria trays overcame that problem).
- The use of whole organisms rather than pieces more readily conveyed the appearance of the insect under study to the VI students.
- As an example of a difference in orienting terms, the speaker noted that a sighted person instructed to 'write your name at the top of the paper' will write across the upper margin. A blind person interprets the 'top of the paper/bottom of the paper' as what a sighted person considers the 'obverse/reverse' sides of the paper.

Another issue she faced was dealing with fear; some individuals, both VI and sighted, have a fear of insects. Additionally, for the VI, unpleasant smells and textures are more distracting and reduce interactions with the items. To illustrate this, two volunteers with closed eyes, touched a bag of dry elbow pasta and a shelled, hard-boiled egg. The touch sensations elicited less than positive reactions.

The lecture ended at 9:50 PM. There was much positive feedback. Several attendees encouraged publication of this work.

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## 2019 UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS EXES DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

Maria Alma Solis, BS '78, MA '82, Life Member



Maria Alma Solis, Ph.D. is a research scientist and former research leader with the USDA Systematic Entomology Laboratory. She is also curator at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. Solis is internationally recognized as an authority on economically important snout moths and has published more than 100 research papers and book chapters on their classification and biology. She is on multiple scientific advisory and editorial boards, and has been president of several scientific societies, including the Systematics, Evolution, and Biodiversity section of the Entomological Society of America. She is a Fellow of the Entomological Society of America.

Created in 1958, Distinguished Alumnus Awards are granted annually to alumni who have distinguished themselves professionally and through service to the University of Texas. The awards are given on a Friday evening before a home football game. The Texas Exes recognizes as many as six recipients each year. The 2019 Distinguished Alumnus Awards will take place at the Etter-Harbin Alumni Center on Friday, November 8.

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## HOWARD COUNTY NATURE CONSERVANCY UPCOMING EVENTS

**Thu, 27 June 2019; 6:00-9:00 p.m.**

### **Fiddler and Fireflies**

**One of our most popular family programs returns! Begin your summer with an old-fashioned family picnic.** Bring your supper and spread your blanket and lawn chairs. As the fireflies begin to flicker under the trees and in the tall grasses around the property at Mt. Pleasant, listen to musician and storyteller Bill Wellington from Stanton Virginia, who electrifies audiences with his storytelling, "roses are red poems," and family music programs.

The event will be held at  
Mt Pleasant, 10520 Old Frederick Road

Woodstock, MD 21163

For more information, visit  
<https://www.hcconservancy.org/event/fiddlers-and-fireflies/>

**Thu, 15 August 2019; 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

**Guinness and Grasshoppers**

Enjoy a summer night out with friends at this special evening for the over-21 crowd. Guinness will be serving Guinness Blond (brewed in Baltimore!) and Stout (brewed in Ireland) and all their special brews too. And there's a fabulous program — back by popular demand are entomologists Mike Raupp and Paula Shrewsbury to delight you with amazing stories about the their favorite bugs (and butterflies) which abound at this time of year.

Program free, cash bar, with a percentage of proceeds donated to the Conservancy's environmental education and preservation programs. Rain or shine!

The event will be held at  
5001 Washington Blvd  
Halethorpe, MD 21227

For more information, visit  
<https://www.hcconservancy.org/event/guinness-and-grasshoppers/>



**Central Maryland Beekeepers Association**

*Supporting and promoting beekeepers and the viability of honeybees in central Maryland*

**MEMBERS MEETINGS**

**Tue, 2 July 2019; 7:00 p.m.**

**Speaker Mark Dykes**

**Mark Dykes** from the University of Maryland Bee Squad will talk about the bee squad's website and services and will answer any questions anyone may have.  
<https://umdbeesquad.com/>

Members meetings are held at the Oregon Ridge Nature Center, 13555 Beaver Dam Road, Cockeysville, Maryland. Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.centralmarylandbees.org/meetings-3/membership-meeting-schedule/>

**NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF MARYLAND  
UPCOMING EVENTS**

Thurs, 27 June 2019; 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
Monthly Lep Club Meeting

Sat, 13 July 2019; 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.  
Explore Maryland's Coastal Bays – A Restoration Tour

Wed, 17 July 2019; 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
Bees of Maryland

1 August – 29 August 2019 (8 sessions)  
Entomology 101

Sat, 24 August 2019; 9:00 am – 2:00 p.m.  
Insect Study Merit Badge Class

To register for events and for more information, go to  
<https://marylandnature.org/>

**FORT INDIANTOWN GAP REGAL FRITILLARY  
BUTTERFLY TOURS**

This July 2019, visitors are invited to come see the only population of regal fritillary butterflies in the eastern United States at Fort Indiantown Gap, near Annville, Lebanon County. The tours allow the public a guided opportunity to see this rare butterfly and its associated grassland habitat on military training ranges.

This year's free guided tours will be on July 5, 6, 12 and 13. No reservations are required, and no rain dates will be scheduled. Please arrive no later than 9:30am. For the address and other information, please visit:  
<http://www.dmva.pa.gov/dmvaoffices/Environmental-Resources/Pages/Regal-Fritillary-Butterfly-FTIG.aspx>

**HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB  
DICK SMITH MEMORIAL BUTTERFLY WALK**

**Sun, 1 September 10.30 a.m.**

Meet at Elkhorn Garden Plots. Enjoy searching for late-summer butterflies with instruction on their identification. Easy walking on mowed paths around the community garden plots and Elkhorn meadow. We will continue on paved paths and mowed areas near the right-of-way alongside open, flowering, wet meadows and brushy hillsides. Bring close-focus binoculars to view nectaring behavior. Cancelled if raining or overcast. No facilities. Leader: Linda Hunt. Find more information at  
<https://www.howardbirds.org/howard/hcevents.php#fieldtrips>

**EAGLE HILLS INSTITUTE NATURAL HISTORY  
SEMINARS**

Steuben, Maine  
During the summer, the Eagle Hills Institute offers intensive week-long field-based seminars and workshops on the coast of Maine taught by experts in their respective fields. This summer, several of these courses will be related to arthropods.

**July 14-20**  
Trichoptera of the Northeast...Optional SFS EPT certification exam

Instructor: John Morse and Paul Frandsen

**July 21-27**

Dragonflies and Damselflies: Field Techniques, Identification, and Natural History

Instructor: Michael Blust

**July 28-August 3**

Leaf and Stem Mining Insects

Instructor: Charley Eiseman

**August 4-10**

Microlepidoptera: Collection, Preparation, Dissection, Identification, and Natural History

Instructor: Jason Dombroskie and Kyhl Austin

**Aug 11-17**

EPT Taxa: Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, and

Trichoptera...Optional SFS EPT certification exam

Instructor: Steven Burian

More information about the courses, rates and registration may be found at:

<https://www.eaglehill.us/programs/nhs/nhs-calendar.shtml>

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**2018/2019 PROPOSED MES EVENT SCHEDULE**

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

Sep 30: Potluck Picnic

Oct 19: Dr. Mike Turrell

Nov 16: Frederick Paras

Feb 15: Patricia Nichols

Mar 15: Linda Hunt & Kevin Hefferman

Apr 19: Mike Blackburn, USDA

May 17: Members' & Students' Presentations & Elections

Jul 12-14: MES BugBlitz

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**OCT 2018-SEP 2019 MES MEMBERSHIP YEAR OFFICERS**

President	Frederick Paras
Vice President	Philip J. Kean
Secretary	Janet A. Lydon
Treasurer	Edgar A. Cohen, Jr.
Historian	(vacant)
Faculty Sponsors	Frank E. Hanson & Austin P. Platt
Journal Editor	Eugene J. Scarpulla
E-newsletter Editors	Aditi Dubey

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**SUBMITTAL DEADLINES**

July 2019 issue of the *Phaëton*:

Please send member news items by 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

Send e-newsletter drafts to Addie at [aditid26@gmail.com](mailto:aditid26@gmail.com).

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**THE ANTS**

We tunnel through your noonday out to you.

We carry our tube's narrow darkness there where, nostrum-plastered, with prepared air, with old men running and trains whining through

We ants may tap your aphids for your dew.

You may not wish their sucking or our care; Our all-but freedom, too, your branch must bear, High as roots' depth in earth, all earth to view.

No, by too much this station the air nears.

How small a chink lets in how dire a foe. What though the garden in one glance appears?

Winter will come and all her leaves will go.

We do not know what skeleton endures.

Carry at least her parasites below.

- William Empson