



Phaëton

The Official Newsletter of the
Maryland Entomological Society

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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 NEW ANNUAL BUTTERFLY COUNT FOR MARYLAND

In partnership with the North American Butterfly Association, Rick Borchlet from LepBlog (<https://leplog.wordpress.com/>) is initiating a new annual butterfly count centered in Green Ridge State Forest, Maryland. If you love butterflies, consider joining in this community science initiative on July 10 (rain date July 11).

Green Ridge State Forest (GRSF) is an exceedingly diverse network of habitats in the Ridge and Valley Province of Maryland, and at 50,000 acres is the largest contiguous block of public land in Maryland. This habitat diversity makes GR one of the most important butterfly areas in the mid-Atlantic including species of conservation concern like Olympia Marble, Pepper and Salt Skipper, Cobweb Skipper, Appalachian Azure, Silvery Blue, and Giant Swallowtail, and a favored destination for lepidoptera enthusiasts regionally. Yet, our systematic understanding of butterfly diversity and their populations in the area is still rudimentary for many species, and we have little or no year-on-year understanding of their population dynamics.



This year the count will be July 10 (rain date July 11) in hopes of catching the metalmark flight. The circle was constructed to capture a diversity of butterfly habitats, from shale barrens to mature forest to ridgetop meadows to Potomac River frontage. Plus, it's an easy day trip from most central MD, southern PA, northern VA, and eastern WV locations.

Teams of observers will deploy across the count circle among approximately 15 sectors, and sector leaders and volunteers are needed to help! Come learn more about Green Ridge and this new butterfly count.

An information session will be held via Zoom at 7 PM on Wednesday, June 16th.

Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

MES welcomes the following new members to the Society:

Frank E. Etzler – Helena, Montana
Daniel K. Young – Madison, Wisconsin

**MINUTES OF THE 338th MEETING OF THE
MARYLAND ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

21 MAY 2021

The 338th meeting of the Maryland Entomological Society convened virtually on May 21, 2021. The meeting started at 7:00 PM and the lecture at 7:15 PM. There were at least 23 attendees according to 'ZOOM' count.

During a brief business session, member Mike Turell proposed that the current Society officers continue in their positions for the coming year. The officers agreed to serve. President Fred Paras indicated that any business matters arising during the summer hiatus could be discussed via 'ZOOM'. There was brief discussion of a summer field trip; no plans were made.

Member Marcia Watson discussed the proposed magnetic levitation train (Maglev) route and its adverse effects on the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge. Members also discussed the emergence of periodical cicada brood X.

The meeting ended at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet A. Lydon, MES Secretary

**TAXONOMY AND BIOGEOGRAPHY OF THE
NATIVE BEES OF MEXICO**

Speaker: Gerardo Quintos Andrade (Universidad Veracruzana, un Xalapa, Veracruz, México)

When: Tuesday, June 15th, 12 PM EDT

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82515787249> (webinar will be recorder and publicly posted)

The knowledge of the native bees from Mexico has been discussed for several centuries, however, there are many questions about the total knowledge of these, since there are still gaps in their study, at the level of taxonomic experts and in the approach to strategies for their conservation. In this talk, the approximate knowledge we have is discussed in a general way, as well as the problem with supporting the taxonomy, biogeography and ecology of these insects within the Mexican territory.

This work aims to take a step towards establishing collaboration between the world bee experts and the present and future students researching bees from Mexico.

Short Bio: Gerardo Quintos Andrade is a 22 year-old biology student at Universidad Veracruzana, un Xalapa, Veracruz, México. He is interested into the bee biodiversity, systematics and conservation of the Mexican taxa, his twitter blog "El chico de las abejas", founded in 2020, emphasizes the

biodiversity and importance of native bees from Mexico. Since 2019 he has given several talks, interviews and participated in symposia concerning various aspects of bee conservation, diversity and taxonomy. He is also an accomplished scientific Illustrator and bee photographer.

He recently organized an international symposium "Abejas y Sociedad" with bee researchers and publishers from Chile, UK, Spain, Colombia and Mexico, to examine the importance of the native bees in society and environmental pressures they are experiencing.

He recently published his first paper about the behavior of *Megachile saulcyi* from Chile, where he described the use of plastic trash for nest building.

He is currently working on his thesis research about bee diversity in urban landscapes in Veracruz, and an additional project about orchid bees and cactus bees, collaborating with other bee researchers from Mexico.

**DRAGONFLY SOCIETY OF THE AMERICAS
VIRTUAL LECTURE SERIES**

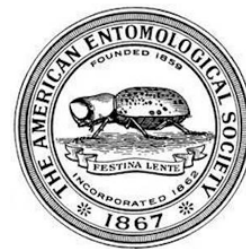
"Odonata Central and Odolympics"

Speaker: John Abbot (Founder, Odonata Central)

When: Friday, June 18th, 4 PM EDT

Want to contribute to the science of dragonflies and damselflies? Consider using Odonata Central (www.OdonataCentral.org), one of the longest running entomological citizen science web platforms. Odonata Central was launched in 2004 and has become a popular and robust tool for serious odonate enthusiasts and professionals alike to contribute their records and observations. This talk will cover a history of the site, how it differs from other citizen scientists platforms, an overview of how to use it and introduce the first ever Odolympics (www.odonatacentral.org/odolympics) sponsored by the Dragonfly Society of America.

Find more information and register [here](#).



**AMERICAN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY
JUNE 2021 MEETING**

**"Using existing entomological data to improve
conservation efforts and undergraduate education"**

Speaker: Kathryn Weglarz (Assistant Professor of Biology, Westfield State University)

When: Wednesday, June 23rd, 4 PM EDT

Email AES at admin@aes1859.org for zoom information.

ODOLYMPICS 2021

The Dragonfly Society of the Americas, Sociedad de Odonatología Latinoamericana and Odonata Central are partnering to conduct the Odolympics 2021.

When: 19-27 June 2021 and 11-19 December 2021

- Odonate survey of the entire Western Hemisphere
- Everyone can participate by entering observations into Odonata Central or iNaturalist
- June and December Survey dates to accommodate participants in the entire Western Hemisphere
- The goal is to record as many species from as many places as possible
- You can have fun and contribute to citizen science by helping to create a single year snapshot of Odonate distribution

Find more information about how to participate [here](#).

USDA POLLINATOR WEEK WEBINAR SERIES

When: June 21st – 25th, 2021

Monday, June 21

12:00 pm ET – Edward Henry, National Ecologist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) | NRCS Pollinator Conservation Success Stories

1:00 pm ET – Gail Langellotto, Professor of Horticulture, Oregon State University | Selecting Garden Plants for Pollinators

2:00 pm ET – Eric McTaggart, Acting Conservation Planning Branch Chief, USDA NRCS | Technical and Financial Assistance

Tuesday, June 22

12:00 pm ET – Matthew Wilson, Food Sovereignty Director, Sicangu Community Development Corporation | 7Gen Food System

1:00 pm ET – Diana Cox-Foster, Research Leader, USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) | Who Are the Bees

2:00 pm ET – Jon Koch, Research Entomologist, USDA ARS | Discovering the Secret Life of the Humble Bumble Bee

Wednesday, June 23

12:00 pm ET – Theresa Pitts-Singer, Research Entomologist, USDA ARS | Solitary Bees Aggregate for U.S. Crops

1:00 pm ET – Gloria DeGrandi-Hoffman, Research Leader, USDA ARS | How Seasonal Flowers Support the Yearly Cycle of Honey Bee Colonies

2:00 pm ET – Vanessa Corby-Harris, Research Physiologist, USDA ARS | What Does a Bee Colony Do in the Winter

Thursday, June 24

12:00 pm ET – Susannah Lerman, Research Ecologist, U.S. Forest Service | The Lazy Lawnmower: A Simple Way to Help Native Bees

1:00 pm ET – Byron Love, Entomologist, USDA ARS

| Impact of Wildfire on Native Bees

2:00 pm ET – Will Glenny, PhD Student, Montana State University | Assessing Pollinator Friendliness of Native Plants for Restoration on Wildlands

Friday, June 25

12:00 pm ET – Sammy Ramsey, Research Fellow, USDA ARS | The Threat Posed by *Tropilaelaps mercedesae* to Honey Bees and Native Bees

1:00 pm ET – Cameron Douglass, Agronomist, USDA Office of Pest Management Policy | Integrated Pest and Pollinator Management

2:00 pm ET – Anne LeBrun, National Policy Manager, USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service | Asian Giant Hornet

Register [here](#).



THE BEE SHORT COURSE FOR COMMUNITY SCIENTISTS



Join fellow bee fans for this free monthly webinar series. We'll explore the world of bees and learn together from bee experts to build skills as community scientists. Whether you're a seasoned wild bee volunteer or just beginning your bee journey, the skills learned in this series will prepare you to help our threatened pollinators.

All sessions are from 10 - 11:00AM EST on the third Friday of the month, May - November 2021

June 18: Jamie Strange, The Ohio State University
“Melittology 101: An Intro to Bee Science”

July 16: Olivia Carril, author and biologist
“Methods of Collecting and Documenting Bees”

August 20: Heather Holm, author and biologist
“Insect Photography and Using iNaturalist to Observe and Document Wild Bees”

September 17: Sam Droege, USGS Native Bee Lab
“Tips and Tricks from The Handy Bee Manual”

October 15: Mary Gardiner, The Ohio State University
“Contributions of Community Science to Entomology:
Benefits for People and Nature”

November 19: Molly Martin, Bee City USA/Xerces Society
“From Community Science to Advocacy in Action: Case
Studies in Conservation”

This is a collaborative effort from: OSU Department of Entomology, The Chadwick Arboretum and Learning Gardens, and The US National Native Bee Monitoring Research Coordination Network (RCN).

Find more information and register [here](#).

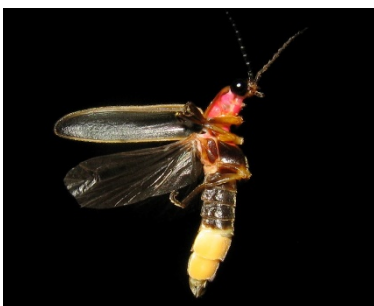


**WATCHING FIREFLIES FOR FUN AND
CONVERSATION: COMMUNITY SCIENCE
SATURDAY**

A recording of this lecture can be found on YouTube at [this link](#).

Saturday, June 12, 2021, 4 – 6 PM EST

One of the great parts of the summer is watching fireflies, but increasingly researchers are concerned that some species of fireflies may be threatened by declining numbers. To collect essential data to assess and hopefully reverse the decline, the Massachusetts Audubon Society created the Firefly Watch Citizen Science Project. Dr. Clyde Sorenson and Chris Cratsley will provide an overview of firefly species, potential threats to their populations, teach how to identify them in the field, and introduce how you can work with Firefly Watch to monitor local populations, helping conserve these beetles in all their amazing diversity.



I wish I were a glow worm,
A glow worm's never glum.
'Cuz how can you be grumpy
When the sun shines out your bum?
~Author unknown



NHSM JUNE 2021 RAFFLE

This month we are offering Green River fossil set AND a Lifetime Membership to NHSM!

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.



This month's NHSM raffle is a SURPRISE! Well, sort of. We're offering a collection of four fish fossils from the Green River formation of the Eocene. So what's the surprise? In addition, you get one fossil that has yet to be exposed! Yes, you get to experience the excitement of uncovering a fossil by carefully removing the matrix, flake by flake, until your work of natural art is fully exposed!

The unexposed fossil is a vintage package from the Ulrich Quarries. It comes with the original box and pamphlet, written by none other than the patriarch of the quarry, Wallace Ulrich. He was extremely well known for his preparatory, educational, and land preservation work, and his family has carried on the tradition. It also includes two dental picks for removing the matrix. The pamphlet tells you everything you need to know about exposing the fossil, but our staff can provide some guidance if you need it. The pamphlet also describes the fossil Syncline Lake in Lincoln and Uinta Counties, Wyoming where most of these specimens have been found.

But wait, there's more! We are also including the definitive text that explains the geology and paleontology of these world class Green River localities (Paleontology of the Green River Formation, with a review of the Fish Fauna, by Lance Grande, 2nd Edition, 1984).

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. Cut-off date to be entered is June 30, 2021 at noon.

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

2020/2021 PROPOSED MES EVENT SCHEDULE

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, regular MES lecture/meetings are currently being held virtually on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd Friday of each of 6 months coinciding with UMBC's academic year. Proposed events for the current MES membership year are:

Date	Speaker	Topic
Oct 16	Warren Steiner	Insects Associated with Local Milkweed
Nov 20	Sam Droege	State of Wild Native Bee Populations in MD
Feb 19	Samuel Ramsey	Despicable Mites: Recent Findings in the study of <i>Tropilaelaps mercedesae</i> and <i>Varroa destructor</i>
Mar 19	Mike Raupp	Cicadas-Brood X
Apr 16	Mike Turell	What Makes a Mosquito a Good Vector
May 21	Members Presentations	

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

July 2021 issue of the *Phaëton*:

Please send member news items by 9th July 2021.

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

THE DANCE OF THE DUNG BEETLE

By Sam Illingworth

A sharp aroma seeps across the sky,
 You scurry to its source;
 Working quickly to carefully craft
 A sustaining sphere of pungent spice.
 With cargo now in tow you
 Castoff across this barren sea
 In direction unknown,
 Until looking up
 You catch your breath
 And ride the Milky Way;
 Stars lit up like cat's eyes
 To guide you home.

Dawn breaks across the savannah.
 A blazing sun pounds down,
 Beating out a celestial rhythm
 Across your dampened brow.
 A heavenly pulse that
 Drives you every onwards;
 Destination unseen.

Clouds form overhead,
 Their milky breath
 Casting shadows over
 Disappearing lines.
 A cool wind drapes
 Across your forehead,
 Bringing turbulent cues
 That keep you on course
 As you stagger like a drunk
 At a roadside examination;
 Snaking along the surface
 Until the sun breaks free
 From its overcast prison
 And you slowly dance
 Back into line.



The Flightless Dung Beetle at Addo Elephant National Park, South Africa (Photo Credit: Kay-africa, via Wikimedia Commons).