

The Entomological Society of Manitoba Newsletter



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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.

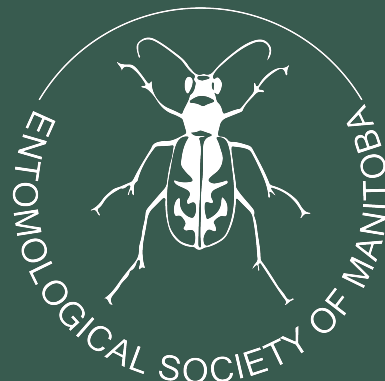




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Editors' Comments



Summer has ended, but the research still runs! This Fall-Winter issue of the 51st edition of the Newsletter discusses the summer time summer time outreach by Robert Wrigley and the raft-filled adventures of Todd Lawton. In addition, the search for a new co-editor continues! Thank you to all our contributors and 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 Spring issue of the ESM Newsletter. Email Phoenix with any questions. Enjoy!

A Farewell from Justis Henault: After 3 years as Co-Editor of the Newsletter, this issue will be my last. I enjoyed getting the first look at articles before crafting an engaging newsletter with authors, and collaborating with the ever-supportive Phoenix, of course. Looking forward to reading about fun adventures, announcements, and more in future issues!

Phoenix Nakagawa and Justis Henault
ESM Newsletter Co-Editors



President's Message



Greetings ESM members,

I hope everyone has had a successful entomological season. For my profession, a successful year means no mosquito fogging in Winnipeg. The combination of the dry weather and our mosquito larvicide program resulted in that goal being met. For others, success may be collecting good, meaningful data for your field season or collecting an insect you haven't collected before or finishing a manuscript you have been working on. However success looks like for you, you need to celebrate when you are able to achieve it. Sometimes we let the things that were unsuccessful disproportionately skew our view on how the season went so please be mindful of that and stay positive.

As entomologists working in Manitoba, the majority of us only have a portion of the year in which to do our work or research so we must make sure we are ready when the insects we are working with are active. As such, our work typically follows a project management style cycle that repeats itself each year: plan, gather, execute, analyze, and review. Having a career in mosquito control, I often get asked the question, "What do you do in the winter?" The execution of a mosquito control season is only a portion of the work that is involved in having a successful year. It takes lots of planning, gathering of resources, data analysis, and review to keep the program working efficiently and effectively. The same goes for running our society. A lot happens behind the scenes to keep everything running smoothly and it is strictly done by volunteers. Each person involved plays a pivotal role and that is why it is important to keep every position filled and be always looking for a successor so that there is continuity. I encourage all members to take on roles or to help in some capacity. Doing so lessens the burden of each volunteer and keeps the energy level and enthusiasm up.

It is hard to believe that my term as President is coming to an end. The year as your President went by quickly and I want to thank everyone in the society for making it a successful one term. It has been a great experience; I should not have waited 25 years to take on the role for the first time. I am also looking forward to the exciting year ahead as we are hosting the Joint Annual Meeting in 2026! This event requires a lot of preparation, and the organizing committee is already working hard on it. While the ESC helps with the organizing, most of the work is done by our society and it will take many volunteer hours. If you haven't done so already, please consider volunteering to help with this event.

Sincerely,

David Wade

President of the Entomological Society of Manitoba 2024-2025



Regional Director's Message



Hello ESM Members,

The **2026 Joint Annual Meetings of the Entomological Societies of Canada and Manitoba** will be held at the Canada Inns Destination Centre Polo Park in Winnipeg, from Sunday, Oct. 4th to Wednesday, Oct. 7th, 2026. As this is a large event to host, volunteers are needed for the preparation and running of these meetings; the more people we can have involved in the various tasks of hosting a national meeting, the easier it will be for all volunteers. Among these tasks, volunteers are needed to help with audio/video needs of the meeting. Consider helping with one of the many tasks that we need help with. For more information on volunteer opportunities, please contact Vincent Herve, Brent Elliott, or myself.

During our ESC Board of Directors meeting on June 19th, aspects of the implementation of the **strategic plan** were considered. Discussions took place around how the ESC can recruit new members; committee ideas included public outreach as well as hosting a student and early career researcher's symposium in the future. Another proposal was offering students free ESC membership in exchange for contributions to ESC, e.g. getting involved with a student symposium or speaking at an event. There was also a suggestion of offering discounted first-time memberships to attract new members. Regarding other strategic plan implementation topics, the new **The Canadian Entomologist contract** with Cambridge University Press is currently with lawyers for review and in progress.

The Communications, Publications and Bilingualism Committee reviewed the relevance of the **Bulletin of the Entomological Society of Canada**. In the report, the committee suggested that the Bulletin is relevant and should continue with a few amendments to how the Bulletin information is distributed

The ESC is still in need of 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. ESC is also looking for a **chair for the Heritage Committee**. This is an important committee as they are responsible for keeping in touch with retirees, sending letters of condolences when member's pass, etc.

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: <https://esc-sec.ca/opportunities-2/>. There is one with an October 15th deadline for PhD and MSc Opportunities in *Global Change Ecology* at the University of Guelph.

John Gavloski

Regional Director to the Entomological Society of Canada





From the ESM Executive



ESC Student Scholarship Recipients from Manitoba

Two students from the Department of Entomology won Entomological Society of Canada Scholarships this year. The students did not attend the ESC meeting in Calgary, so the award presentations were made by me in Winnipeg.

Cecil Montemayor Aizpurúa received an Entomological Society of Canada Postgraduate Scholarship (Ph.D.). She is a Ph.D. student of Dr. Alejandro Costamagna.



Cecil Montemayor Aizpurúa and Neil J. Holliday
(Photo by Raquel Chinchin Talavera)



Thilina Hettiarachchi and Neil J. Holliday (Photo by Raquel Chinchin Talavera)

Thilina Hettiarachchi received the Entomological Society of Canada Keith Kevan Scholarship, which is awarded to a graduate students studying systematics. He is a Ph.D. student co-supervised by Drs Jason Gibbs and Kyle Bobiwash.

Congratulations to both students for their hard work!

Neil J. Holliday

Call for Newsletter Co-Editor

Justis Henault has stepped-down as Newsletter Co-Editor as of this year's AGM. 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 and Phoenix Nakagawa (tyrone.nakagawa@gmail.com) at your earliest convenience!

81st ESM Annual General Meeting

Theme: Insects and Microbes: The Good, The Bad, The Weird

We welcome our keynote speaker, Bradley J. White, PhD. Dr. White is the lead scientist on the Debug project at Google, and will present on the mass release of sterile mosquitoes to eliminate the ones that carry disease. A variety of researchers will deliver complementary presentations on insect-microbe interactions during our symposium. Attendees and student competitors will be able to participate in-person. Abstracts will be published in the next volume of the Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Manitoba.

October 24, 2025: Canad Inns Destination Centre Fort Garry - 1824 Pembina Hwy.

October 25, 2025: Department of Entomology (Room 219), 12 Dafoe Road, University of Manitoba campus.

Registration: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd-VorNeMxsZ9Q0DZ2q_f2m8MyzC5il7XcshcQk6lsv5y2_LQ/viewform

Website: <https://entsocmb.ca/meetings.html>



Submitted Articles



Old School Carabidae

Todd Lawton

Platypatrobus lacustris Darlington 1938 is a fascinating ground beetle. A "relic," this species has ancestral characteristics such as multiple setae on elytral intervals one, three and five as well as on the sides of the pronotum. According to Laroche and Larivière 2002, *P. lacustris* is known to be a skilled burrower and swimmer. Its habitat preferences remained a mystery even after being described; few specimens were collected in the decades following, typically found at artificial light sources. Henri Goulet postulated that due to the apparent rarity of *Platypatrobus* sp. they must have a specialized habitat. Dr. J. P. Darlington, who described *Platypatrobus*, pointed out that unlike allied genera, *Platypatrobus* sp. commonly had mites. Dr. E. Lindquist identified the mite as *Protodinychus* sp. Evans 1957 which is associated with beaver lodges. Goulet was able to collect over 50 specimens of *Platypatrobus* sp. under wood debris while investigating a drained beaver pond; the mystery was solved! *Platypatrobus* specimens remain uncommon to rare and typically require focused effort to obtain them.

Knowing that *Platypatrobus* had been previously recorded in Manitoba, I hoped to eventually acquire a few specimens during my general collecting across the province. On a summer trip to northern Manitoba in 2022, I spotted a beaver lodge with a drained pond on Hwy 6 near Thompson. It was apparent the beavers and dam had been removed by a highway crew earlier that year. Taking advantage of the opportunity I set a couple of small pitfall cups on the lodge. When I returned four days later I had two large *Pterostichus* sp. Bonelli 1910 specimens in my traps; I was disappointed! Based on their size I assumed they were either *P. melanarius* Illiger 1798 or *P. corvinus* Dejean 1828, both very common species. Fortunately I decided to save the specimens; I wondered if the record could be a range extension. In late July of 2022, my Thompson traps also captured a single *Platypatrobus*!

Once I mounted and examined the *Pterostichus* specimens I discovered they were *P. castor* Goulet and Bousquet 1983, a first record for the province. Like *Platypatrobus*, *Pterostichus castor* are castor-obligates, found only in association with beavers. A week later I set a small pitfall trap on a vacant beaver lodge in eastern Manitoba near Manigotagan and captured a teneral *P. castor*. Encouraged by my success, I set pitfalls on vacant beaver lodges during the summers of 2023 and 2024.

Vacant beaver lodges are generally accessible when the associated ponds have drained but this typically involves winding routes over higher ground. The soft bottoms of beaver ponds are difficult to cross and boots often get stuck, and sometimes pulled off, by the sticky mud. There were times when I walked on large mats of floating vegetation, similar to a floating bog, lucky that I didn't fall through! I also used hip waders and vinyl rafts when there was deep water, an intimidating task for someone who can't swim. During cold, fall mornings I carried a shovel to break a path through any ice;

depending on both rainfall and the dam conditions, vacant lodges were either muddy or surrounded by ponds. My rafts required frequent repairs due to the sharp, submerged obstacles I encountered.

I captured many other interesting ground beetles on beaver lodges and around dry beaver ponds: *Clivina fossor* Linnaeus 1758, *Oodes fluvialis* LeConte 1863, *Bembidion occulator* Notman 1920, and *Xestonotus lugubris* Dejean 1829; all were first records for Manitoba. Recently I found two additional species which are new to the province, a *Bembidion* sp. Latreille 1802 and *Brachinus* sp. Weber 1801. I also captured *Agonum metalliscens* LeConte 1854, *A. octopunctatum* Fabricius 1798, and *A. gratiosum* Mannerheim 1853, *Amara avida* Say 1823, and *A. pallipes* Kirby 1837, three species of *Anisodactylus* Dejean 1829, four species of *Bradycellus* Erichson 1837, *Oxytelus pusillus* LeConte 1854, and others. I even caught some *Parcoblatta* Hebard 1917; yes, beaver houses have roaches!

My pitfall sampling in eastern Manitoba revealed that relatively few carabidae species were found around *Typha* (cattail) dominant wet areas but beaver ponds, wet, dry or in transition, generally had a wide variety of species, often changing with water levels and the stages of plant succession. A pond may be drained and become vegetated mud flats in the first year but there's no telling when and if a beaver will reoccupy the land and create a new pond. When I set pitfalls by beaver ponds in spring I have no idea if the habitat will be dry or wet by fall. I was surprised that most vacant lodges were rebuilt and reoccupied by beavers within a couple of years. New beaver lodges may be successively built on old ruins, making them higher, better protected and stronger, a strategy which was also used by ancient humans; additionally both humans and beavers reuse ideal sites along waterways. Many old beaver dams and lodges are still visible, presenting as grassy ridges and mounds in low open areas near Manigotagan.

In September of 2024 I captured a couple *Platypatrobis* on a beaver lodge in eastern Manitoba and decided to try a new approach before the season ended. I was very successful, acquiring an additional 28 adult specimens and 20 larvae; this technique will be documented in a forthcoming paper. I also tried a blacklight on a lodge on a warm fall evening as both *Platypatrobis* and *P. castor* are attracted to light. I was able to capture one *Platypatrobis* which I preserved for DNA work with an American entomologist.

I'm largely finished with beaver lodges and ponds. In 2025, I set pitfalls in roadside grasslands for other carabidae genera; it was a treat to have my land legs back and enjoy warm, dry feet!



Updates From ESM Members



Some Summer Entomological Activities

Robert Wrigley



John Gavloski showing one of his trays of local insects.

Robert took the opportunity to make a quick survey of insects for his collection. The trip was a wonderful way to spend the day entomologizing in a southern Manitoba community.

June 18: The Wildlife Society Beetle Workshop

On March 15, Robert attended the annual meeting of The Wildlife Society, Manitoba Chapter, which included several student presentations on insects. Following the meeting, Society President Kelly Leavesley and Robert discussed the possibility of a 'beetle workshop' at his home. Three months later,

June 6: Carman

Robert contacted his colleague Martin Zeilig, long-time nature writer for the Winnipeg Free Press, suggesting he prepare an article on John Gavloski, Extension Entomologist with Manitoba Agriculture. Martin, Robert, and fellow ESM member Lisa Caper visited John at his office in Carman, where John displayed his impressive collection of insects, emphasizing those species important to crops. In the afternoon, we went to King's Park in town to meet a class of elementary school students. John presented a talk on the life history and value of insects, with supporting exhibits of insects, while Martin made notes for his article. The students demonstrated an amazing knowledge of insect life in answering questions posed by John. He then accompanied the class, teachers, and mothers on a walk along a forested trail where the students, nets in hand, excitedly discovered a remarkable variety of insects hiding in the grass and shrubs;



Martin Zeilig (front), and John (back) identifying captured insects. Article appeared in WFP on June 30.

nine individuals attended the workshop; Robert reviewed topics such as the factors that have led to the astonishing diversity of this group. Selected families were described, supplemented with trays of beetles from his collection. Recent books on beetles were made available, and digital resources such as iNaturalist, Bugguide, and the Entomological Society of Manitoba Newsletter were noted.

July 17: Jim Reimer Natural History Museum

Robert was contacted by Liz Wilson, President and CEO of Fort Whyte Alive, about participating in Moth Week, an annual program to “help individuals increase their knowledge of moths and how they can support them by becoming a community scientist.” Interpreter Kelsey Fenwick, recently hired from Blue Lake Provincial Park in Ontario, and the keenest of moth enthusiasts, would be presenting the program. While Robert could offer some field guides on moths, he no longer maintained a collection of mounted specimens (all donated to museums), so he contacted his friend, Jim Reimer, about borrowing a couple of display



Robert describing a tray of colourful scarabs. (photo by Kelly Leavesley)



Lisa, Kelsey, Sarah, and Robert admiring two trays of moths from Jim Reimer’s museum.

cases of moths. Robert presumed Kelsey, Lisa Caper, and moth enthusiast Sarah Lawton would enjoy viewing Jim’s museum, so he arranged an excursion to St. Annes. Jim kindly agreed to lend two cases with about 80 specimens (Manitoba and worldwide representation). Highlights of the trip were playing with four rescued baby skunks in Jim’s workshop and a luncheon at the Bigg Smoak Bbq Smokehouse and Grill (actual spelling!) in Steinbach.

July 19 to 26: Moth Week

Kelsey presented two Saturday presentations at Fort Whyte Alive to celebrate Moth Week. Following the talks, 15 attendees were invited to a

walk along the interpretive paths to search for moths and insect signs. Braving the high temperature and humidity, the group was able to find a variety of insects and their signatures such as leaf mines, galls, rolled leaves with larvae inside, and leaves with round holes neatly carved out by leaf-cutter bees.



On the trail at Fort Whyte Alive. Photo: Kelsey Fenwick

July 27: Agassiz Provincial Forest

Lisa Caper, Kelsey Fenwick, Sarah Lawton, and Robert travelled to visit his friends Steven and Judy Bossenmaier, who live in a beautiful wilderness area of the Agassiz Provincial Forest. Each year, Steven collects beetle specimens for Robert during his daily walks along sandy trails in his property's mature Jack Pine-Poplar-Birch forest. It is always a treat to see what unusual specimens turn up in the vials of preservative. Among the many species this year were several really interesting species: long-horned beetles *Stictoleptura canadensis* (Olivier 1795) and *Sachalinobia rugipennis* (Newman

1844), two species of as-yet unidentified darkling beetles, and five species of large metallic wood-boring beetles, including *Chalcophora virginensis* (Drury 1770). Steven also has a large pond which consistently provides water-scavenger, predaceous-diving, and whirligig beetles, water scorpions while the ponds sandy banks had several species of tiger beetles, including the western peripheral record of the Laurentian Tiger Beetle, *Cicindela denikei* Brown 1934. Last year, Robert had trapped a 5-mm, aquatic leaf beetle at the same pond's edge; Thilina Hettiarachchi thought it might be *Neohaemonia melsheimeri* (Lacordaire, 1845), but specialist Dr. Ingolf Askevold (PhD, University of Manitoba), who named two new species of Donaciine leaf beetles from Manitoba, believes it may be a new species. We next collected insects along two nearby roads and then sought refuge in the car as the most violent storm of the summer struck the area. Our plan to visit Chris Pedersen and his major butterfly collection in East Selkirk had to be postponed.



Sarah, Lisa, and Kelsey examining the pond and shore for insects.



Lisa examining the Bossenmaier fly trap, which efficiently captures great numbers of biting flies.



Kelsey, Lisa, and Sarah collecting insects along the Lewis Forestry Road in Jack Pine forest.

July 31: St. Laurent

Decades ago, Terry Galloway discovered the northern record of the Crimson Saltflat Tiger Beetle (*Cicindela fulgida westbournei* Say 1823) at a Highway 6 roadside salt flat a few kilometres north of St. Laurent. Robert had studied this population over the years, noting that only once was the species remarkably abundant, while in other years, it was rare or none was found. He invited friend Andrew Fallak along to check on the beetle's status. Robert and Andrew succeeded in recording the presence of the saltflat beetle, as well as the Bronzed Tiger Beetle (*C. repanda* Dejean 1825), and the uncommon Variable Tiger Beetle (*Parvindel*



Shoreline along Twin Lakes Beach.

terricola Say 1824) in the area. Sweeping the adjacent meadow generated only a few common insects, so they headed to Twin Lakes Beach on Lake Manitoba, which we found deserted during the week day. Bronzed Tiger Beetles were abundant along the wet strand-line, as well as two species of marsh ground beetles (*Elaphrus* spp. Fabricius 1775), which ran rapidly on the mud between patches of aquatic algae. Hiding among algal strands and rootlets was a very fat Canadian Toad (*Anaxyrus hemiophrys* (Cope, 1886)), which obviously had enjoyed the bounty of local insect prey.



A very plump Canadian Toad, camouflaged among shore debris.



White Underwing Moth

August 14: Fort Whyte Alive

Kelsey and Robert organized a public program of moth viewing at night at Fort Whyte Alive, from 9:00-11:00 pm, to complement the recent Moth Week; a surprising number of 26 eager, youth and adults registered to attend. Conditions were excellent, both warm and humid, and a waning moon partly covered by clouds. Robert set up his mercury vapour light on a trail between forest and pond, hoping to attract both terrestrial and aquatic insects. As usual, the white sheet remained largely unoccupied by insects until the orange sunset completely faded into darkness, when an onslaught of flying insects circled the light and fell onto the white sheet. Soon, several thousand insects on the sheet, with new ones arriving as others departed. There were many kinds of beetles, including rove, ground, water-scavenger, predaceous-diving, mud-loving, lady, carrion, and dung beetles. Making a sudden arrival was a big blue dragonfly, likely a Variable Darner

(*Aeshna interrupta* (Walker, 1904)), which promptly latched its mandibles onto Robert's finger as he was demonstrating its mobile head and large eyes. Next appeared a 3-cm long fishfly (subfamily Chauliodyinae Davis 1903), two species of crane flies, midges, flotillas of water boatmen and tiny flies, some wasps, and a myriad of small-to medium-sized moths. The highlights were the appearance of two species of large underwing moths, including a White Underwing (*Catocala relictata* Walker 1858). Later in the evening, a large burying beetle (*Nicrophorus orbicollis* Say 1825) landed on someone's head, and with all the swatting and yelling that ensued, the beetle emitted its defensive quinone stinky smell and flew off. Fortunately, it returned later and was netted by a participant then found its way into Robert's collecting jar. About 35 species of insects were preserved. Kelsey took numerous photos of insects and will be posting them on iNaturalist.



Keeping watch for incoming insects.



Kelsey introducing the program to attendees (not all in view).

August 18: Winnipeg

Robert was loading items into his car in the driveway when something landed on his head. Thinking it was a piece of debris falling from the nearby trees, he picked it out of his hair, and noted it was a shiny black object, rectangular and about 7 mm long. Turning it over he noted pairs of legs and quickly concluded it was a dung beetle. Knowing it would likely play dead for a few seconds, he placed it on a garden brick, and finished carrying an item to the car. As soon as he returned to claim his prize, the darn thing took off and flew away. It was a species he had never seen

before and so was lacking in his collection. Then the thought occurred to him perhaps he needs to shower more often if he is attracting dung beetles!

August 20 and 21: NCC Trip

As a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Nature Conservancy (Manitoba Region), Robert took the opportunity to sample insect specimens at several properties near Virden, Shilo, Melbourne, and North Shoal Lake.

August 23 and 24: International Peace Garden

Robert attended a fund-raising event at this beautiful garden and extensive facility at Turtle Mountain, on the Manitoba-North Dakota border. He sampled insects at the northern periphery of the provincial park and along the banks of the Souris River.

September 10: Seddons Corner

Ornithologist Dr. Spencer Sealy and geologist/naturalist Chris Pedersen accompanied Robert on a trip to southeast Seddons Corner to determine population levels of pygmy grasshoppers, which the latter has been studying for the past three years. The roadside vegetation was significantly drier than in previous years and had not been mowed, both factors resulting in a much reduced population of three species. Past collecting of specimens also likely contributed to lower numbers. We found 14 specimens of these grasshoppers, and over a dozen other species of insects, eight species of which were later given to Dr. Erwin Huebner for Scanning Electron Microscope photography. Perhaps some of these images will appear in a future newsletter!

Upcoming: East Selkirk

Martin Zeilig will be preparing an article for the Winnipeg Free Press on Sarah Lawton's interest in butterflies, and so we will be travelling to East Selkirk to visit Chris Pedersen's major collection.

We all enjoyed being out in Nature this summer, studying insect life, and introducing students and the general public to this fascinating group of wildlife in our province.



Spencer and Chris examine a Veined White Butterfly (*Pieris napi*).



Recent Member Publications



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 Cárcamo Lab:

Srivastava, V., T. Wist, H. Cárcamo (2025) Prairie crop insect pests: how can we improve our economic impact estimate? Canadian Journal of Plant Science, <https://cdnsiencepub.com/doi/10.1139/cjps-2025-0020>.



ESM Executive & Committees



2024-25 EXECUTIVE

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