



Phaëton

The Official Newsletter of the
Maryland Entomological Society

Volume 41, Number 1

October 2020

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MARYLAND ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OCTOBER 2020 MEETING

Title: On some insects associated with our local Apocynaceae, with side trips to the Caribbean and Horn of Africa.

Speaker: Warren E. Steiner, Jr., Research Collaborator, Department of Entomology, Smithsonian Institution

Speaker Biography: Warren began rearing caterpillars, collecting bird nests, sea shells, insects, leaves, seeds and other natural objects, learning their names and associated information, and pursuing or dabbling in hobbies such as wildlife art, scientific illustration, taxidermy, mycophagy, and photography at a young age. The collection and study of insects prevailed over many other interests and led to his focus on entomology at the University of Maryland, where he completed his B.S. and M.S. degrees. From 1981-2010 he served as a Museum Specialist in the Department of Entomology,



Smithsonian Institution, with a focus on Coleoptera. Warren has done collaborative work in a number of Central and South American countries and Caribbean islands, including on-going surveys of darkling beetles of the Bahamian archipelago. Official travel with the Smithsonian to collect insects and arachnids included trips to Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Guyana, Venezuela, Bolivia, and Madagascar. With his wife Jil

Swearingen, also a MES member, he joined the 1998 U.S. Department of the Interior survey team to study the small Caribbean island of Navassa, subsequently designated a U.S. National Wildlife Refuge. In 2014, he participated in a biological survey of Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti in May 2014, with joint support from Smithsonian and the U.S. Navy. Warren has served as President of the Entomological Society of Washington (1998) and the Botanical Society of Washington (2005). This year he has celebrated the publication of his 101st scientific article in entomology.



When: October 16th, 7:00 PM

Where: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/79977934581?pwd=ZVBrb1ZNZEFNKzY1UU9vY1FWckJVdz09>

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 M. Bocan
Linda M. & Charles A. Davis
Mark C. & Emily Etheridge
George A. Foster
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Sue A. Ricciardi
Richard G. Robbins
Chris Sargent
Eugene J. Scarpulla & Marcia R. Watson
Joanne K. & Robert P. Solem
Robin G. Todd
James H. Trosper
Gaye L. Williams



NHSM OCTOBER 2020 RAFFLE

Purchase to win a lifetime membership to the Natural History Society of Maryland PLUS a family fun pack of Covid-19 cabin fever busting adventures!

The family fun pack consist of:

- 4 60-minute Jump passes to [Sky Zone Timonium](#) (Timonium, MD)
- 2 passes to [Earth Treks Climbing Centers](#); each pass is valid for two Day Passes or two Open Climb passes (Columbia/Rockville/Timonium/Hampden, MD)
- 4 passes for 18 holes of indoor glow-in-the-dark golf OR a game of laser tag at [Monster Mini Golf](#) (Parkville, MD)

As an NHSM Lifetime Membership (value \$750) member you will receive discounts on many of our programs—from lectures, workshops, and courses offered in our museum—to canoe trips, nature walks, and fossil hunts in the great outdoors. Members also receive a discount to their annual Spring Gala.

Tickets are \$5 and buying more than one ticket increases your chances of winning. Only 1000 tickets will be sold to benefit the Natural History Society of Maryland.

The raffle drawing will take place on October 31st.

Get more information and purchase your tickets [here](#),

THE COLEOPTERISTS SOCIETY



AN INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY
DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF BEETLES



YOUTH INCENTIVE AWARD

The Coleopterists Society, an international organization of professionals and hobbyists interested in the study of beetles, has established a program to recognize young people studying beetles. The Society has pledged to provide up to \$600 each year for the Youth Incentive Award Program. The Junior award is a monetary grant of \$200 and the Senior award is \$400. Award recipients also will receive up to \$200 (Junior) and \$400 (Senior) of equipment credit from the BioQuip Products catalog. In addition to monetary and BioQuip grants, award recipients will each receive a one-year subscription to the society journal, *The Coleopterists Bulletin*. This is for children of grades 7-12 only.

The objectives of the Youth Incentive Award are to:

- *provide encouragement and assistance to young beetle enthusiasts (grades 7-12).
- * promote the study of beetles, the most diverse group of insects, as a rewarding lifelong avocation or career.
- * provide opportunities for young people to develop important life skills such as leadership, cooperation, communication, planning and conducting a scientific study, grant writing and managing funds.
- * provide some financial support to enrich activities or projects.

A Youth Incentive Award Committee from the Coleopterists Society will evaluate the applications and will select up to two winners annually; one each in junior (grades 7-9) and senior (grades 10-12) categories. The selection committee invites proposals for topics such as field collecting trips to conduct beetle species inventories or diversity studies, attending workshops or visiting entomology or natural history museums for special training and projects on beetles, studying aspects of beetle biology, etc. The proposed activities or projects will be evaluated on their degree of creativity, educational benefit to the applicant, scientific merit, feasibility and budgetary planning. This Award is for proposals by individuals only. Each applicant is strongly encouraged to find an adult advisor (teacher, youth group leader, parent, etc.) to provide guidance in proposal development, but the proposal MUST be written by the applicant. The Coleopterists Society would also be happy to assist in establishing contacts between youth and professional Coleopterists.

The application deadline is November 1st 2020.

Find more information and the application form [here](#).



HOWARD COUNTY BIRD CLUB UPCOMING PROGRAM

Thursday, November 12th, 2020

Title: The Birds and the Bees!

Speaker: Sam Droege

Sam has spent most of his career at the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. He has coordinated the North American Breeding Bird Survey Program, developed the North American Amphibian Monitoring Program, the Bioblitz, Cricket Crawl, and Frogwatch USA programs and works on the design and evaluation of monitoring programs. Currently his team is running an inventory and monitoring program for native bees. This talk will introduce the audience to the wonderful and complex world of native bees.

Programs will be presented online using Google Meet. Current Howard County Bird Club members will automatically be notified on how to attend. Twenty of the 100 tickets for the virtual meeting will be open to non-members. Non-members can attend by emailing HCBC Program Chair Mary Lou Clark doctorfx_99@yahoo.com.



NHSM UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, October 29th, 2020, 7:00 PM

Title: The Science of Spider Webs: Silk biology from DNA to fiber

Speaker: Sarah Stellwagen

They are iconic. But what do you really know about spider webs? Join us for a deep dive into one of the most fascinating substances on earth. Just in time for Halloween.

Orb weaving spiders make up to 7 different types of silk, each with their own unique uses and properties. The DNA that encodes for these complex silk proteins are extremely large and repetitive, making them difficult to study. Recent sequencing advances have allowed progress in understanding spider silks, which could lead to advanced biodegradable materials.

Sarah Stellwagen is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She majored in biology at Clemson University, and received her Ph.D. from Virginia Tech, where she examined the material properties of spider glues, the sticky substance spiders use to trap insects in a web. During subsequent research positions, she has performed genetic sequencing to investigate spider glue and silk molecular biology and worked on the genomics of harvestmen, an arachnid relative. Her love of spiders started from an early age with her first pet tarantula, “Stanley”, and has since fueled her career in the natural sciences.

Thursday, November 5th, 2020, 7:00 PM

Title: The Big Small World of Honey Bees

Speaker: Nathan Reid

A look inside the year of a commercial beekeeper and other apicultural insights with Nathan Reid. From Hawaii to Michigan, Washington to Florida, and along the East Coast Nathan has gathered over a decade of beekeeping experience. Including: Queen rearing, honey production, commercial pollination, data collection, teaching and research, with the last 4 years operating as a full time commercial beekeeper.

Monday, November 23rd, 2020, 7:00 PM

Title: Edible Insects: An Introduction to Entomophagy

Speaker: Elizabeth Hill

This Thanksgiving why not spice up the traditional menu with some insects. Entomophagy is the consumption of insects as a human food source.

Are you ready to have crickets on your salad or mealworms in your burger? This could be the future of the human diet as insects play an increasing role in providing human protein. Join us as we explore Entomophagy. Find out what insects are eaten, their nutritional value and their role in agriculture. View some live insects used as food and learn how you can prepare them in a live cooking demo. Elizabeth Hill, Principal Agent Associate with the University of Maryland Extension, is a 4-H educator that teaches entomology to youth and adult audiences.

The suggested donation for this event is \$5. NHSM understands that the pandemic has adversely impacted many. It shouldn't impact access to education. Therefore, a free option is also available. Zoom meeting info is included in the email you get once you are registered. Please contact bstrong@marylandnature.org with questions regarding this program.

Find more information about NHSM and register for events [here](#).

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY COLLOQUIA

Fri, 16 October 2020, 12:00 p.m.
CANCELLED

Fri, 23 October 2020, 12:00 p.m.
ESA Meeting Practice Presentations
Graduate students and post-doctoral researchers

Fri, 30 October 2020, 12:00 p.m.
“Sweet corn sentinel monitoring for Lepidopteran resistance to Bt toxins”
Dr. Galen Dively (Professor Emeritus, Department of Entomology, UMD)

Fri, 6 November 2020, 12:00 p.m.
“Morphological character evolution in Dryophthorinae (Coleoptera: Curculionidae)”
Dr. Lourdes Chamorro (Research Entomologist, USDA Systematic Entomology Laboratory/Smithsonian Institute)

Fri, 13 November 2020, 12:00 p.m.
“Agricultural drainage ditches as sources of beneficial spiders to enhance conservation biocontrol in adjacent croplands”
Dylan Kutz (Alum, Department of Entomology, UMD [M.S. 20’ Lamp Lab])

Fri, 20 November 2020, 12:00 p.m.
“Careers in Entomology”
John B. Welch (Liaison for Action Programs of International Services – USDA APHIS)

Entomology colloquia can be accessed through this zoom link:
<https://umd.zoom.us/j/92018210735?pwd=L3VWcXZDUXBzNzIzWEVXbjd4RkdLdz09> .

For additional information, go to:
<http://entomology.umd.edu/seminar-schedule.html>

2020/2021 PROPOSED MES EVENT SCHEDULE

For the time being, MES meetings are being held virtually through Zoom. Proposed events for the upcoming MES membership year are:

Oct 16: Warren Steiner
Nov 20: TBA
Feb 19: TBA
Mar 19: TBA
Apr 16: TBA
May 21: TBA
Sep: Member’s Picnic

OCT 2020-SEP 2021 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

November 2020 issue of the *Phaëton*:
Please send member news items by 13th November 2020.
Send e-newsletter drafts to Addie at aditid26@gmail.com.

September 2021 issue of *The Maryland Entomologist*:
Please send first drafts of articles and notes by 1 April 2021.
Send drafts to Gene Scarpulla at ejscarp@comcast.net.

SONNET #479

By Christopher Guerin

The crickets sing ceaselessly every night.
Are they warning off or chirping the dark?
They’ve a neutral effect, like a chalk mark
On an old slate blackboard, more gray than white.
I walk out into the back yard. Silence.
A crescent moon slides behind a thick cloud.
I shout “yes!” once and shatter night’s nonsense.
When I go in the crickets’ answer, both loud
And incessant, scolds me for my pretense.
I realize they are not scared, but proud.
In autumn, some crickets sound all day long,
As they regale the sun in regal state.
In moonlight, they whisper, winter can wait.
Soon the first frost will extinguish their song.