

The Entomological Society of Manitoba

Newsletter



CO-EDITORS

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ABOUT THE ESM NEWSLETTER

The Entomological Society of Manitoba Newsletter 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



Summer is here, insects are running, and temperatures are rising! This summer issue of the 51st edition of the Newsletter discusses *Bee City Brandon*, the elusive and spectacular *Mouhotia*, and the stellar bowling performances at the New Members Social. In addition, the search for a new co-editor continues!

Thank you to all our contributors, and our readers! If you have an insect-related story and field trip, or an entomologist packed adventure, from Manitoba to share, please consider contributing to the upcoming fall issue of the ESM Newsletter. Email us with any questions.

Phoenix: In addition, I would like to thank Justis for all of his contributions and work on the ESM Newsletter for the past 3-years. I believe that, as with the rest of the ESM members, Justis was a fantastic and wonderful editor and will be dearly missed. Thank you for all of your work and dedication, Justis!

Enjoy!

Phoenix Nakagawa and Justis Henault
ESM Newsletter Co-Editors



President's Message



Hello ESM members!

This year has been rolling along quickly and we are already nearing the end of the spring season. It has been an unusual spring in Winnipeg and most of the province - unseasonably warm for the most part and very dry. These are favourable conditions for the mosquito control work that I am involved in but challenging for many Manitobans, especially those impacted by forest fires. Let's hope the weather returns to more normal conditions for the summer and the forest fire risk improves.

It was great to see so many members attend this year's new member social *Bug Bowling Night* in April. This was our first new member social in eight years and it was wonderful to see such a great turnout! A big thank you to Cecil Montemayor and the rest of the social committee for organizing and running the event. It is important that the membership has an opportunity to get together outside of the annual meetings and I look forward to attending more new member socials in future years. If anyone has ideas on what types of social events they would like to see, please let a member of the Executive know. Bowling was a huge success, with members of all ages actively participating, but the society is always looking for new ideas.

I also had the opportunity to meet with the University of Manitoba Department of Entomology graduate students in late April. I wanted to introduce myself and hear their feedback about the society. I have also compiled a list of graduate students doing entomological research in other departments and universities in Manitoba and I plan to meet with them in the near future. Our student members are a very important component of this society and their contributions are invaluable.

Planning for this year's annual meeting and next year's joint annual meeting with ESC is underway. If you would like to volunteer with either event, please let an Executive member know. Volunteering at these events allows you to gain work experience in event planning and it also looks great on a CV or resume. The call for papers for this year's meeting will be coming out later this summer so start thinking now about what topic you want to present on. I look forward to hearing about your latest entomological endeavours this fall.

For many of us, spring and summer are our busiest times of year as the insects we work with are also at their busiest. I look forward to each year as each one has a new discovery or two, some challenges, and lots of positive outcomes. That is why I love working with insects and I hope you feel the same way too! Don't forget to share your love of insects with the next generation of entomologists and volunteer to do outreach through ESM's Youth Encouragement program, your own workplace, or other similar opportunities.

Have a safe and fantastic summer everyone!

David Wade

President of the Entomological Society of Manitoba 2024-2025



Regional Director's Message



My goal in producing this volume's Regional Director's message is to summarize information, activities, meeting announcements, etc. from the Entomological Society of Canada (ESC). In this article there are several things to communicate.

One of the activities the Entomological Society of Canada (ESC) has been working on is discussing how **future annual meetings** will be organized and run. Discussions are being led by the chair of the Annual Meeting Committee, Chandra Moffat with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Summerland. Three sub-committees have been formed to divide some of the duties;

- External input (learn about other models from Strauss, ESA, and other Canadian Societies),
- Diverse member needs (early career, employment type, etc.), and;
- Impacts of any proposed changes (regional societies).

I am a member of the latter subcommittee, and it is our role to ensure that the workload and costs to regional societies are considered. Updates will be provided as these discussions proceed.

The ESC has been contacted by the Language Production Coordinator from the Office québécois de la langue française. They were interested in publishing a **list of common insect names in French** on their website. They want this list to be endorsed by the ESC as the accepted French common name; both the ESC's Common Names Committee and Bilingual Committee were in favour of the idea. The québécois de la langue française will provide an MOU to the ESC.

The ESC has a policy that all **membership communications** must be sent in both of Canada's official languages. In discussions with the chair of the Bilingualism Committee, there was a recommendation that, for emails that do not originate from the ESC and are to be forwarded to ESC membership, there be a header added to communications indicating that ESC is aware of the original email being written in *only one* of Canada's official languages. Thus, when receiving such emails in the future, expect to see:

"This email arrived at the ESC written in only one of Canada's official languages. It is being passed on to members in that language per ESC policy."

ESC's Publications, Communications, and Bilingualism Committee will be introducing production fees to **publish in the Canadian Journal of Arthropod Identification**. The proposed fees would be a \$100 CAD flat fee, with the fee increasing to \$150 CAD if there are more than 30 images to be included in the proof. Authors will have the opportunity to apply for a fee reduction or waiver should they not have funds to support the full article production charges.

At the April ESC board of directors meeting there was a discussion on the implications, and whether to allow, any past and future published content in The Canadian Entomologist, to be released and used in sub-licensing agreements with large language providers that would potentially feed into Generative and/or Non-Generative **AI**. This is a very complex issue. Discussions took place among the Board and it was agreed to form an ad hoc committee and explore meeting with a legal representative with expertise in this area for the upcoming June meeting.

Reminder: the 2025 **Joint Annual Meetings** of the Entomological Societies of Canada and Alberta are in Calgary, AB, from Sunday, Oct. 5th, to Wednesday, Oct. 8th. The theme of this year's meeting is *New Bugs Rising*, a reference to arthropod species expanding their existing ranges within Canada, are newly established in Canada, or are on the horizon of becoming new inhabitants of Canada. The conference location is the Best Western Premier Calgary Plaza Hotel and Conference Centre. Information on registration, accommodations, symposiums, etc. can be [found here](#).

The ESC is still searching for a **co-secretary**. If anyone is interested, or knows of someone that may be interested in serving in this role, please let me know, and I can forward this information to our current ESC president or co-secretary.

For those looking for a career in entomology or graduate student positions, don't forget to periodically check the "[Opportunities](#)" portion of the ESC website.

John Gavloski

Regional Director to the Entomological Society of Canada





From the ESM Executive



ESM Bowling New Members Social 2025

Cecil Montemayor, Social Committee Chair

The ESM New Members Social returned for the first time since 2017, making this year's event a meaningful and well-received one. The Bug Bowling Night, organized by the ESM Social Committee, was held at Lizzie Lanes on April 10th, 2025.

The event brought together 50 participants with the goal was to provide a relaxed, family-friendly space for ESM members to connect and socialize. The evening began with welcome remarks from ESM President David Wade, followed by a brief event overview by ESM Social Chair Cecil Montemayor. Attendees enjoyed delicious Niakwa pizzas, drinks, and an insect-themed bingo game.

The highlight of the night was the bowling tournament, with prizes awarded to the top scorers in each of the seven lanes. Winners received custom vinyl-printed t-shirts, handcrafted by Samantha Currie, featuring a logo designed by Cecil.

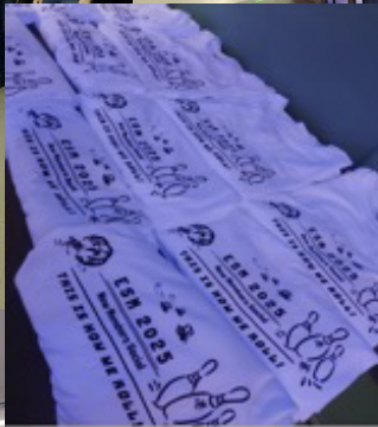
Bug Bowling Night Tournament Winners:

1. **Craig** – Guest of new member Vanessa Siemens
2. **Shayla Woodland** – New Member
3. **Amanda Turiff** – New Member
4. **Desiree Vanderwel** – Regular Member
5. **David Wade** – Regular Member and ESM President
6. **Roxanne Georgison** – Regular Member
7. **John** – Guest of new member Aleksandar Zashev

Congratulations to all and thank you for participating!

Special thanks to David and Lisa Capar for their ongoing support, and to Sheila Wolfe, Shayla Woodland, and Elaine Martineau for their valuable ideas and teamwork as part of the ESM Social Committee. Additional thanks to Justis Henault and Phoenix Nakagawa for their helpful suggestions and to Sammy for the vinyl-printing of the shirts.

The ESM Social Committee hopes everyone had a great time. We look forward to seeing you at the next ESM social event!



Call for Newsletter Co-Editor

Justis Henault intends to step-down as Newsletter Co-Editor at this year's AGM (or sooner if a replacement can be found). Since 2022, Justis has enjoyed Co-Editing the Newsletter for the membership of the Entomological Society of Manitoba! Going forward, there are other ways in which he wants to spend his volunteering time.

This is an **opportunity to Co-Edit the Newsletter of the ESM!** As Co-Editor, you co-facilitate the exchange of information pertinent to ESM members. Secondly, the Newsletter Co-Editors produce a brief report at the Annual General Meetings (please refer to "Executive position and committee descriptions" on the "Committees" page of the ESM website).

For ESM members with interest in this opportunity, please contact Justis Henault (henaultjps@gmail.com) and Phoenix Nakagawa (tyrone.nakagawa@gmail.com) at your earliest convenience!

Call for Secretary

Sheila Wolfe intends to step-down as ESM Secretary and would like to have the position filled **as soon as possible**. As an avid volunteer, we would like to thank Sheila for her service.

This is an **opportunity to be the Secretary of the ESM!** As Secretary, you issue notice and record minutes of ESM meetings and be the conduit between the Executive and Membership. You are also bear the Seal of the Society! (for more information, please refer to "Executive position and committee descriptions" on the "Committees" page of the ESM website).

For ESM members with interest in this opportunity, please contact David Wade (entsocmanitobapresident@gmail.com) and Sheila Wolfe (entsocmanitobasecretary@gmail.com) at your earliest convenience!

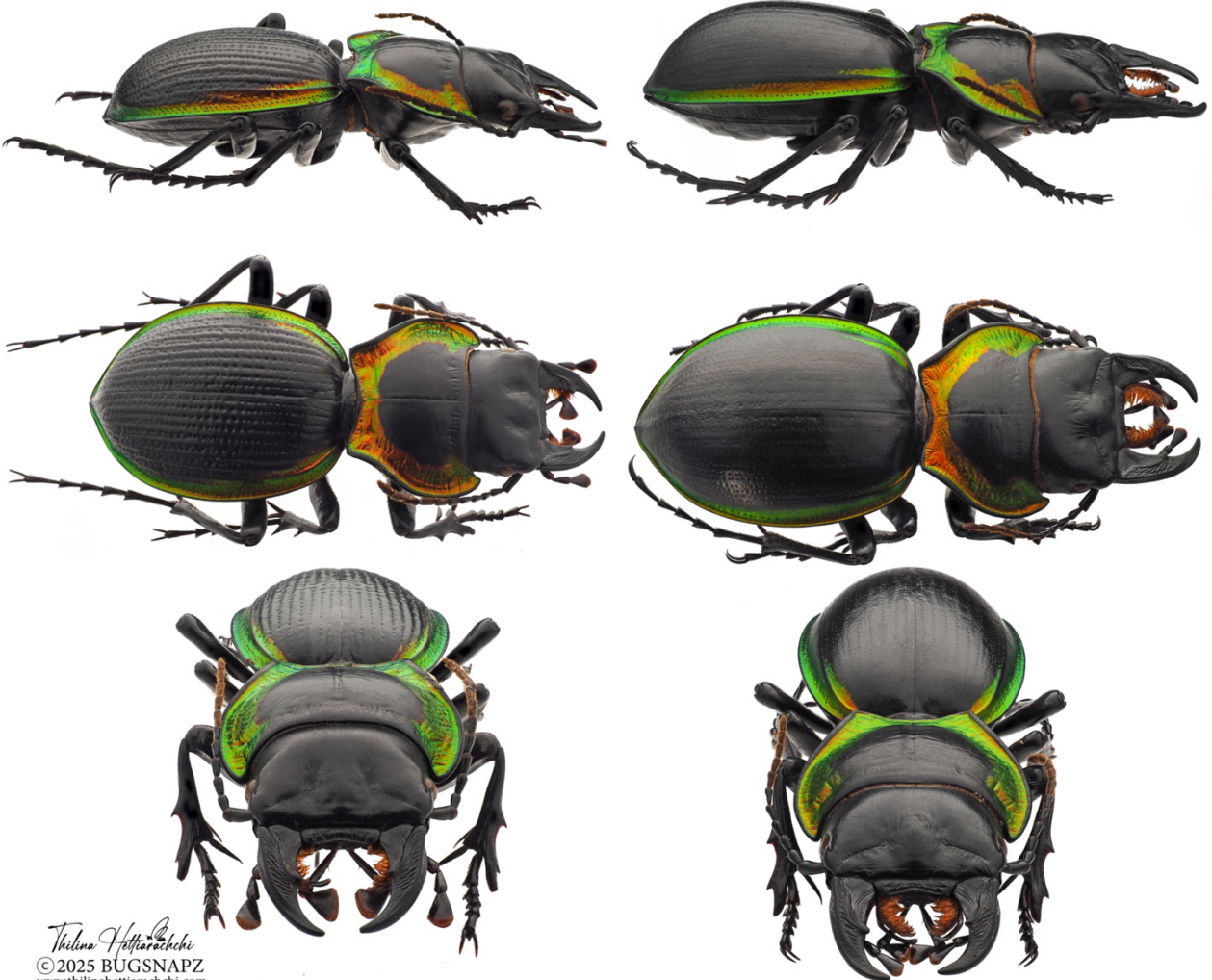


Submitted Articles



***Mouhotia* Laport de Castelnau 1862 (Coleoptera, Carabidae, Scaratinae): An Intriguing Beetle from Southeast Asia.**

Robert E. Wrigley and Thilina Hettiarachchi (photographer)



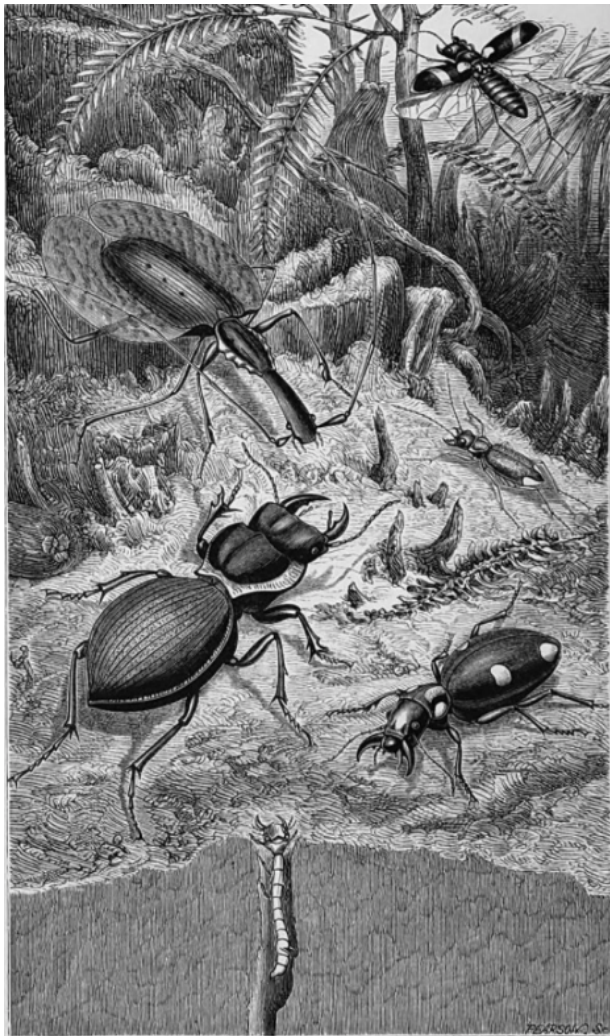
Thilina Hettiarachchi
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www.thilinahettiarachchi.com

Mouhotia gloriosa gloriosa (left, 47 mm) and *Mouhotia convexa* (right, 55 mm).

The apterous genus *Mouhotia* is one of the largest (39-59 mm) and striking members of the Carabid family, with distinctive colouration – black with wide bands of brilliantly iridescent orange, copper, red, green, or violet along the basal and lateral margins from the pronotum to elytra. The 18 prominent striae with close punctures of the elytra are in marked contrast with the glabrous head and pronotum. Andrewes (1929) pointed out that a remarkable character is the absence of nearly all tactile setae on the body. Its common name is Coppery-bordered Ground Beetle.

Three species (4 taxa) have been described:

- *M. gloriosa*, with two subspecies:
 - *gloriosa* Laporte de Castelnau 1862 (China, Thailand, Laos)
 - *planipennis* Pouillaude 1914 (Thailand)
- *M. batesi* Lewis 1879 (Myanmar, Thailand)
- *M. convexa* Lewis 1883 (Thailand, Laos)



Mouhotia gloriosa depicted in the lower-left corner of the illustration in Wood

Pouillaude (1914) provided a preliminary key, indicating that the form of the elytra and striae punctuation served to distinguish the species. Andrewes (1929) described the genus and *M. batesi* in great detail; Mawsley (2011) published a revised key of the three species.

After its discovery in 1862, *M. gloriosa* was thought to be rare, with few specimens represented in scientific collections for over a century. In the late 1900s, collectors in Thailand and Laos found large numbers in tropical forests (Andrews 1929), and since then have supplied a steady demand for commercial trade. Hawkswood et al. (2021) recorded

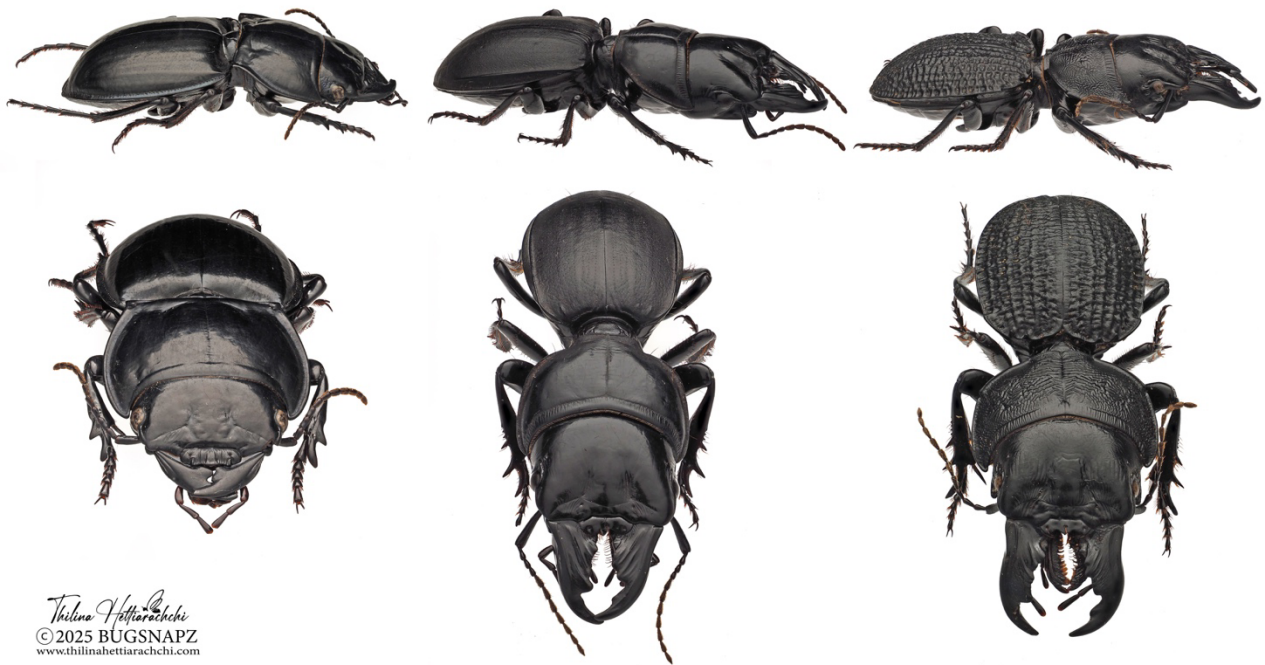
Mouhotia was named after Henri Mouhot, a French naturalist and explorer, who first recorded the species in Laos. Wood (1874) pointed out that Hermann Rudolph Schaum proposed the name *Scaritarchus midas* in 1862, only a few months after Castelnau named *Mouhotia gloriosa*, which in Wood's view was preferable, but not permitted under taxonomic rules. The two terms translated to "*chief or arch of the scarites with golden lustre*," referring to the beetle's great size and colour. Wood described the species as "...thickly and stoutly built, possessed of enormously powerful jaws, and, in consequence of its long legs, stands rather high from the ground." He pictured *M. gloriosa* on plate 1, figure 6, of his book *Insects Abroad*.

Mouhotia practice the identical predatory strategy of other scarabines (e.g. *Crepidopterus*, *Scarites* and *Pasimachus*), the latter two species I have observed waiting motionless for passing prey on numerous nights. Several videos on the internet show a [Mouhotia individual feeding on a millipede](#).

Limited information is known about these species' distribution, ecology and food habits. Lewis (1879) wrote:

"If I rightly understand the habits of these insects [*M. batesi*]... they burrow into the banks of rivers which run through large alluvial plains, and then sit watching for prey at the orifices of their holes."

In this regard, as with many species of carabids, eggs are laid in moist soil or leaf litter, where they have ample moisture and are somewhat protected from predators. The larva lives underground and under the cover of rocks and logs, while the adult inhabits the leaf litter, under foliage, and on the bark of trees (PictureInsect n.d.). Most records are from May to August, and are mainly absent from November to February. (iNaturalist n.d.).



From left to right: *Pasimachus strenuus* (Florida 33 mm), *Scarites madagascariensis* (Madagascar 40 mm), and *Crepidopterus decorsii* (Madagascar 43 mm).

Three taxa of *Mouhotia* are represented in my collection: *M. gloriosa gloriosa* from Thailand, *M. gloriosa planipennis* from Thailand, and *M. convexa* from Laos. The wide body shape and pronounced mandibles of *Mouhotia* beetles remind me of our local carabid *Pasimachus elongatus*, which is considerably smaller at 28 mm. Perhaps someday I will have an opportunity to travel to Thailand and experience the thrill of finding an individual of *Mouhotia gloriosa* hiding under a log. It is a marvel of the insect world.

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Bee City Brandon: Updates, Hopes, and Future!

Sherry Punak-Murphy, *Chairperson of Bee City Brandon & insect enthusiast!*



In May 2018, we approached the City of Brandon Council about applying for a *Bee City* designation for Brandon. Our motion was unanimously supported and, on 18 May 2018, we officially became a *Bee City*; we were the 15th city in Canada to be designated. Now, there are over 87 bee cities, 22 bee campuses and 82 bee schools. We are still the only *Bee City* in Manitoba, designated by *Bee City Canada* and *Pollinator Partnership*. Although we enjoy the title, we are hoping that other communities in Manitoba will apply. We are always available to help any community, school or group help with the application for a designation with *Bee City Canada*.

Our mandate, as an Official *Bee City*, has three major pillars:

- To educate the public on the importance of native pollinators and plants to our ecosystem.
- To promote the creation of native prairie gardens.
- To celebrate our native pollinators in all their beauty during **Pollinator Week** which runs the third week of June every year.

Bee City Brandon is a small committee consisting of Brandonites who are passionate about nature and want to make a difference in a small way for our native pollinators. We come from a diverse background, including insect enthusiasts, biologists, artists, gardeners, city employees, and students.

We recently were asked by the City of Brandon if we could 'naturalize' and make Eleanor Kidd Park a pollinator garden. Eleanor Kidd Park was a Victorian garden with beautiful annual flowers tended by our local gardening clubs. Unfortunately, early in 2011, the area was flooded, and Eleanor Kidd Park has been vacant ever since with only the original infrastructure standing. Last year, we secured funding from the *Central Assiniboine Watershed District* to purchase some native plants from *Skinner Native Seeds* and *Prairie Originals*. Volunteers planted plugs and seed was spread during spring of 2024; this year, with yet another grant from *Brandon Area Community Foundation*, we were able to purchase more native plant plugs which will be planted May/June. All of the plants are native to Southwest Manitoba and this year we have plants blooming! The City of Brandon is excited to see

this Park once again be used, as are the residents. We have planned to have educational signage in the area for Eleanor Kid Park to be a place for pollinators, plants and people. We have lofty goals with our hopes that the area will be a place where people relax and enjoy and learn about the natural environment in a controlled setting. We want to work closely with Indigenous groups in the area and have their knowledge passed along to the people visiting the park. Hopefully, some beautiful artwork will be commissioned for the area, celebrating our hard-working native pollinators.

We also do presentations to anyone who asks us to come out and talk about pollinators. It is always interesting when we state that Manitoba has over 390 different species of bees and how the participants react. Young and old say they thought there were only two types of bees, honey and bumble. We also received an amazing gift from the *J.B. Wallis/R.E. Roughley Museum of Entomology* of bee specimens we can use to show at presentations. People are amazed at the diversity and the beauty of the species we showcase.

It is so wonderful to see the reactions when we mention other insects and animals that also pollinate our plants. We even talk about mosquitos and their importance in pollination for plants in other locations in the world which always results in groans and gasps. We always stress the importance of all insects and try to answer the questions and concerns people have about them. If anyone has any ideas on how we can improve our presentations with neat trivia, we would love to hear from you.

We work closely with *Bee Better Manitoba* to get the word out about our native pollinators, but we are more focused on the City of Brandon and surrounding Westman region. We also are developing some interesting partnerships such as with the Art Gallery of Southwest Manitoba, Brandon School Division, Brandon University, and the John Howard Society (our latest addition). We are going to work with the John Howard Society to provide an opportunity for men in transitional housing to be land keepers of the Eleanor Kidd Garden in 2026.

We have two projects in iNaturalist for Bee City Brandon, one for bees, the other for lepidoptera. We have over 100 observers who have documented 66 bee species within the City of Brandon and over 60 observers of 96 species of lepidoptera! One goal is to create a guidebook of easy to recognize pollinator species for the City. Brandon actually has an official bee, the Orange-belted Bumble Bee



(*Bombus ternarius*); at first, we thought was an easily recognizable species until we discovered through iNaturalist that is hard to distinguish from the Hunt's Bumble Bee (*Bombus huntii*), our most observed species in the City. Our poster for the Official Bee actually has a photo of the Hunt's Bumble Bee. It wasn't until this year we got it properly identified and discovered it wasn't the Orange-belted. We now use that misidentification on our part as a learning tool to show people about the diversity of our bee species and how difficult it is to identify bees.

Our main purpose is to educate Brandonites and Westman about the importance of native pollinators and plants, and like the 'little ones that rule the world', we are a small but mighty group.

Check out our website www.BeeCityBrandon.com

Email us at BeeCityBrandon@gmail.com

Check us out on Facebook and Instagram @BeeCityBrandon

If you have any ideas for us for educational purposes, or you would like to donate just drop us a line.



Updates From ESM Members



Robert Wrigley Led *Gray Hare* Tour of the Ste. Annes Natural History Museum





On May 14, Robert Wrigley led a group of 16 naturalists called the *Gray Hares* to visit his friend Jim Reimer's natural history museum in Ste. Anne, Manitoba. With over 200 members, the *Gray Hares* are a subgroup of Nature Manitoba (formerly the Manitoba Naturalists Society), which schedules one or more activities (predominantly hiking and birding tours) every week of the year. From the numerous complimentary

comments, the members were enthralled with the diversity and quality of the thousands of specimens on display in Jim's two exhibit buildings, which formerly stored Jim's bee-keeping equipment (his main former business occupation). Central to the exhibit halls were several large displays of local and exotic butterflies, beetles, and other arthropods, which attracted much attention. There was discussion of having this excursion repeated in the future. The tour ended with a visit to the vast gravel-extraction operation behind Jim's house, owned by his family, with two lakes that provide habitat for waterfowl and fish. Jim's museum was featured in the 48(2) issue of the ESM Newsletter.





Recent Member Publications



NEW!

View and read the wonderful work done by our very own members! If you would like to have your publications in the next issue, please email the Newsletter Co-Editors for more details!

From the Bobiwash and Gibbs Labs:

Massimo, M, Krul, E, Miller, R, Gibbs, J, & Bobiwash, K. (2025) Non-native plants in road verges attract pollinators despite associated declines in native flowers. *Global Ecology and Conservation* 58: e03489. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gecco.2025.e03489>

From the Currie Lab:

Chapman, A, McAfee, A, Wrightson, KLC, Magaña, AA, Tarpy, DR, Fine, JD, Rempel, Z, Peters, K, Currie, RW, Hoover, SER, & Foster, LJ. (2025). Honey bee egg composition changes seasonally and after acute maternal virus infection. *Sci. Rep.* 15(1):10418. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-025-94670-2>

Colwell, NJ, Pernal, SF, & Currie, RW. (2025). Mechanical transfer of honey bee (Hymenoptera: Apidae) virus sequences to wax by worker traffic and aerosolization. *J. Insect Sci.*, 25(3): 9. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jisesa/ieaf037>

Tran, L, Lansing, L, Cunningham, M, Ho, J, Deckers, T, Newman, T, Wu, L, Gregoris, AS, Zorz, J, Muntz, L, Lee, K, Trépanier-Leroux, D, Conflitti, IM, Pepinelli, M, Walsh, EM, Morfin, N, Powell, JE, Moran, N, Hoover, SE, Pernal, SF, Currie, RW, Giovenazzo, P, Guzman-Novoa, E, Jabbari, H, Foster, LJ, Zayed, A, Ortega Polo, R, & Guarna, MM. (2025). Gut microbiome metagenomic sequences of honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) exposed to crops. *Microbiol. Resour. Announc.* 14:e00731-24. <https://doi.org/10.1128/mra.00731-24>

McAfee, A, Metz, BN, Keana Du, PC, Allen, CW, Frausto, L.A., Swenson, M.P., Phillips, K.S., Julien, M., Rempel, Z., Currie, R.W., Baer, B., Tarpy, D.R., & L.J. Foster. (2025). Factors affecting heat resilience of drone honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) and their sperm. *PLoS ONE* 20(2): e0317672. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0317672>

McAfee, A, Alavi-Shoushtari, N, Labuschagne, R, Tran, L, Common, J, Higo, H, Pernal, SF, Giovenazzo, P, Hoover, SE, Guzman-Novoa, E, Currie, RW, Veiga, PW, French, SK, Conflitti, IM, Pepinelli, M, Borges, D, Walsh, EM, Bishop, CA, Zayed, A, Duffe, J, Guarna, MM, and Foster, LJ. (2025). Regional patterns and climatic predictors of viruses in honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) colonies over time. Sci. Rep. 15: 286. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-024-79675-7>

From the Gibbs Lab:

Killewald, M, & Gibbs, J. (2025). Floral Strips Adjacent to Rotationally Managed Crop Fields Significantly Increase Nesting Density and Support Pollen Foraging of Leafcutter Bees. Agric. Ecosyst. Environ. 392: 109735. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agee.2025.109735>

Hinojosa-Díaz, IA, Martínez Cervantes, AC, & Gibbs, J. (2025). Discovery of the males of *Lasioglossum (Eickwortia) hienae* and *L. (E.) alexanderi*, with new distributional records for the species (Apoidea, Halictidae). Zookeys 1228: 53-67. <https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.1228.136718>

Breland, SJR, Turley, NE, Gibbs, J, Isaacs, R, & Brudvig, LA.. (2025). Land-use legacies affect flower visitation network structure after forest restoration. J. For. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s44392-025-00014-3>



ESM Executive & Committees



2024-25 EXECUTIVE

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