



# Phaëton

The Official Newsletter of the  
Maryland Entomological Society

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## MAY MEETING OF THE MES CANCELLED

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### Message from the President

Dear MES members,

As many of you likely have anticipated this decision, it is with regret that I must announce the cancellation of our May 15<sup>th</sup> regular meeting. Many area Universities and colleges continue to be closed, gatherings and meetings are discouraged, and numerous other venues remain closed. Although there is some light at the end of the tunnel as outdoor recreation restrictions are being eased by our Governor Hogan.

Our next regular meeting will be in the Fall 2020 season, with the Annual MES picnic likely in September and regular meetings resuming in October as usual. One thing we might do however in the interim is to have an MES field trip to a State Forest or other natural area, perhaps in June when we could anticipate safer conditions. To that end, for those interested, I am open to suggestions for such a trip and can share any information in the upcoming newsletter or by email announcement. You may send emails with possible field trip ideas and dates to me or Phil Kean. Spring is here, although it hasn't felt like it, and I have been seeing some butterflies, moths and beetles, so keep your eyes out for interesting observations, etc.

As many of you know, there has been a sharp decline in insect populations in most of Maryland, so now more than ever, it is important to watch and keep track of insect species as much as possible. Our observations will help to monitor these disturbing trends for the record. Perhaps some folks have seen the newest issue of *National Geographic* journal with the cover photo of moths and other insects at a light sheet and the title "You'll Miss Them When They are Gone". If you have not, it is a good read and documents the serious decline of insects worldwide and the ramifications therein. Please spread the word.

Sincerely Fred Paras – President MES

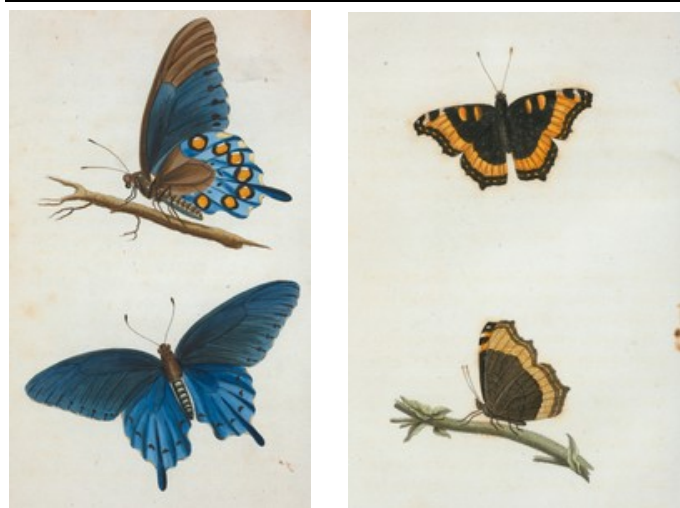
REMEMBERING DR. AUSTIN PLATT

Tim and I first learned of the Maryland Entomological Society through the Howard County Bird Club, a chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society. We share an interest in nature and coupled with the fact that meetings occurred on Friday evenings (no early Saturday morning commitments!), we attended a meeting. The first person we encountered was Dr. Platt who had arrived early in order to open and prepare the meeting room.

A very cordial person, he engaged us in conversation. He and Tim, who was raised in Howard County, reminisced about the area in which UMBC is situated. The farm that predated the campus, and its appearance way back then. We discussed nature topics, the details of which I no longer remember, and settled in for the meeting.

We did not know Dr. Platt as well as, nor for as many years as many of you who are reading this. We are sorry to learn of his passing, and remembering him fondly, extend condolences to his family and to all who shared in his life.

Tim Thompson and Janet Lydon



Thomas Say

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*.

Thomas J. Henry

SCIENCE-RELATED ONLINE VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

If you have some extra time on your hands are looking for activities you can do from home, here are some online volunteering opportunities related to learning and science:

- [Smithsonian Digital Volunteers](#) - The Smithsonian Institution is the world’s largest museum, education, and research complex, but even they could use a little help sometimes. Help make their collections more accessible by volunteering online to transcribe historical documents or edit Wikipedia articles related to their artifacts and research.
- [Zooniverse](#) - Zooniverse is a platform for people-powered research that literally wouldn’t be possible (or practical) without the help of online volunteers. Spend as much or as little time as you’d like identifying endangered animals, classifying galaxy systems, or transcribing Shakespearean manuscripts.
- [Project Gutenberg](#) - Founded in 1971, this may just be the virtual volunteering effort that started it all. The goal is to create the largest digital library, and so far they’ve amassed 59,000 free eBooks. Volunteer by donating eligible materials, transcribing books into a digital form, or proofreading others’ work.

ONLINE SCIENCE AND NATURAL HISTORY RESOURCES

A number of science museums and other organizations have curated high-quality online events, videos and other resources like virtual tours for children and adults. Here is a list of some of them:

- [Smithsonian Institution Webcasts and Online Events](#)
- [Discovery Education Virtual Field Trips](#)
- [St. Louis Science Center Virtual Science](#)
- [Natural History Museum \(London\) Virtual Museum](#)
- [California Academy of Sciences Academy @ Home](#)
- [American Museum of Natural History Explore](#)
- [Field Museum of Natural History Blogs and Videos](#)
- [National Geographic Online Learning](#)



Jan Van Kessel

**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: CANCELLED
- Apr 17: CANCELLED
- May 15: CANCELLED
- Jun: Field Trip
- 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
Journal Editor	Eugene J. Scarpulla
E-newsletter Editors	Aditi Dubey

**SUBMITTAL DEADLINES**

June 2020 issue of the *Phaëton*:  
Please send member news items by 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020.  
Send e-newsletter drafts to Addie at [aditid26@gmail.com](mailto:aditid26@gmail.com).

September 2020 issue of *The Maryland Entomologist*:  
Please send first drafts of articles and notes ASAP.  
Send drafts to Gene Scarpulla at [ejscarp@comcast.net](mailto:ejscarp@comcast.net).

**TO AN INSECT**  
**By Oliver Wendell Holmes**

I LOVE to hear thine earnest voice,  
 Wherever thou art hid,  
 Thou testy little dogmatist,  
 Thou pretty Katydid!  
 Thou mindest me of gentlefolks,--  
 Old gentlefolks are they,--  
 Thou say'st an undisputed thing  
 In such a solemn way.

Thou art a female, Katydid!  
 I know it by the trill  
 That quivers through thy piercing notes,  
 So petulant and shrill;  
 I think there is a knot of you  
 Beneath the hollow tree,--  
 A knot of spinster Katydids,--  
 Do Katydids drink tea?

Oh, tell me where did Katy live,  
 And what did Katy do?  
 And was she very fair and young,  
 And yet so wicked, too?  
 Did Katy love a naughty man,  
 Or kiss more cheeks than one?  
 I warrant Katy did no more  
 Than many a Kate has done.

Dear me! I'll tell you all about  
 My fuss with little Jane,  
 And Ann, with whom I used to walk  
 So often down the lane,  
 And all that tore their locks of black,  
 Or wet their eyes of blue,--  
 Pray tell me, sweetest Katydid,  
 What did poor Katy do?

Ah no! the living oak shall crash,  
 That stood for ages still,  
 The rock shall rend its mossy base  
 And thunder down the hill,  
 Before the little Katydid  
 Shall add one word, to tell  
 The mystic story of the maid  
 Whose name she knows so well.

Peace to the ever-murmuring race!  
 And when the latest one  
 Shall fold in death her feeble wings  
 Beneath the autumn sun,  
 Then shall she raise her fainting voice,  
 And lift her drooping lid,  
 And then the child of future years  
 Shall hear what Katy did.



Fireflies at Ochanomizu – Kobayashi Kiyochika



**A LITTLE ROAD NOT MADE OF MAN**

**By Emily Dickinson**

A LITTLE road not made of man,  
Enabled of the eye,  
Accessible to thill of bee,  
Or cart of butterfly.

If town it have, beyond itself,  
'T is that I cannot say;  
I only sigh, --- no vehicle  
Bears me along the way.

**THE FLY**

**By Walter de la Mare**

How large unto the tiny fly  
Must little things appear!-  
A rosebud like a feather bed,  
Its prickle like a spear;

A dewdrop like a looking-glass,  
A hair like golden wire;  
The smallest grain of mustard-see  
As fierce as coals of fire;

A loaf of bread, a lofty hill;  
A wasp, a cruel leopard;  
And specks of sale as bright to see  
As lambkins to a shepherd.

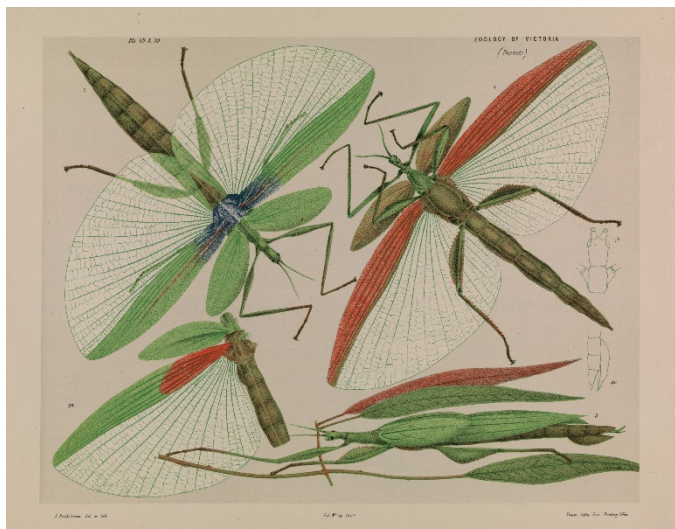
Veiled snowy faces, that no bee might greet  
Or butterfly that, weighed with pollen, passed;  
Keeping Sultana-charms for thee, at last,  
Their lord, who comest to salute each sweet.

Cool-throated flowers that avoid the day's  
Too fervid kisses; every bud that drinks  
The tipsy dew and to the starlight plays  
Nocturns of fragrance, thy wing'd shadow links  
In bonds of secret brotherhood and faith;  
O bearer of their order's shibboleth,  
Like some pale symbol fluttering o'er these pinks.

What dost thou whisper in the balsam's ear  
That sets it blushing, or the hollyhock's,  
A syllabled silence that no man may hear,  
As dreamily upon its stem it rocks?  
What spell dost bear from listening plant to plant,  
Like some white witch, some ghostly ministrant,  
Some spectre of some perished flower of phlox?

O voyager of that universe which lies  
Between the four walls of this garden fair,  
Whose constellations are the fireflies  
That wheel their instant courses everywhere'  
'Mid fairy firmaments wherein one sees  
Mimic Boötes and the Pleiades,  
Thou steerest like some fairy ship-of-air.

Gnome-wrought of moonbeam fluff and gossamer,  
Silent as scent, perhaps thou chariotest  
Mab or King Oberon; or, haply, her  
His queen, Titania, on some midnight quest.  
Oh for the herb, the magic euphrasy,  
That should unmask thee to mine eyes, ah me!  
And all that world at which my soul hath guessed!



Arthur Bartholomew

**A TWILIGHT MOTH**

**By Madison Julius Cawein**

All day the primroses have thought of thee,  
Their golden heads close-haremed from the heat;  
All day the mystic moonflowers silkenly