



Phaëton

The Official Newsletter of the
Maryland Entomological Society

Volume 40, Number 9-10

June & July 2020

EDITOR: Aditi Dubey – aditid26@gmail.com

FACULTY SPONSOR: **Frank E. Hanson**
Department of Biological Sciences
University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC)
1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, MD 21250

WEBSITE: <http://www.mdentsoc.org/>

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF MARYLAND CRAB FEAST RAFFLE

July Raffle
\$5 CRAB FEAST
to benefit the Natural History Society of Maryland

Donate to win a crab feast from Bill's Seafood

- 1 bushel of steamed crabs
- 5 pounds of steamed shrimp
- 1 case of beer (\$175 value)
- and an added bonus of a lifetime membership to NHSM! (\$750 value)

The raffle drawing will take place July 31, 2020. Stay tuned to our website for more information.

Only 1,000 tickets will be sold. Buying more than one ticket increases your chances of winning.

NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY of Maryland

Bill's Seafood & Catering Co.

This summer, the Natural History Society of Maryland is holding monthly raffles as a way to raise funds to weather this pandemic AND as a form of outreach and giving back to their supporters.

Win a lifetime membership to NHSM (discounts on programs and more!) AND the makings of a crab feast! Purchase your tickets here: <https://www.marylandnature.org/raffle/>. Only \$5 per raffle ticket and buying more than one ticket increases your chances of winning! We will announce the winner on 7/31, stay tuned for an announcement. Your donation will go toward offering more programs and natural history educational resources virtually.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

MES welcomes the following new members to the Society:

Caleb M. Kriesberg – Silver Spring, MD
Peter Lev – Baltimore, MD

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*.

Arnold W. & Beth B. Norden

A BIG MES THANK YOU TO ELIZABETH HILL!

The Maryland Entomological Society (MES) wishes to send an enormous “THANK YOU” to Elizabeth (Izzy) Hill for creating and maintaining the MES website since 2013, serving as the Society’s first webmaster. Izzy is retiring as MES webmaster and passing the torch on to Tim Thompson (see Tim’s introductory writeup). Prior to creating the MES website, Izzy had tinkered around with sites and designed/managed some at the University of Georgia and the University of Maryland College Park. She humbly gives 100% credit for the MES website design to her husband Andrew Hunt.

When Izzy first volunteered as the MES webmaster, she had been working on agricultural and beekeeping programs as an Agricultural Extension Agent with the University of Maryland. She also had been working on pest management and pollinator initiatives with the Environmental Protection Agency. Currently, Izzy’s title is USDA Honeybee and Pollinator Research Coordinator. She is the USDA Pollinator Coordinator for the Office of the Chief Scientist. In this role, she promotes collaboration and communication across USDA agencies, the managed pollinator industry, and relevant USDA grant recipients. Since 2016, Izzy has also served as Agricultural Economist in the Office of the Chief Economist’s Office of Pest Management Policy, where among other duties, she examines the interface between the needs of agricultural pest management and pollinator protection. Izzy’s primary research interests include Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for managing pests of honeybees and advancements in biological controls to support IPM strategies. An avid beekeeper, she is deeply engaged in the beekeeping community as a producer, educator, and through nonprofit and state beekeeping association board service.

MES wishes Izzy great success in all her future endeavors!

AN MES WARM WELCOME TO TIM THOMPSON, OUR NEW WABMASTER!

The Maryland Entomological Society (MES) extends a warm welcome to Tim Thompson as he begins serving as MES’s new webmaster. Tim has been an MES member since 2011. His interest in entomology began while observing insects in his garden. Tim has a degree in physics and spent the bulk of his career as a contractor at Goddard Space Flight Center’s Flight Dynamics Facility. He subsequently managed Information Technology projects for the Internal Revenue Service and Social Security Administration before retiring in 2019. Tim thanks former webmaster Izzy Hill and her husband Andrew Hunt for all of their help with transitioning the webmaster role.



K-12 INSECT EDUCATION GRANTS

Applications due August 1

Looking for an opportunity to fund your insect-themed school project? Or have an insect-themed school program you'd like to start? Get your students excited about insect science by applying to the Chrysalis Fund! Managed by ESA's Education and Outreach Committee, the Chrysalis Fund is accepting applications to fund projects for the 2020-2021 academic year. Grant applications are due Saturday, August 1.

K-12 teachers or other educators and organizers of educational programs are welcome to apply. Help inspire a love for insects and spread the word. Not sure where to start? Form a bug club or enhance your school garden! Check out past grant winners for inspiration. Apply today and receive up to \$2,500 for your project or program!

Learn more and apply [here](#)!

USDA JOB OPPORTUNITY FOR ENTOMOLOGY STUDENTS

Are you interested in museum curation and want to gain experience working in the U.S. National Entomology Collections?

Now accepting applications for a 12-month paid position working with the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History’s Entomology Collections, housed at USDA’s Beltsville Agricultural Research Center.

Description: The contracted employee will digitize records and images of primary type specimens from the National

Collections of Sternorrhyncha (scale insects, whiteflies, and psyllids), Thysanoptera (thrips), and Acari (mites) housed at USDA Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) in Maryland. This project, supported through the Smithsonian Institution's Collections Care and Preservation Fund, focuses on digitally preserving data associated with primary types and enhancing the accessibility and utility of the collections. The incumbent will work closely with the curators of each collection and report to the Entomology Collections Manager. The contract will cover a period of ~12 months of employment with competitive salary comparable to the GS-5 pay scale. Scheduling flexibility (to accommodate breaks between semesters for example) can be built into the contract period but must be requested at the time of offer. The incumbent's time will be divided between each collection, spending approximately 6 months on mites (Ron Ochoa, Curator), 3 months on thrips + psyllids (Cheryle O'Donnell, Curator), and 3 months on scale insects and whiteflies (Scott Schneider, Curator).

Basic job duties will include:

- handling fragile, irreplaceable museum type specimens
- transcribing specimen label data into spreadsheets
- generating digital images of each type slide or pinned type specimen
- imaging type specimens under high magnification using z-stack imaging software
- storing and transmitting products to the Collections Manager

With over 7,000 types to digitize, strong organization skills are a must for this position! The final deliverable product for each type will be a digital record comprising the metadata and associated images, made available online through the Smithsonian.

Contract period: August 1, 2020 – July 31, 2021 (start date flexible)

How to Apply

Submit the following to Armando Rosario-Lebron (armando.rosariolebron@usda.gov) by July 26th 2020:

- A 1-page letter of interest – include relevant experience, describe your interest in the project and how it relates to your career goals;
- A current curriculum vitae;
- And 2 letters of recommendation from individuals familiar with your qualifications for the position.

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE CBP REPORTS FIRST LOCAL INTERCEPTION OF MOTH SPECIES

Release Date: May 22, 2020

WILMINGTON, Delaware – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) confirmed today that a moth that U.S.

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agriculture specialists discovered May 7 was the first ever local discovery of this moth species.

CBP agriculture specialists discovered a *Hylesia* species of moth never before seen in Wilmington, Del. May 7, 2020. First-in-Port species of *Hylesia* moth.

CBP agriculture specialists discovered the live adult moth while inspecting bananas from Honduras.



First-in-port species of Hylesia moth.

Agriculture specialists submitted images of the specimen to the USDA entomologist who determined the pest to be *Hylesia* sp. (Saturniidae), an invasive pest of the giant silkworm moth family generally known to occur in South America.

Hylesia sp. (Saturniidae) is a forestry pest. In their larvae and caterpillar stages, they are voracious consumers of tree, shrub and crop plant leaves.

CBP discovered no other invasive pests and released the shipment of bananas for transport to Broward County, Fla.

PHILADELPHIA INTERCEPTS A FIRST-IN-PORT LEAFHOPPER AND MULTIPLE WOOD BORING INSECT PESTS

Release Date: June 19, 2020

PHILADELPHIA – Six recent insect pest interceptions in Philadelphia, including a first ever local discovery, illustrate how Customs and Border Protection agriculture specialists continue to safeguard our regional and national agricultural resources against destructive invasive pests hitchhiking inside imported shipping containers.



A live immature Siricidae, or wood wasp.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture confirmed today that a *Nephotettix nigropictus* (Cicadellidae), commonly known as a green rice leafhopper, was the first ever discovery of this insect in the Delaware Valley. CBP agriculture specialists discovered it in a container of aluminum billets from India on March 11. The container was ordered re-exported.

Additionally, during May, CBP agriculture specialists discovered five wood borers, including:
 a live immature Cerambycidae larva on May 6 inside wood dunnage in a container of steel structures from Italy;
 a live immature Cerambycidae larva on May 13 inside wood dunnage in a container of steel from Switzerland;
 two live adult Cerambycidae insects on May 18 inside wood dunnage in a container of dunnage and steel from Brazil; and
 a live immature Siricidae larva on May 19 inside wood dunnage in a container of dunnage and steel from Turkey.
 A live immature Siricidae, or wood wasp, that CBP agriculture specialists discovered in wood dunnage in Philadelphia May 19.
 A live immature Siricidae, or wood wasp.
 Cerambycidae are commonly known as longhorn beetles; Siricidae are commonly known as horntail or wood wasps. All are wood-boring actionable insect pests.

In each case, CBP agriculture specialists discovered holes in wood dunnage and used tools to cut and chisel out the insect pests. Wood dunnage is used in shipping containers to brace and stabilize commodities during transport. International conventions require that wood dunnage and packing materials are certified to be treated and pest free.

CBP submitted the specimens to a local USDA entomologist for identification, which determined an appropriate mitigation strategy. In each case, the importer destroyed the dunnage by incineration.

BALTIMORE CBP DETECTS FIRST LOCAL DISCOVERY OF ARGENTINE MOTH AND ASIAN GYPSY MOTH EGG MASSES ON CONSECUTIVE DAYS

Release Date: July 13, 2020

BALTIMORE – The U.S. Department of Agriculture confirmed on Friday that nine egg masses that Customs and Border Protection agriculture specialists discovered on a merchant ship June 2 was a first reported discovery in Maryland.

Baltimore CBP agriculture specialists discovered a first local interception of a species of Argentine moth egg masses and an Asian Gypsy Moth egg mass on consecutive days in June 2020.

Baltimore CBP agriculture specialists discovered a first local interception of a species of Argentine moth egg masses

and an Asian Gypsy Moth egg mass on consecutive days in June 2020.



Baltimore CBP agriculture specialists discovered a first local interception of a species of Argentine moth egg masses and an Asian Gypsy Moth egg mass on consecutive days in June 2020.

Using DNA analysis, USDA entomologist identified the egg masses as *Paracles azollae*, a moth species known to occur in Argentina, and a first local reported discovery of this species. CBP discovered the egg masses on various parts of the M/V Star Kinn including at the bridge and mooring station. The M/V Star Kinn is a general cargo vessel that arrived from Brazil.



*USDA DNA testing identified the egg masses as *Paracles azollae*, a species of Argentine moth.*

One day earlier, CBP agriculture specialists discovered one egg mass on the exterior of a shipping container of aluminum billets from India. The USDA entomologist identified the egg mass as *Lymantria dispar asiatica/japonica*, the highly destructive Asian/Japanese gypsy moth (AGM).

CBP removed the egg masses, treated the container and vessel with a pest spray oil, and submitted specimens to the USDA entomologist for identification.

Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) is one of the most destructive insect pests in the world. AGM 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. AGM are known to

be extremely mobile -- females can travel up to 25 miles per day -- are 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.

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
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

August 2020 issue of the *Phaëton*:

Please send member news items by 14th August 2020.

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

INSECT LIFE OF FLORIDA

By Linda Hull

In those days I thought their endless thrum
was the great wheel that turned the days, the nights.
In the throats of hibiscus and oleander

I'd see them clustered yellow, blue, their shells
enameled hard as the sky before the rain.
All that summer, my second, from city

to city my young father drove the black coupe
through humid mornings I'd wake to like fever
parceled between luggage and sample goods.

Afternoons, showers drummed the roof,
my parents silent for hours. Even then I knew
something of love was cruel, was distant.

Mother leaned over the seat to me, the orchid

Father'd pinned in her hair shriveled
to a purple fist. A necklace of shells

coiled her throat, moving a little as she
murmured of alligators that float the rivers
able to swallow a child whole, of mosquitoes

whose bite would make you sleep a thousand years.
And always the trance of blacktop shimmering
through swamps with names like incantations—

Okefenokee, where Father held my hand
and pointed to an egret's flight unfolding
white above swamp reeds that sang with insects

until I was lost, until I was part
of the singing, their thousand wings gauze
on my body, tattooing my skin.

Father rocked me later by the water,
the motel balcony, singing calypso
with the Jamaican radio. The lyrics

a net over the sea, its lesson
of desire and repetition. Lizards flashed
over his shoes, over the rail

where the citronella burned merging our
shadows—Father's face floating over mine
in the black changing sound

of night, the enormous Florida night,
metallic with cicadas, musical
and dangerous as the human heart.

