

The Entomological Society of Manitoba *Newsletter*



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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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Editors' Comments

This, the third and final issue of Volume 35, comes to you as winter has us in its grip rather firmly. We hope you all had a pleasant break from routine at the end of 2008 and are now well and happily launched into 2009. In



this issue we hear from our new President, Richard Westwood in the **President's Report**. There are also two reports on fall meetings: the **Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of Canada**, held in Ottawa jointly with the Entomological Society of Ontario, and the **Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of Manitoba**. There's also an updated notice for **next year's meeting of the ESC**, which will be held here in Manitoba, along with two notices related to that meeting. The first of those notices is a request for donations for the graduate students' **silent auction** fund-raiser, and the second is a call for **nominations for the Criddle Award**, to be presented at that meeting. We also introduce you to a visiting scientist and two **new student members** of our Society. Once again **Bob Wrigley** regales us with another of his insect collecting expeditions: in this issue you'll find Part 2 of 3 of his 2007 exploits. Included in this issue as usual are a list of **upcoming meetings**, and a list of the **officers of your Society**. We hope you enjoy this issue of the Newsletter, and we look forward to "talking" to you again in the late spring or early summer. Meanwhile, feel free to send us ideas for future items – Don't forget: this is your Newsletter!

Pat MacKay & Mahmood Iranpour

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Richard Westwood
January, 2009

It is a pleasure to serve as President of the Entomological Society of Manitoba in 2009. This is my second time as President, the first being almost two decades ago. While we have welcomed new members into the society over this period it is still nice to see so many familiar faces still very active in the ESM from the last time I enjoyed wielding the presidential gavel!

One thing that has often struck me over the years is how well organized the affairs of the ESM always seem to be. I am a member of several other professional societies that despite having more resources and larger membership seem on occasion to be less well organized than the ESM. I think this is a tribute to the dedication of many ESM members who strive to make the Society a very worth while organization to be part of. On this note the Society once again faces the challenge of hosting our annual meeting in conjunction with the Entomological Society of Canada in October 2009. In the past these joint meetings have allowed us to put our best foot forward and I suspect that the 2009 meeting will be no different. Over the last several years some of our members have been actively involved in the organization of the 2009 joint meeting with the ESC. Based on my impressions so far it appears we are making excellent progress with the planning and preparation activities.



For those of you that are not directly involved in the various committees in the planning for the joint meeting I urge you to volunteer your time during the meeting itself. We will need assistance in a wide variety of areas from projectionists to many other kinds of logistical help. Please be sure to check our website for updates about the fall meeting. Still on the topic of meetings I would also like to congratulate the organizers of our 2008 annual meeting. Led by meeting chair Mahmood Iranpour we were once again treated to a wide variety of excellent presentations and of course our evening party at Pat and Bob's was great. In fact, I think I was almost the last one to leave (along with Taz Stuart) at a rather late hour as I recall.

I expect 2009 will be very busy for many of our society members culminating in the October meeting. Once again if you are still interested in becoming actively involved in the fall meeting please contact one of our meeting committee chairs, either Neil Holliday or Brent Elliott.

RECENT MEETINGS

ESC Annual Meeting: 19-22 October 2008, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Ottawa Ontario

Report by Pat Mackay, ESM's Regional Director for ESC

The meeting started for me, as ESM Regional Director, at 8:30am on Saturday the 18th, when the Governing Board Meeting started. We spent the day in a comfortable but nevertheless windowless room, with food and drink supplied periodically while we discussed details, some minute, some huge in their implications, most just necessary details in the life of our national Society. The biggest set of issues continues to be the movement to a fully digital mode of communication, from instituting dues payment online to putting all the Society's publications, past as well as future, into digital form. At the same time that the Board was meeting, other attendees already in Ottawa had the choice of a tour of the National Insect Collection, or an extra symposium, on "Biology and biological control of established invasive plants in Canada".

The official start of the meeting was 1:00pm Sunday, with the Gold Medal Address by Bernie Roitberg of Simon Fraser University, with an interesting and amusing look at his version of Entomology, entitled "Think Broad, Focus Sharp". Bernie was followed by three plenary speakers on the theme of the meeting: "IDEAS: Integrating Diverse Entomological Approaches". The speakers and their topics were: Maydianne Andrade on sexual selection in spiders, John Heraty on biology and taxonomy of a group of parasitoid wasps, and Dan Janzen on barcoding Costa Rican Lepidoptera. That session was followed later in the evening by the student mixer and general reception, which provided an excellent opportunity to meet old friend and make new ones. The meeting was very well attended, over 300 registrants, so that meant that there was ample scope for interactions. Other social events included the banquet on Tuesday evening, and many informal gatherings at the well-supplied coffee breaks during the sessions and at the many excellent restaurants and pubs in the vicinity of the hotel after the sessions.

From Monday morning to Wednesday noon a series of three concurrent sessions offered much of interest to all entomological tastes and included 70 student papers in four sessions of the President's Prize Competition, 54 papers in four contributed paper sessions, and 69 papers in seven different symposia, as well as 75 posters, of which 28 were in the student poster President's Prize Competition. Based on my count and assuming that my memory is correct, the Manitoba contingent consisted of 12 registrants. Among those, there were four contributed papers, one symposium paper, and three posters. A pretty good showing in my opinion. For more details, check out the ESC's website.

ESM Annual Meeting: 13-14 November 2008, Winnipeg Manitoba
Report by Pat MacKay

The ESM Annual Meeting reverted this year to a Thursday/Friday format. Now that there is no longer any need to schedule guests speakers' flights over a Saturday night in order to qualify for inexpensive fares, which institutional memory in the Society says is why we



Some intense discussion at one of the sessions

moved to the Friday/Saturday pattern a few years ago, this change seemed a good idea. The Friday/Saturday format had become a problem in recent years, when increased security at our preferred venue, the Freshwater Institute, meant that we had to find another venue for the Saturday session. Attendance this year, on Thursday and Friday, seemed pretty comparable to recent years. There were at least 35 people at each scientific session, and at the mixer, which is a few less than in recent years, when attendance has been closer to 40. However, membership has also declined by about the same amount, so it would seem that the change did not benefit us, but also did not do us any harm. If you have an opinion on the scheduling of the meeting, either for

or against this year's pattern, please let us know. A letter to the editors of the Newsletter would be a perfect way to start a discussion about the issue.



Jonathan Vellieux receives the Student Achievement Award from ESM President Richard Westwood.

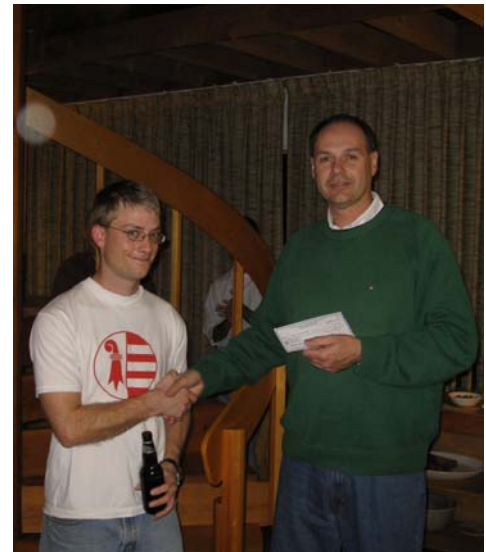
The theme of this year's meeting was "Insect Outbreaks", and our keynote speaker on Friday morning was Bill Riel of the Canadian Forest Service in Victoria B.C., speaking about the mountain pine beetle, an issue which may become important in Manitoba if the beetle adapts well to jack pine now that it's east of the Rockies. The theme of insect outbreaks was continued in the symposium on Saturday morning, with four speakers. Hector Carcamo of AAFC Lethbridge spoke about

outbreaks on canola, Brent Elliott, MAFRI, spoke about leafhopper outbreaks, Bob Lamb, AAFC Winnipeg, about wheat midge outbreaks, and Taz Stuart, Winnipeg Entomologist, spoke about bedbug outbreaks. It was a stimulating series of presentations. There were 17 submitted papers, which were scheduled on Thursday after the keynote speaker, and included nine papers in the student paper competition.

There were two social events scheduled during the meeting. On Thursday night, rather than a formal banquet, the Organizing Committee (consisting of Mahmood Iranpour (Chair), Brent Elliott, Joel Gosselin, Robbin Lindsay, Pat MacKay, Dave Rosenberg, Taz Stuart) arranged to take the guest speakers out to dinner, and invited any members who wished to, to join the group at Hu's-on-First. It was a delicious, entertaining and informal evening. On Friday night, Bob Lamb and I again hosted the Meet-the-Speakers Mixer, and enjoyed ourselves immensely. We think everyone else enjoyed themselves as well. Part way through the evening, Richard Westwood, the newly installed ESM President, gave out the awards. Rassol Bahreini, a PhD candidate with Rob Currie, received the ESM Graduate Scholarship. Jonathan Veilleux, an undergraduate in the Agroecology program, received the Student Achievement Award. Lars Andreassen, a PhD candidate with Neil Holliday, won the student paper competition. The following Tuesday, during the Department of Entomology seminar, Leanne Peixoto, who could not attend the mixer, was presented with the Orkin/Swat student Award. Leanne is in her final year of a BSc, with a major in zoology and a minor in entomology.



Rassol Bahreini receives the Entomological Society of Manitoba Graduate Scholarship from ESM President Richard Westwood



Lars Andreassen receives his prize for winning the Student Paper Competition from ESM President Richard Westwood

Entomological Societies of Canada & Manitoba

ES^CM^M2009

Winnipeg, 18-21 October

JOINT ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA AND THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MANITOBA

Hotel Fort Garry, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Noon Sunday 18 October – Noon Wednesday 21 October 2009

On behalf of the Entomological Societies of Manitoba and Canada we are pleased to invite you to attend the 2009 Joint Annual Meeting to be held at the Hotel Fort Garry.

Program Highlights

Plenary symposium: Climate Change: from Geology to Ecology

- *History of glacial Lake Agassiz and climate since the last Ice Age, as reflected in lake sediments*

Dr James Teller, University of Manitoba

- *Evolution and Climate Change: potentials and pitfalls*

Dr Camille Parmesan, University of Texas

- *Future shock: invasive insects, climate change, and Canada's forest ecosystems*

Dr Shelley Hunt, University of Guelph

Symposia:

- *Apiculture: Bee - Virus Interactions*
- *Arthropod Host-symbiont Relationships: Diversity, Distribution and Ecology*
- *Biological Survey of Canada Symposium*
- *Canadian Forum on Biological Control Symposium: Putting the 'I' Back Into IPM – How To Integrate Biological Control Effectively In IPM Programs*
- *Entomological Issues in Potato Production*
- *Graduate Student Symposium*
- *Pollination Biology*
- *Protecting Urban Forests and Structures from Insects*
- *Wood to Soil: the Role of Arthropods in Forest Nutrient Cycling*

Heritage lecture: History of Beekeeping Research in Western Canada. Donald Dixon

Submitted paper sessions, student paper competition, poster paper session

Important Dates

31 March 2009 *Registration website opens*

01 June 2009 *Paper submission website opens*

15 July 2009 *Deadline for paper submissions*

15 August 2009 *Early registration deadline*

15 September 2009 *Hotel booking deadline*

For further information, see <http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~fieldspg/ESC2009.html>

Volunteers Needed!

If you would like to help with the meeting please contact the Meeting General Chairperson, Brent Elliott, (BElliott@gov.mb.ca or 204 745 5669). We will need help before and during the meeting with activities such as assembling registration packages, work on the registration desk and projection/upload duties. Student volunteers may be wholly or partly exempt from registration fees.

The 2009 Norman Criddle Award

During the 2009 Joint Annual Meeting of ESM and ESC the Norman Criddle Award will be presented by the ESC to an amateur entomologist chosen by the ESM. The ESC website describes the award as follows:

The Society gives the Norman Criddle Award to recognize the contribution of one outstanding non-professional entomologist to the furtherance of entomology in Canada. This award may be given for outstanding work in teaching or research, community projects, publicity, popular writing, preparation of slide sets or films or any other activity that enhances the image of entomology. Candidates for the award shall preferably be amateurs or students, residing in Canada. Membership in the Entomological Society of Canada is not required. The candidate is selected by the Affiliate Society hosting the Annual Meeting.

The ESM Executive would be pleased to receive nominations from members of the Society for the 2009 Criddle Award, and will select the recipient from among the nominees. Please forward your letters of nomination, outlining the reasons for your selection, to the Secretary of the Society at the address below, to be received not later than 02 September 2009. That's about 8 months from now, so you still have lots of time to think about it, but don't leave it too long! Send your nominations to:

D. Ostermann, Secretary, ESM
Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives
204-545 University Crescent
Winnipeg Manitoba
R3T 5S6

MEMBER NEWS: Visiting Scientist

Hamid Basseri

Dr Hamid Basseri arrived in Winnipeg this past fall, to spend a year of sabbatical leave in the Department of Entomology, working with Robbin Lindsay of Health Canada's Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health, Terry Galloway of the Department of Entomology at the University of Manitoba, and Mahmood Iranpour, who has a foot in both those organizations. Hamid has a BSc from Shiraz University and a Masters from Tehran University, both in Iran, and a Masters from the University of Swansea in Wales, as well as a



PhD from the University of Wales. He currently holds an appointment at home in Iran, at the Tehran University of Medical Sciences, in the School of Public Health and the Institute of Public Health Research where he is an Associate Professor and has responsibilities as the focal point between the Iranian Department of Disease Control and the United Nations World Health Organization. He has extensive experience in research, teaching and administration, working on malaria, its insect vectors and their biology and control. Here in Manitoba, he is working on the vectoring of West Nile virus. He is here in Manitoba with his wife and two children, a teenage daughter and a younger son. One day during the late fall, he asked one of your editors (PM) why people kept making jokes about the winter. In late December he indicated that he now understood why. He picked a cold winter to come to see us. Let's hope we give him a better spring and summer.

MEMBER NEWS: Student Members

Jing Du

Jing Du, from Beijing, the capital of China, arrived in Winnipeg, Canada in 2007. She is interested in the behavior of *Aleochara Bilinesta* and *Aleochara bipustulata*, especially the foraging and oviposition cues they used. Jing began her master studies at the Department of Entomology, University of Manitoba, in 2008. Jing obtained a Bachelor of Agronomy from Department of Entomology, College of Agronomy and Biotechnology, China Agricultural University in Beijing China in 2007 and her thesis "The Action Spectra of Mating of *Helicoverpa Armigera*" won "the excellent thesis" award from the College of Agronomy and Biotechnology, China Agricultural University in the same year.



Cynthia Wlasichuk

Growing up in Manitoba, I always knew I would end up studying insects...
No, that's a lie.

Growing up in Manitoba, I always knew I would work around cows...
No, that's also a lie.

Growing up in Manitoba, I always knew I would work in Saskatchewan...
Once again, a lie.



So basically, having grown up in Manitoba, I am currently doing things that never crossed my mind. My affinity for water led me to my field assistant job working on algae at the Experimental Lakes Area. I learned I don't really want to work on algae. After that I worked another field assistant job at the ELA working on nutrient flux from sediments. I learned I don't really want to work with sediment nutrient flux. This position was coupled with working two months at the Freshwater Institute in Winnipeg where I undertook sorting benthic samples and identifying invertebrates. Success. Full success.

Now I am in the midst of a Master's project on things that had never crossed my mind. My project: The effects of varying intensities of cattle grazing on streams in the mixed-grass prairies of Grasslands National Park, Saskatchewan.

INSECT COLLECTING IN MID-WESTERN USA, July 2007

By Robert E. Wrigley

Part 2 of 3 parts:

Editors' Note: For **Part 1** see the previous issue of the ESM Newsletter. For **Part 3** see the next issue of the ESM Newsletter, due out in April/May 2009.

From July 7-25, 2007, Bob Wrigley* and Tim Arendse* went on an insect-collecting trip to the central United States, with the intent of re-visiting several favorite localities as well as finding some new ones. This was Tim's first collecting trip to the USA, so he was keen for an adventure and to see new territory..... From Winnipeg, Manitoba, our collecting route took us through the following 15 states, covering both prairie and forest communities: North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, and Minnesota.....

Other insects commonly present on the pavement were at least 4 species Water Scavenger Beetles (e.g., the 40mm *Hydrophilus triangularis*), predaceous diving beetles (*Dytiscus* and other genera), 2 species of Blister Beetle (the yellow and brown-striped *Epicauta vittata* being especially abundant), several species of June beetles (*Phyllophaga*), chafers (*Cyclocephala*), 2

species of burying beetles (*Nicrophorus* spp and *Oiceoptoma novboracense*), leaf-footed bugs, katydids, and cicadas (two species, one only 22 mm)). We found one Long-necked Ground Beetle (*Colliurus pennsylvanicus*) – an 8mm, red and black carabid conspicuous with its extraordinarily long head and pronotum. Cerambycids were surprisingly scarce, but included the Pole Borer (*Parandra brunnea*) and Tile-horned Prionus (*Prionus imbricornis*). Tim found a nice, 44mm Eyed Click Beetle (*Alaus oculatus*) with striking, large black eye spots surrounded by white, and a Reticulated Net-winged Beetle (*Calopteron reticulatum*). We picked up 2 dead Hermit Beetles (*Osmoderma eremicola*) at Paris, Tennessee, a species we have never found common in this region.

Two species of Bombardier Beetles (*Brachinus* spp), 8mm and 22 mm, lived up to their reputation -- shooting off repeatedly their spray of hot gases with loud pops, and producing a disagreeable burning sensation and staining of our fingers. Hydroquinones and Hydrogen Peroxide, stored separately, are reactants, generating repeated rapid discharges of Oxygen, Water, and Benzoquinone at 100C. I read in Eisner's "For Love of Insects" that Bombardier Beetles' remarkable blasts were first reported by student Daniel Rolander and published in a Swedish Academy of Sciences journal in 1750. He called these insects *Schuss-fliege* or "shooting flies," located their chemical-storage glands, and reported this phenomenon to Linnaeus.

Amateur beetle collectors like us naturally look for large or colorful species like Hercules and Stag beetles, and we planned the trip to be within their ranges much of the time. While Shirley Preusentanz and I picked up two dead specimens of the Eastern Hercules Beetle on a similar route and time last year, we did not find it this year. My experience is that the closer one approaches sub-tropical Florida, the more frequent this giant scarab becomes. In two past trips to that state, our group of three found at least 40 specimens, including live and dead ones at lights (e.g., gas stations). It makes quite a buzzing noise as the heavy-bodied insect flies in, smacking loudly onto the pavement. Sometimes one need only pick them off a concrete wall or tree trunk. They usually land near the periphery of a lighted zone, although they sometimes may be found hiding under objects (e.g., boards and plastic milk baskets) at the sides of buildings during the day.

We had better luck with Stag Beetles (Lucanidae) on the current trip, and found both male and female adults of *Lucanus placidus* (to 32mm), the Pinching Beetle (*Lucanus capreolus*) (to 36mm length) and the Giant Stag Beetle (*Lucanus elaphus*). Our females of the latter species averaged 38mm; the one male was 47mm; a major male can reach 60mm. July is the end of their breeding season, and dead specimens outnumbered live ones about 4 to 1. Live ones rested on walls, or when on horizontal structures, they elevated their forequarters, ready for take-off. The best places to pick them up were the garden-mulch borders around buildings such as schools and businesses, where they had been attracted to lights and then eventually died. Tim even found a Pinching Bug inside the doorway of a Waffle House restaurant. Interestingly, we have yet to find the Black Stag Beetle (*Dorcus parallelus*) (to 26 mm), which inhabits deciduous woodlands over much of our route, but apparently is not attracted to lights. Our total catch of the above three lucanids was 44 specimens, from New Bedford, Texas (3), Searcy, Arkansas (16), Dyersburg (2) and Paris (20) Tennessee, and Chester, Illinois (3). The exact number of each will have to wait until we can mount them.

The Japanese Beetle (*Popillia japonica*) was seen at six locations, but nowhere as abundantly as at Grand Tower, Illinois, on the east shore of the Mississippi River. The 1 to 4-metre-high willow shrubs lining the shore were literally bending over with the combined weight of tens of thousands of the beetles, most of which were mating. A single willow sapling often supported over 150 specimens. A sweep of the net produced handfuls of the beetles. Assembly and female pheromones have been found responsible for such large aggregations. It seemed that predators must have been avoiding them, since this exotic species was so visible to prey, although a host of birds, mammals and parasitoid flies are reported to attack it at various stages of development. Tim caught his first Brown Mantidfly (*Climaciella brunnea*) and was very impressed with its appearance, resembling a miniature (30mm) preying mantis.

The trip's biggest disappointment was the loss of shoreline and riparian habitats due to major flooding along the Red River bordering Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas. On two previous trips, I and colleagues had made extraordinary collections here, including butterflies, dragonflies, wasps, over 100 Cottonwood Borers (*Plectrodera scalator*), and observed tens of thousands of pink, black-striped weevils (*Eudiagogus rosenschoeldi*) on willows and herbs during the day, and carabids (e.g., *Omophron*, *Chlaenius*, 5 species of *Cicindela* and both species of *Tetracha*) on the sandy shore at night. However, as we crossed the bridge this time, we immediately realized that collecting was out of the question. The water had risen over six metres, right over the steep bank into the forest, and poison ivy (shrubs and vines) blocked every possible route from the upland side. I wondered how many years it would take for these biological communities to recover, but also knew that periodic flooding helped create the sand and mud shoreline habitats so richly occupied at certain periods. I proceeded to force my way for half an hour through rows of tall corn plants, only to find my way blocked by water each time. We tried another side road leading from the interstate and found over 25 Wheel Bugs (*Arilus cristatus*) (35mm) hunting on 2.5-metre high herbs. We routinely see these impressive grey reduviids (with a tall 'wheel' along the back) at night-lights, but this congregation was really impressive. We were careful to avoid the long proboscis, which we heard could give a painful bite. Finally we returned to the car, feeling sad to have witnessed such natural devastation of such a beautiful place.

The high water from heavy rains had also flooded the banks of the South Canadian River north of Minco, Oklahoma. Receding waters left a drowned cerambycid *Leptura emarginata* (27mm) on the shore. I had not taken this beautiful black and coppery-red species before. I read that it flies extremely fast and seldom descends below the tree canopy. There were also remnant populations of the usual sandy-shoreline tiger beetles - *Cicindela hirticollis*, *repanda* and *formosa*. It would be interesting to know where these species take refuge for weeks until their barren habitat appears once again. And how long can their larvae survive submergence (A week is not uncommon for some species.)? No need to ask where the Punctured Tiger Beetle (*Cicindela punctulata*) disperses to when its habitat is disturbed. It is the most-common tiger beetle in North America and can thrive in many kinds of situations, even occurring in the hundreds under a single light in towns. We saw them hunting insects at almost every locality we studied, and any number could be captured by net or hand at night.

Two other critters on Tim's wanted list were a Black Widow Spider (*Latrodectus mactans* or *hesperus*) and a scorpion. I had often come across these spiders on other excursions, sitting in webs built around holes in concrete walls in towns, or under bridges, and we did find five specimens (four at school yards) in such situations at Stuttgart, Arkansas. While two retreated with remarkable speed into the cracks, we each succeeded in capturing fine individuals. To help Tim, I blocked off the retreat of one specimen with a jar lid, much to Tim's concern. Tim's luck continued a few days later when a 6cm Bark Scorpion (*Centruroides vittatus*) glided out from beneath a garage door, and was deftly plucked up with his foot-long forceps. Interesting how careful one becomes grabbing small creatures with big reputations. During the trip, I kept reminding Tim to be alert for dangerous snakes, since we were often walking through prime habitat (hillsides with cavities, and rank growth of marsh along streams). But luck was on our side this year, as we did not see even one poisonous snake; just a small garter snake made an appearance. How close we came, we will never know.

Since Tim was not familiar with the shiny-black Bess or Passalid Beetle (*Odontotaenius disjunctus*), we stopped at a suitable deciduous forest near Fouke, Arkansas, and Tim attacked downed logs and stumps with a crow bar and youthful enthusiasm. Within 10 minutes, Tim hollered out that he had been successful, and a half-hour later he emerged from the dense woods sweaty and wet from dew, but with 8 beautiful adults (up to 40mm) and 2 larval specimens. I had traditionally used a strong aluminum garden claw to rip open logs, but sweating and hand blisters from this strenuous activity soon convinced me that Tim's crow bar was the way to go. I picked one up at the next Wal-Mart. At an interstate rest stop near Choudrant, Louisiana, we broke open a pile of cut tree limbs and brush with our tools and what a bonanza we found – mainly in moist rotting limbs about 15cm in diameter. Entire families of this communal species came tumbling out, in all stages of development from larvae (10-46mm), white pupae, newly emerged white adults, hardening light-brown adults, and fully hardened black individuals of both sexes (all preserved for the J.B. Wallis Museum). This one brush pile produced an amazing 16 specimens, indicative of the abundance of this big beetle in these woods, and what a significant role it must play in the recycling of wood. At a number of other sites in towns, we found live and dead Bess Beetles in the mulch at the base of telephone poles and gardens surrounding buildings, and even climbing up walls. Tim came to the likely conclusion that the larvae were feeding on the moist, fungus-filled wood chips.

At McCook, Nebraska, it was rather cool by nightfall (below 20C), and collecting was rather slow. However, we kept at it, checking light after light, right out beyond the town. One of the best spots was a powerfully smelly pig barn (actually acres of barns), and the odor and lights attracted an impressive variety and abundance of scarabs – dozens of *Cyclocephala* (2 species), hundreds of Hide Beetles (*Trox*), Grapevine Beetle (*Pelidnota punctata*), 2 species of June Beetles (*Phyllophaga*), 3 brown species (8-15mm), along with 3 species of darkling beetles – including a 25mm *Eleodes* with a reddish back, but a different species than *E. suturalis*, and an interestingly shaped Boat-backed Darkling Beetle (*Embaphion muricatum*). We were relieved to breathe fresh air again as we drove off into the black night.

To be continued in ESM Newsletter, Volume 36 Number 1

- * Dr. Bob Wrigley is an animal ecologist (and former Director of the Manitoba Museum, and Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre) and currently the Curator at the Assiniboine Park Zoo in Winnipeg. Tim Arendse is a keen amateur coleopterist and member of a successful farming business near Portage La Prairie. He has just started a new website called The Bug Hunter.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS*

3rd International Symposium on Biological Control of Arthropods

Christchurch New Zealand, 8-13 February 2009

<http://www.isbca09.com/>

1st International Entomophagous Insects Conference

Minneapolis, Minnesota, 27-31 July 2009

Joint Annual Meeting of the Entomological Societies of Canada and Manitoba

Winnipeg, MB, 18-21 October 2009

Contact: Brent Elliott, Brent.Elliott@gov.mb.ca

<http://home.cc.umanitoba.ca/~fieldspg/ESC2009.html>

57th Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America

Indianapolis, Indiana, 13-16 December 2009

<http://www.entsoc.org/am/fm/2009/index.htm>

Joint Annual Meeting of the Entomological Societies of Canada and B.C.

Vancouver, B.C., 2010

Joint Annual Meeting of the Canadian and Acadian Entomological Societies

Halifax, N.S., 2011

*If you have a meeting you would like listed in the next ESM Newsletter, contact the editors with the details by March 2009

ESM EXECUTIVE 2007

POSITION	PERSON	EMAIL ADDRESS
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