

# The Entomological Society of Manitoba

# Newsletter



Volume 31 Number 1

ISSN 0836-5830

Winter, 2004

## About the ESM Newsletter

The Entomological Society of Manitoba Newsletter is published three times per year. It is a forum whereby information can be disseminated to Society members. As such, all members are encouraged to contribute often. The Newsletter is interested in opinions, short articles, news of research projects, meeting announcements, workshops, courses and other events, requests for materials or information, news of personnel or visiting scientists, literature reviews or announcements and anything that may be of interest to ESM members.

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## Editor's Commentary

With this first issue of Volume 31 of the ESM Newsletter, there is a change of personnel. Long-serving members Michael Alperyn and Nicole Lauro are handing over the now figurative pen to Pat MacKay and Mahmood Iranpour; although Pat and Mahmood are extremely grateful that Michael has been willing to hold their hands through the production of this, their first effort. Like all new newsletter editors, we are of course reminding you that this is your newsletter, and you are the source of its content. Please send us material. We have been trying to think of novel ways to extract items from you, the membership, and have come up with two minor variations on the usual begging, pleading and harassing. Since most people these days keep their heads down whenever the prospect of adding to their already heavy workload arises, we don't really expect very many of you to start chasing us with printable items of your own. So instead, we are going to encourage you to tell tales on your colleagues. If you know of someone who might have an item for us, tell us and let us see if we can get them to produce. Like all good journalists, we promise to keep our sources confidential. Speaking of journalists, that's our second idea for obtaining material. If you have an item of interest to the Society, but no time to write it up, we'll play reporter, interview you, and write it up for you. You won't be able to include it in your list of publications, but you could always add a section on media contacts to your C.V and include it there. We look forward to a flood of information between now and the next issue, which at the moment is planned for the spring. Expect it in late May or early June.

Pat MacKay & Mahmood Iranpour

## Tales from the Head Bug

As the new "head bug", I'll take the opportunity to give a brief overview of the provincial agriculture department, and what are some of the responsibilities of being an extension entomologist. The agricultural area of Manitoba is divided into about 40 agricultural districts, each of which is serviced by an agricultural representative



ESM president: John Gavloski

(known to most as ag. reps.). Ag. reps are usually the first person farmers call when they have a problem or want information. The calls ag. reps get can deal with finances, machinery, livestock management, crop establishment, pest management, etc. The 40 agricultural districts are organized into 5 agricultural regions, which are serviced by regional agronomists. The regional agronomists will assist in the running of programs in the agricultural districts in their region. The ag. reps and regional agronomists are very much generalists, in that they deal to some degree in many aspects of agriculture. Then there are provincial specialists within the agriculture department. Most provincial agriculture departments will have at least one each of an entomologist, apiarist, plant pathologist, weed scientist, soil scientist, and several commodity specialists and land use specialists. Manitoba's agriculture department is very fortunate to have 2

entomologists, myself and Brent Elliott, and 2 apiarists, Rheal Lafreniere and a second apiarist soon to be hired.

Technically, I am considered an extension entomologist, and although I am involved in research through various collaborations, my job is very different than that of a research entomologist. So what does an extension entomologist do? One of my responsibilities is to respond to requests from farmers, agricultural representatives, industry agronomists, and others for information on and identification of insects. One of the interesting things about extension entomology is that you never know exactly what is on the plate when you come to work in the morning. The busiest months for responding to requests for information are July and August, when it is not uncommon to have 20 or 30 such requests come in during a day. This is also the time of year when in-the-field presentations are planned, so part of the time is dedicated to presenting information on the latest entomological hot topics at these events. In addition to providing information on current issues of concern, another aspect of extension entomology is taking new research findings to the farmers and those involved in field scouting and the agriculture industry. These information sessions are great opportunities for doing this.

Insect monitoring programs are another responsibility over the summer. Annual monitoring programs using pheromone-baited traps are conducted to determine adult populations of diamondback moth and bertha armyworm, both potentially serious pests of canola. Adults of both species appear before the potentially damaging larval stages, and knowing in advance of the damaging stage that high populations are present and pose a risk to the crop enables farmers and agronomists time to prepare to control these insects. Data from these programs is posted on our Manitoba

Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives website and updated instantaneously as new data comes in. An annual grasshopper survey is conducted each August as well. What is assessed is the egg laying population of grasshoppers that are present. This, combined with weather data, is used to forecast what next year's population of grasshoppers may be. Another project that is on the go during the summer is the production of weekly Insect and Disease updates. On a weekly basis, myself and my counterpart in plant pathology, David Kaminski, summarize what seems to be happening in the fields, based on personal observations and observations submitted to us by others.

Winter is dominated by presentations to farmers and agronomists, and report writing. Most of the ag. rep. districts will hold an information day for local farmers where speakers give presentations on topics of interest. Insect reviews and forecasts are often a part of these meetings, so at least a couple of days a week over the winter are usually spent on the road giving presentations at these meetings. The other big responsibility over the winter is report writing. I and my counterparts in plant pathology and weed science update the "Guide to Crop Protection" each fall. This guide provides information on the pesticides currently registered for specific pests and commodities, and provides information on scouting and economic thresholds. It is the publication most often used by farmers and agronomists in Manitoba when deciding on what pesticide or strategy to use to manage a pest. Other publications include an annual "year in review" of insect problems from the previous year, the posting of the grasshopper forecast, and reviewing factsheets and Internet publications to ensure they are current. Entomological information on the Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural

Initiatives website can be viewed at: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/insects/index.html>.

Another aspect of extension entomology that is quite interesting is writing or providing information for farm newspaper such as "Farmers' Independent Weekly" and the "Western Producer" and magazines geared to farmers, such as "Top Crop Manager" and "Grain News". These publications are widely read by farmers, agronomists and ag. reps and are good ways to get information out when dealing with an outbreak or getting news of the latest entomological research to the farmers and those that work with them. Many radio stations also have farm reports or include agricultural stories in their news broadcasts, and often call looking for updates on what is happening in the field or for information on how to handle a particular problem that has developed. This is another good way to get information to the target audience quickly.

I'll wrap up by explaining some of the recent changes within the ESM. The ESM's various committees are in good shape going into the New Year. Special thanks to Michael Alperyn for his work as the past social committee chair and co-editor of the ESM newsletter, and Nicole Lauro as past co-editor of the newsletter. New committee chairs have been found for both of these positions. Pat MacKay and Mahmood Iranpour are the new co-editors of the newsletter. Rheal Lafreniere is the new social committee chair. Sheila Wolfe has generously offered to assist on the social committee as well. Desiree Vanderwel is the chair of the scientific program committee which will plan the 2004 ESM annual meeting. Thanks to all who volunteer their time for the Society.

John Gavloski,  
ESM President

## ESM ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

The 59th Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of Manitoba was held on 24 and 25 October 2003 at the Freshwater Institute and the National Microbiology Laboratory. The theme of the meeting was "Mosquitoes and West Nile Virus: Present Situation and Perspective". The submitted paper session began in the morning and continued through the afternoon of Friday, 24 October and consisted of 17 oral presentations and 3 posters, 8 of which were entered in the student paper competition. The annual banquet was organized by Micheal Alperyn (Chair of the Social Committee) and took place at the Southwood Golf and Country Club on the evening of 24 October. At the banquet the Society's 2003 Awards were presented or announced. See the winners on page 5.



A symposium on West Nile virus was held on Saturday 25 October at the Microbiology laboratory followed by a tour of the Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health in the afternoon. The five speakers for the symposium were W. Reisen, University of California; I. Barker, University of Guelph; R. Gadawski, City of Winnipeg; M. Drebot, Health Canada; and J. Kettner, Manitoba Health.



An informal mixer was held in the evening of 25 October at the home of B. Lamb and P. MacKay.

In total 63 people registered for the meeting this year, consisting of 33 regular members, 25 students, and 5 non-members. The committee wishes to thank all the speakers for their excellent contributions to the meeting. Special thanks go to Dave Rosenberg and Robbin Lindsay for arrangements at the Freshwater Institute and the Microbiology Laboratory, to treasurer Ian Wise and the others who staffed the registration desk, to David Wade who operated the projection equipment and all institutions, companies, and societies who made donations for this meeting.

The organizing committee consisted of B. Lamb and J. Gavloski, who brought experience to the table as the chair of previous years committee; R. Lindsay and R. Gadawski who helped the committee liaise with health institutions and West Nile virus researchers; D. Rosenberg who coordinated building arrangements for the meeting; M. Alperyn who acted as secretary for the committee and organized an outstanding social program; J. Gosselin, who was our extraordinary fund raiser; and P. MacKay and B. Lamb for hosting us at their home for the Meet-the-Visitors-Mixer.

Mahmood Iranpour  
Chair, Scientific Programme Committee

## ESM Award winners, 2003



ESM President Neil Holliday presents Kathleen Ryan with the Award.



ESM President Neil Holliday presents Ian Trembath with the ESM Student Achievement Award.



ESM President Neil Holliday presents Michael Alperyn with the ESM Graduate Scholarship.



Mark Lowdon was the winner of the ESM President's Prize in the Student Paper Competition.

## **ESM ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

Because the Annual Scientific Meeting was being held in two venues, and because the Saturday component included a tour of the Microbiology facility after lunch, the decision was made to hold the annual business meeting later, in conjunction with a luncheon. This was arranged for Thursday, 13 November, 2003 at the Canad Inn, 1824 Pembina Highway. The lunch was an excellent spread of soup, salad, and assortments of sandwich wraps and cakes. The entertainment was provided by Rob Roughley and Robyn Underwood, who spoke to the title “Rob and Robyn Dipping and Sweeping Across Churchill”, and described and illustrated the exploits of the teachers and students associated with an entomology course at the Churchill Northern Studies Centre, 9-23 August, 2003. The formal business meeting followed their presentation and the minutes will be provided in the next Proceedings of the Society. Items of interest which resulted in significant discussion but no formal resolution included two issues around the scheduling of ESM annual meetings. First, for the last few years, the annual meeting has been held on Friday and Saturday and some members felt that it might be time to consider going back to our former pattern of Thursday and Friday, particularly now that the Freshwater Institute where we have held our meetings at no charge to the Society, is no longer able to accommodate us on the Saturday. In the end, it was decided that the Chair of the Scientific Program in any given year could make the scheduling decision. Second, in March of 2007 the Society will be hosting the Annual Meeting of the North Central Branch of the Entomological Society of America as a joint meeting with the ESM. The Society will need to decide whether to hold a regular scientific meeting in one of, both of, or neither of the preceding and subsequent Novembers. There were several differing opinions the issue, and a decision was left to a later date. A third item discussed informally was a request by a student member that the participants in the President’s Prize Competition be provided with feedback from the judges. The complexities of doing so were discussed. Terry Galloway agreed to summarize this year’s judges comments and provide them to the students.

Pat MacKay  
Regional Director, ESM

### **ESC MEETING, Kelowna November 2-5<sup>th</sup>, 2003**

#### **THE SOCIAL PERSPECTIVE**

With almost 350 people attending this year’s Entomological Society of Canada meeting in Kelowna, BC, there were ample opportunities to meet new friends and gain additional contacts. Each day was filled with both academic and social activities; however, as I was dubbed ‘social butterfly’ of the conference, I will only address the latter.

On the first evening, there was a student mixer at the Kelowna Curling Club bar. This was held so students could become acquainted with each other at the start of the conference. The number of students who attended was very impressive, and the evening continued to Rosie’s pub in the conference hotel. The student and general receptions occurred on the second night and were held in the Kelowna Wine Museum. The great halls resounded with the sounds of laughter and voices as people enjoyed the wine and food provided. When everything was almost about to end, a loud voice called out, “PUB CRAWL”. No, it was not my voice, but being the student

representative for the ESC of course I had to go. We poured into many of the local bars and nightclubs, overtaking every table, every corner of the dance floor. I think the locals were shocked. On the final evening, the ESC banquet took place with a wonderful band. It was great to see so many people dancing! Three nights of pure delight with people who share a common interest, what more could an entomology student ask for!

Tonya Mousseau  
Graduate Student Member of the ESC Board

### **THE SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS**

As a one-time social butterfly whose wings are now too ragged to do much flitting about, I missed much (although not all!) of what Tonya describes. It therefore falls to me to describe the scientific component of the Kelowna meeting. Highlights of the meeting included Hugh Danks' Gold Medal Address, the symposium on insect adaptation in honour of Richard Ring's retirement and Richard Ring's Heritage Lecture giving his personal take on insect adaptation. There were also eight other symposia or symposium-style workshops, 54 oral presentations in four sessions of the Presidents' Prize Competition, another 54 submitted oral presentations and 58 poster presentations. These sessions ran from mid-day on Sunday to mid-day on Wednesday, making for a very intense three days. The intensity was made very bearable, however, by the venue and the amenities provided therein. At every coffee break we were provided not only with a range of beverages, but with something delicious to eat. And if a break became absolutely necessary, there was always the beautiful lakeshore walkway, where it was, we were assured by locals, colder than usual for that part of B.C. But we hardy Manitoba types didn't mind. Or at least we refused to admit to minding. The Entomological Society of B.C. provided those lucky enough to attend this year's meeting with not only three nights of pure delight, but three days of outstanding mental stimulation. Next year it's in P.E.I. That should provide more of the same. See you there!

Pat MacKay  
ESM Regional Director to the ESC Board

### **Like to frolic with a sweep-net? Love to enjoy the adulation of children? Not interested in doing classroom presentations?**

Come join us at Fort Whyte Centre on Sunday May 30 for "Insect Day". The Youth Encouragement/Public Education committee will be hosting this event geared at encouraging budding Entomologists. This will be a hands-on event where kids (and parents) can practice collecting insects and learn about local insect fauna and ecology. Volunteers are required to lead collecting groups, staff an "Ask an Expert" station, and to assist with event preparation. Contact Kathleen at [kat\\_ryan@hotmail.com](mailto:kat_ryan@hotmail.com) or 474-9257 if you can help out. (Time of the event is TBA but it will likely be in the afternoon).

Kathleen Ryan  
Chair, Youth encouragement and public education committee

## Aweme BioBlitz

June 5-6 2004

At Aweme, Manitoba

Site of the Criddle/Vane Homestead

Help us Record the Biodiversity at  
Aweme

This is an Event for Everyone

For more information contact Bill Galloway at 204-727-9655, [galloway@brandonu.ca](mailto:galloway@brandonu.ca)  
or visit [www.brandonu.ca/zoology/aweme%20bioblitz](http://www.brandonu.ca/zoology/aweme%20bioblitz)

In cooperation with the Criddle/Vane Heritage Homestead Committee



### What's a BioBlitz?

“Bioblitz” appears to be a contraction of “biological” and the German noun “blitz” which means lightning or flash. It has come to mean an intensive survey of the organisms within a restricted area over a short period of time: a rapid assessment of biological diversity. I first heard of the term in about 1997 when biologists would do a quick survey of an area that was proposed for conservation (e.g. new national park) or which was about to be impacted by economic development (e.g. flooding by damming a drainage basin). Now the area can be anywhere and any size, from backyards to urban areas to parks and other natural areas. One of the BioBlitzs that has received considerable attention is an ongoing one on New York City’s Central Park. As they have evolved, BioBlitzs have come to contain good science and good public education with biologists mingling with students of all ages, and some can even contain contests and prizes. There are often web sites where people can post their records and observations and some of these are quite sophisticated, e.g. New York City’s Central Park - <http://www.explorers.org/nycbioblitz/> - and the industrial area southeast of Chicago – <http://www.fmnh.org/bioblitz/> .

So why bother? Most of all these are a lot of fun and it is a chance to meet and mix with a wide variety of professional and amateur biologists with broad interests and backgrounds. I have never been on one of these where I did not learn an amazing amount about organisms and what they do. Another important point is that BioBlitzs carried out over a regular time span of years gives a good idea of the changes, both natural and artificial, that take place in an area.

Rob Roughley



## ESM SOCIAL COMMITTEE CORNER

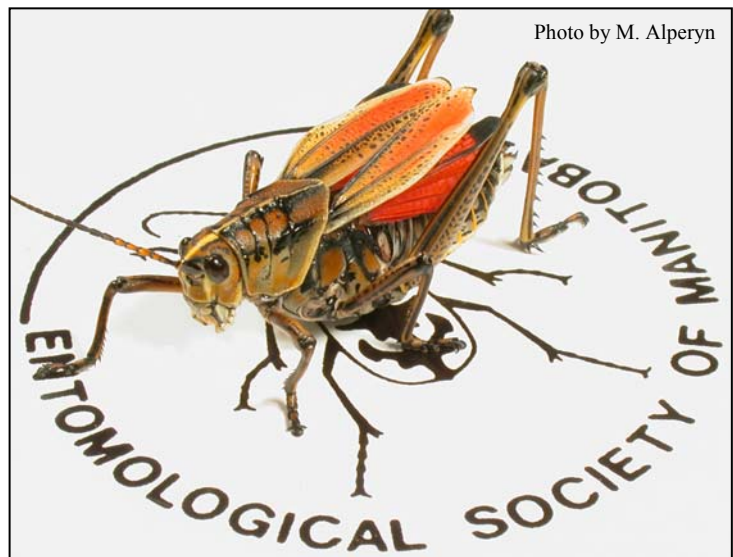
As the new social committee, we hope to be able to serve the association as well as our predecessors - they have certainly set the bar high! We are both very enthusiastic about working on this committee and have a lot of new ideas for meetings and gatherings for the upcoming year. We are also very interested in getting feedback from the membership as to what they would like to see in regards to social activities. If you would like to become a member of the social committee, or have ideas to pass along, please contact Rhéal Lafrenière, social committee chair (rhlafrenie@gov.mb.ca). We would like to welcome the new members to the ESM. We are planning our first "New Members' Social" for sometime in March - details to follow. We are also looking for presenters for our luncheon series. So if you or someone you know has an interesting presentation that you/they would like to share with the ESM membership, please let us know. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Sheila Wolfe & Rhéal Lafrenière  
ESM Social Committee

### Thank you Toronto Zoo!

On behalf of ESM I would like to thank Tom Mason from the Metro Toronto Zoo for his generous donation of insects. Tom was also extremely helpful in the coaching me through the proper bureaucratic channels. Back in November 2002 I started a correspondence with Tom in the hopes of bringing new insect cultures to Winnipeg. Let's face it, nothing enlightens youth on the wonders of entomology like live insects...exotic ones, even better. And so began my quest. Little did I know that it would take some patience and a whole wack of government paper work before some of these exotic critters ever touched 'toban soil. Well they're finally here! The ESM officially welcomes the following insect cultures: Florida Lubber Grasshopper (as seen in picture), Yellow-Bellied Congo Chafer Beetle, Thorny Devil Stick, Vietnamese Stick Insect, Malayan Wood Nymph, West African Two-Spotted Assassin Bug, Costa Rican Katydid, and African Cave Cricket.

Michael Alperyn



## New Students!

### Kim Riley

I started my Masters in Department of Entomology at the University of Manitoba in September 2003. My interest in entomology started on a horticultural work experience where I was learning about integrated pest management in floriculture greenhouses. To expand my knowledge in horticulture and entomology, I did my undergraduate degree in Horticultural Sciences at the University of Guelph. For the first two summers during my undergraduate career, I worked as research assistant learning how to use insects as biological control agents and pollinators in greenhouse vegetables. Then I was given a unique opportunity to work at CABI Bioscience in Switzerland where I learned about evaluating and using exotic natural enemies as biological control agents. After finishing off my last semester at the University of Guelph, thinking I was finished my post secondary education, I was offered the chance to go back to CABI Bioscience and start a Masters, with the University of Manitoba, looking at the potential of using *Aleochara bipustulata* as a biological control agent against *Delia radicum* (Cabbage root maggot) in canola. My project will look at the assessment of niche separation and interaction between *A. bipustulata* and other *Aleochara* spp.; using mustard seed meal as an attractant for *A. bipustulata*. I will also investigate the synchronization of *Delia radicum* with *A. bipustulata*, *Aleochara bilineata* and *Aleochara verna*. That's a quick introduction to me and my project and if you need find me this summer, you will have to look for me in a canola field in Switzerland.



### Dalila Seckar



As a recent arrival to the flatlands of Manitoba, I sometimes make erroneous suggestions like "tobogganing" as a sports activity for DEGSA. I ventured to these flatlands after residing in the hilly provinces of Upper and Lower Canada. Growing up in the boonies of southeastern Ontario on a vegetable turned grain farm allowed me to run free and explore. [And toboggan down the hill right outside my door!] After highschool, I took a tour around the country with the Op-Can programme, Katimavik. I lived with ten other young people and volunteered in Halls Harbour, NS; Brandon, MB; and Hawkesbury, ON. Following that whirlwind year, I headed north to Lower Canada for a B.Sc. in Environmental Biology at McGill University's Macdonald Campus. During the summers, I kept busy working at a provincial park and an agricultural museum. The last year of my degree, I applied for an undergraduate NSERC and decided to look for a position here in Winter-peg. Dr.

Holliday directed me to Dr. Michael Paterson, an adjunct professor with the Department of Entomology, at the Freshwater Institute. I enjoyed my summer at the Experimental Lakes Area where I can hike, canoe, and practise photography in my spare time and continued to work for Dr. Paterson through the year. In September 2003, I began my Master's degree with Dr. Paterson. My project reinvents itself regularly but plans will be firmed up for the 2004 field season. The certainties are zooplankton and enclosures in an ELA lake. I am happy to field all enquires about Katimavik, Macdonald Campus, Undergraduate NSERCs, zooplankton, or the Experimental Lakes area. Contact me at <[d\\_seckar@umanitoba.ca](mailto:d_seckar@umanitoba.ca)> or find me at my desk in the graduate room at the Freshwater Institute.

## **Meeting Announcements**

### **Entomological Society of America, North Central Branch**

Kansas City, Missouri; 28-31 March 2004

<http://esa.ent.iastate.edu/>

### **International Congress of Entomology**

Brisbane, Australia; 15-21 August 2004

<http://www.ccm.com.au/icoe/index.html>

### **Entomological Society of Canada & Acadian Entomological Society**

Charlottetown, P.E.I.; 15-18 October 2004

For information email Donna Giberson: [giberson@upei.ca](mailto:giberson@upei.ca)

### **Entomological Society of America**

Salt Lake City, Utah; 14-17 November 2004

[http://www.entsoc.org/annual\\_meeting/2004/index.html](http://www.entsoc.org/annual_meeting/2004/index.html)

### **Entomological Society of Manitoba**

Fall 2004; date and location to be determined

### **Entomological Societies of Canada and Alberta**

Fall 2005; date and location to be determined

If you have a meeting you would like listed in the next ESM Newsletter, contact the editors with the details by early May 2004

## ESM EXECUTIVE 2004

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