



Phaëton

The Official Newsletter of the
Maryland Entomological Society

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EDITOR: Aditi Dubey – aditid26@gmail.com

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 330th regular meeting will be held **Friday, 21 February 2020**, 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: **Ken Belt, Ph.D., UMBC**

Topic: **Aquatic Insects** (The title and full topic description will appear in the February *Phaëton*.)

March Meeting Pre-Announcement

The Maryland Entomological Society's 331st regular meeting will be held **Friday, 20 March 2020**, 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 332nd regular meeting will be held **Friday, 17 April 2020**, 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: **Mark Metz, Ph.D., SEL, USDA, Smithsonian Institution**

Topic: **Micro Moths** (A full abstract 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 the **Chef Paolino Café** located at **726 Frederick Rd, Catonsville, MD 21228**. If you plan to go to dinner, please email Fred Paras at bugandrockman@msn.com by noon on the day of the lecture. Fred will make a reservation for the group. Please meet at the restaurant promptly at **6:00 p.m.**

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*.

John F. Carroll
Frank G. Guarnieri
Jennifer A. Selfridge

BALTIMORE CBP BAGS DESTRUCTIVE JAPANESE GYPSY MOTH EGG MASSES FOR CHRISTMAS

BALTIMORE – While families celebrated Christmas together, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agriculture specialists in Baltimore climbed aboard ocean freighters and searched for destructive insect invaders that threaten our nation’s agricultural interests.



Japanese gypsy moth eggs with a hatched larva in a CBP preservation vial.

That search proved fruitful as CBP agriculture specialists discovered two egg masses on the bulk freighter Royal Hope that later proved to be from the highly destructive Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) subspecies. CBP agriculture specialists and the ship’s crew removed the egg masses, and CBP treated the affected area with a pest spray oil.

One egg larvae hatched while CBP packaged the specimens for shipment to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) entomologist. A USDA DNA test confirmed on December 31 that the insects were *Lymantria dispar asiatica/japonica*, commonly known as the Japanese gypsy moth.

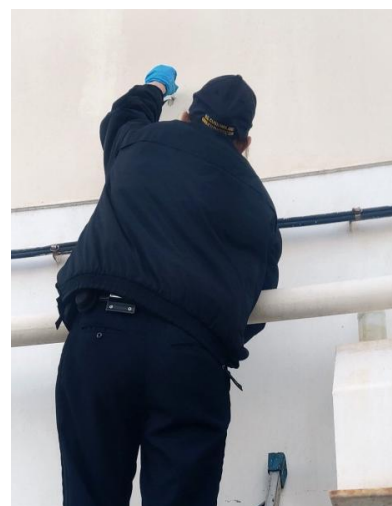
Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) is one of the most destructive insect pests in the world. They are not known to occur in the United States.

According to the USDA, AGM poses a significant threat to our nation’s forests and urban landscapes as it is known to be extremely mobile – females can travel up to 25 miles per day – is attracted to lights, can lay egg masses that could yield hundreds of hungry caterpillars, and is itself a voracious eater that attacks more than 500 species of trees and plants. If they

would become established here, they could cause serious, widespread damage to our country’s landscape and natural resources.

The Royal Hope had just arrived from Ghent, Belgium to pick up a load of coal for export. The ship made a previous port call in June 2019 to Niihama, Japan. While there, an authorized third party Japanese inspection company and the vessel’s crew removed 42 adult AGMs and 29 AGM egg masses. The authorized certification company provided a pre-departure AGM certificate and deemed the vessel cleared to depart.

“The fact that this vessel was completely scrubbed several months ago shows just how serious a threat the highly invasive and destructive Asian Gypsy Moth poses to our nation’s agricultural industries and consequently to our nation’s economy. It also illustrates why Customs and Border Protection agriculture specialists must remain extraordinarily vigilant to mitigate these potential threats through stringent inspections of merchant vessels and their cargo that arrives into Baltimore every day,” said Casey Durst, CBP’s Director of the Baltimore Field Office.



A Baltimore CBP agricultural specialist scrapes an egg mass off the ship’s bulkhead.

CBP agriculture specialists **mitigated more than 150 AGM egg masses aboard seven cargo ships** in August and September 2019.

CBP agriculture specialists and USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) inspectors have conducted AGM inspection training with AGM high risk countries (Far East Russia, South Korea, Japan, and Northeast China) to help lower AGM risks.

Additionally, vessels making port calls in Asia generally implement stringent inspections to detect and remove egg masses, and foreign governments in the AGM high risk countries during the AGM high risk periods inspect and certify that vessels departing their ports are free of AGM or egg masses.

CBP agriculture specialists perform a critical border security role in safeguarding America's agricultural and natural resources from harmful pests and plant diseases. They have extensive training and experience in the biological sciences and agricultural inspection, inspect tens of thousands of international air passengers, and air and sea cargoes nationally being imported to the United States. During a typical day last year, CBP agriculture specialists across the nation seized 4,552 prohibited plant, meat, animal byproduct, and soil, and intercepted 319 insect pests at U.S. ports of entry.

MES MEMBER BILL COOPER STARTS YOUTUBE CHANNEL

MES member Bill Cooper would like to share his new YouTube channel where he shares videos from his work at Pierella Ecological Garden, a butterfly garden in Costa Rica, such as the life cycle of the Blue Morpho, and other videos of interest to nature lovers. Visit the channel [here](#)!

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF MARYLAND UPCOMING EVENTS

2 -23 February 2020; (4 sessions)
Entomology 101

This course is designed as an introduction to insects and their allies in which you will learn morphological and anatomical adaptations, evolution, classification, identification, ecology, social applications, epidemiology and medical applications. Laboratory and field activities include sampling, specimen preparation, and identification investigations.

- Identify terrestrial arthropods to Class by visual inspection.
- Identify insects to Order by inspection and identify common forms to Family.
- Be able to Identify unknown insects by use of standard taxonomic keys.
- Understand insect adaptation and evolutionary processes.
- Learn the basic internal anatomy of insects,
- Describe the life cycles of important insect groups.
- Understand how insects adapt behaviorally and ecologically.
- Understand how insects affect humans medically, economically and socially.

To register for the course and for more information about pricing and scheduling, go to <https://marylandnature.org/events>.

SUMMER 2020 CHESAPEAKE BAY REU

Summer 2020 Undergrad Research on Chesapeake Bay (REU), Deadline: Feb. 14

Are you looking for a summer research internship studying ocean, coastal or environmental science? I invite you to check out the Maryland Sea Grant Summer REU program. We bring upper-level undergraduate students to the Chesapeake Bay to conduct individual research projects with a scientist-mentor at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. We select undergrads in many disciplines, including engineering, biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, ecology and marine and environmental science. In particular, **we encourage students from colleges and universities where access to marine science and to research opportunities is limited and who are from groups traditionally underrepresented in science, technology, engineering and math.** We believe bringing together students from many disciplines, backgrounds and parts of the country makes for a more interesting and educational summer experience.

Join us for our **12-week program from May 17 to August 9, 2020.** We are accepting applications through February 14. Please visit our website to find out more (www.mdsg.umd.edu/reu) or drop a note at reu@mdsg.umd.edu.

KEY INFORMATION:

- Program Flyer download [here](#).
- 12-week program: May 17 to August 9, 2020
- \$6,000 stipend plus housing and travel support to and from host institution
- Funded by the National Science Foundation and thus limited to US citizens or permanent residents
- Applications due: February 14, 2019
- Application and guidance [here](#).

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.

June 7 - 13

Tardigrades: Ecology, Identification, and Biology
Instructor: Emma Perry

June 28 – July 4

Native Bees: Biology, Ecology, Identification and Conservation
Instructors: Sara Bushmann and Kalyn Bickerman-Martens

July 5 - 11

Tracks and Signs of Insects and Other Invertebrates

Instructor: Charley Eiseman

July 19 - 25

Drawing from Nature: It's All in the Details! (Textures, Techniques, and Tricks)

Instructor: Dorie Petrochko

July 26 – August 1

Moths and Butterflies: Identification, Specimen Preparation, and Taxonomy

Instructor: Paul Dennehy

July 26 – August 1

The Poet and the Natural World

Instructor: Hayley Kolding

August 9 - 15

Spider Ecology, Identification, Biology and Photography

Instructor: Kefyn Catley

August 23 - 29

Trichoptera of Eastern North America: Morphology, Molecular Systematics, Ecology and New Research Directions
Instructors: John Morse and Paul Frandsen

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

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

2019/2020 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:

Oct 18: The Love Bugs screening

Nov 15: James Butler (US Army) – Entomology in the US Military

Feb 21: Dr. Ken Belt (UMBC) – Aquatic Insects
Mar 20: TBA

Apr 17 Dr. Mark Metz (USDA) – Micro Moths

May 15: Members' & Students' Presentations & Elections

Jul: MES BugBlitz

Sep: Member's Picnic

OCT 2019-SEP 2020 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

SUBMITTAL DEADLINES

February 2020 issue of the *Phaëton*:

Please send member news items by 14th February 2020.

Send e-newsletter drafts to Addie at aditid26@gmail.com.

September 2020 issue of *The Maryland Entomologist*:

Please send first drafts of articles and notes by 1 April 2020.

Send drafts to Gene Scarpulla at ejscarp@comcast.net.

INSECTS

By John Clare

These tiny loiterers on the barley's beard,
And happy units of a numerous herd
Of playfellows, the laughing Summer brings,
Mocking the sunshine on their glittering wings,
How merrily they creep, and run, and fly!
No kin they bear to labour's drudgery,
Smoothing the velvet of the pale hedge-rose;
And where they fly for dinner no one knows —
The dew-drops feed them not — they love the shine
Of noon, whose suns may bring them golden wine
All day they're playing in their Sunday dress —
When night reposes, for they can do no less;
Then, to the heath-bell's purple hood they fly,
And like to princes in their slumbers lie,
Secure from rain, and dropping dews, and all,
In silken beds and roomy painted hall.
So merrily they spend their summer-day,
Now in the corn-fields, now in the new-mown hay.
One almost fancies that such happy things,
With coloured hoods and richly burnished wings,
Are fairy folk, in splendid masquerade
Disguised, as if of mortal folk afraid,
Keeping their joyous pranks a mystery still,
Lest glaring day should do their secrets ill.