

The Entomological Society of Manitoba

Newsletter

Volume 25 Number 3

ISSN 0836-5830

Winter 1999



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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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Important

PLEASE NOTIFY US OF ANY CHANGES IN ADDRESS

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President's Report

The past year has been busy and successful for the Society. The interesting and well-organized Annual Meeting held this fall saw a significant increase in registrations compared to the past several years. Thanks are due to **Pat MacKay** and the Scientific Program Committee for the planning and effort. **Carla and Debra Wytrykush** and the rest of the Social Committee also deserve special thanks for an excellent and varied schedule of events. We're looking forward to the coming year. Many thanks to outgoing executive and committee chairs for volunteering their time and effort to the Society during the 1997-98 year. **George Gerber**, who has been Endowment Fund Chair and Finance Chair for the past two years, has resigned. **Don Henne** has stepped down as Youth

Encouragement & Public Education Chair. This is your Society! The Society welcomes suggestions and ideas from all members for social events, speakers for meetings, fund-raising projects, newsletter articles, etc.

Executive & Committee Chairs for 1998-99

Executive officers:

President - Marjorie Smith
Past-President - JoAnne Buth
President-Elect - Pat MacKay

Executive members:

Member-at-large - John Gavloski
Regional director - Bob Lamb

Executive staff:

Secretary - Ian Wise
Treasurer - Randy Gadawski
Proceedings Editor - Desirée Vanderwel

Committee Chairs:

Endowment Fund - Blaine Timlick
Finance - Blaine Timlick
Scientific Program - Noel White
Newsletter - Brent Elliott
Youth Encouragement & Public Education - Robyn Underwood
Social - Carla & Debra Wytrykush
Archives - Rob Roughley

Student Awards - Bill
Galloway
Scholarship - Pat MacKay
Fund-raising - Joel Gosselin
Nominating - JoAnne Buth
Membership – TBA

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Note from the Editor

One year later I'm still here. I guess that means there is one year to go for me. Anyone interested in functioning as the editor of the newsletter next year would be a welcome addition to our little committee. In addition, the experience would be beneficial as I have acquired special skills for harassing people without getting arrested. On another note, we are still having some problems obtaining submissions for the newsletter. Any information that is entomological is most welcome. In addition we would welcome natural history submissions that are not necessarily entomological in nature. By way of example, Natural Resources will be holding public consultations on their Sustainable Development Strategy for Wildlife in the spring of this year. We will be including information on dates and locations in the next newsletter. If you have something to include, let me know. Of particular interest for the next newsletter will be summer collecting activities. Start planning now so that we may let as many folks as possible know what is happening. The more the

merrier (people, not beer. Well maybe). Finally, anyone interested in receiving the newsletter by e-mail should let me know as I have the master list. If I miss you electronically this time, I apologize.

Brent Elliott
Newsletter High Command

Internet Insect video game review

Banzai Bug

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! No!! It's... a bug? Yes, Banzai Bug to be exact, a cute game with a strong appeal to the young and young at heart (six and older). You quickly discover that escaping this virtual bug-prison isn't as easy as flying out the nearest open window. Standing in your way is a maze of tricks and traps that test your flying skills. So you start off in the garage, peeling yourself off of the grill of Mr. Exterminator's car, trying to find food, obviously starved from the long ride.

Throughout your adventure in the house, you'll meet up with "insect friends", and eventually concoct a plan to overtake the household rather than escaping from it. In light of its audience, violence is kept to a minimum in this comical 3D rendered world with the destruction of robotic bugs and goober dispensers comprising the great majority of the mayhem. However, don't be confused by its claim to be the "Flight-Sim with Attitude." While it does have attitude (and altitude), it's only a flight sim to the extent

that bugs fly. No, Banzai Bug is an action game plain and simple. But that's not bad in the least. While it will have limited appeal to most adults, children and early teens should find its gameplay and humor a refreshing break from the norm. Unique in approach and easy to play, it's a chance for bugs everywhere to strike back at those pesky, insect's worst nightmare" exterminators. The graphics in Banzai Bug are adequate at best. The world in which you fly around is comprised of polygons, that although are quite colorful, provide little detail and aren't very impressive. Aside from the problem I had with depth perception due to some of the polygon designs, the graphics in this game doesn't disrupt or enhance the gameplay. If you're looking for some high-detail light-source shading or texture mapping, look elsewhere.

The gameplay in Banzai Bug, unfortunately, is sluggish and definitely detracts from the entertainment value of this game. Your insect is as agile the Goodyear Blimp.

Controlling your insect can be painfully slow and hardly reminds me of the flies I've chased endlessly through my house with a flyswatter. Honestly, this game feels like it's being played in "slow-motion."

Overall, I loved the concept and the creative story line behind Banzai Bug.

Unfortunately, this game is not all that much fun to play. It's too slow and very monotonous. Banzai Bug is the flight simulator with an attitude all right, the attitude of a sloth.

The game requires a minimum of a Pentium 90MHz processor with 8MB RAM, SVGA monitor, 2X CD-ROM and Windows 95.

Download demo:

<http://gi.grolier.com/gi/products/games/bug/docs/bugdemo.html>

http://www.demoland.com/pages/df_cfy.htm

Bug!

Here's a little riddle for you: What's small, cute, and green, has huge eyes and antennas, and it a lethal menace to six-legged creatures and other such vermin? Give up? It's BUG! One of SEGA's hare-brained creations, BUG goes around levels exterminating all that crawl in his way. His mission: Rescue his family. (I.E: Finish all the levels.) Basically, this is your average, typical platform. Well, maybe not.

Surprisingly, the game does have a 3D feel to it. This is so due to the fact that Bug can walk towards you or towards the screen when the need for such extraneous movements arises. This does add a good feel to the game, and gives that much-needed sense of space, which is often lacking in such games.

You go around, killing all you see by jumping on them (Mario style), and collecting the numerous power-ups available, and the odd "1-up". I must admit, I thought this game was going to be easy to beat. However, 'Bug' has six levels, two difficulty settings, and tons of insects to keep players busy.

For an insect, 'Bug' is easy to control. I would recommend using a game

controller, but the keyboard will do just fine. I also think that the sound effects and music fit perfectly in the game. 'Bug' provides a nice break from all the violent games out today. I recommend it for the whole family. The game runs on Windows 95 and Windows 3.1, which is an extreme disadvantage in a way. It says that the minimum system is a 486 DX4 100 MHz with 8MB RAM, but I tried it on a DX4 with 16 MB RAM, and it was slightly more interesting than watching paint dry. On a Pentium, the action seems more console-like, but after all, how long can such a game last? I mean, you really have to persevere to go through the 18 insect-infested levels, through 6 different kingdoms to finish the game.

So what do we have here, a not-so-typical platform, which will appeal to ages 6 and above? If you feel the need for console action, and have a hefty PC, this is the game for you. If you don't like this genre of game, BUG! won't do much to change your mind.

Download demo:

http://www.vault.simplenet.com/demo_screenshots/all/bug_demo.htm

<http://www.cris.com/~dstaines/nt40games/pages/BUGD.html>

Rheal Lafreniere
Co-Editor

Starry Sky Beetle

In China, it's called the starry sky beetle because of the white, celestial markings on

its black body. But in the United States, this latest alien insect immigrant is commonly known as the Asian longhorn beetle, *Anoplophora glabripennis*. "Whatever name you use," says Steven W. Lingafelter, "this pest and related species could have a devastating economic impact in the United States. It could cause millions of dollars in damage to ornamental trees and to the maple syrup and lumber industries." Lingafelter is a systematic entomologist with the Agricultural Research Service.

"This wood boring pest is native to China, Japan, and Korea and has a natural range broad enough to guarantee it can live in most sections of this country," he says. The Asian longhorn beetle was first discovered on maple, horse chestnut, and elm trees in Brooklyn, New York, in October 1996. Last July, workers there began cutting down, chipping, and burning trees to slow the pest's spread. Since then, the beetle has moved on to other communities in New York, and other specimens have been seen across the country. In Amityville and Greenpoint, New York, the beetle is attacking many types of maple and horsechestnut trees. Recently, adults and larvae have been intercepted in forest product shipments in California, South Carolina, and Canada. Early identification and cargo fumigation have so far prevented establishment of this species in these other areas. That's where Lingafelter's work has been pivotal. He is an expert on

the Asian longhorn beetle's family, Cerambycidae. It's his job to distinguish this new pest from hundreds of other related native woodboring beetles. Since the larvae of the Asian longhorn beetle closely resemble many native species, regulatory agencies charged with containing the pest rely on the expertise of ARS' Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL) to identify any suspicious beetles. Correctly assigning names is a crucial first step to effective control methods. Alien pests intercepted at U.S. ports of entry are routinely sent to the SEL, which has facilities at the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., and at Beltsville, Maryland. There the agency's systematic entomologists maintain the world's largest collection of agricultural pests of quarantine significance. Despite efforts to monitor U.S. borders for uninvited pests, some escape detection. Researchers believe this Asian longhorn, like many other woodboring beetles, entered the United States in wooden crates and braces used to transport cargo in ships. Since the larvae of these beetles live in and feed on the wood, they are easily overlooked. "This family of woodboring beetles occurs worldwide," Lingafelter says. "The adults are characterized by an elongated body and very long antennae—usually at least as long as the body. They generally live as larvae for 1 to 3 years inside wood or roots before emerging as adults. They do their worst damage as larvae—the life

stage when they bore holes in the wood of living trees. "Of the thousands of native species of longhorned woodboring beetles in the United States, most cause little harm to living trees," says Lingafelter. "They consume dead wood, making them important primary decomposers in our forest ecosystems. "However, some—like the cotton-wood borer of the Great Plains, *Plectrodera scalator*, a close relative to Asian longhorn beetle—have caused millions of dollars in losses to U.S. trees," he says. A USDA advisory committee that includes ARS and two sister agencies, the Forest Service and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, is preparing a nationwide strategy to eradicate the new pest. "Besides chipping and burning all affected trees, other possible controls—birds, parasitic wasps, other beetle larvae, and robber fly larvae—should also be studied," says Lingafelter.

**Hank Becker, ARS
Agricultural Research
February 1998.**

1998 ESC Gold Medal Winner – David Rosenberg

Congratulations to ESM member Dr. David Rosenberg on receiving the 1998 Gold Medal for lifetime scientific achievement. The award was presented at the 48th annual ESC meetings in Quebec City in November. For those who do not know, Dr. Rosenberg's research interest is in aquatic ecology/entomology. Previous winners of the ESC

Gold Medal include Reinhart Brust and Ron Sinha.

REPORT OF THE ESM STUDENT AWARDS COMMITTEE (1998)

The Committee reviewed the nominations received for the Student Achievement Award and the SWAT Student Award. Amy Hawkins-Bowman was selected as the recipient of the Student Achievement Award. This is a book award valued at \$150.00. Gavin Law was selected for the SWAT Student Award of \$100.00. Congratulations to these students.

**J. Conroy
D. Currey
J. Hare
B. Gallaway (Chairperson)**

Feeling the Winter Chill?

A trip to Costa Rica has been planned for the February spring break (Feb. 10-20 tentative). With the effects of La Nina firmly in place, a tropical getaway will be perfect remedy. The primary destination will be the Monteverde cloud forest reserve. The trip will coincide with the Central American dry season. Anyone interested in more details should contact Don Henne at 474-6023 or 944-1442.

New students in the Department of Entomology, University of Manitoba

In the last few months six new graduate students have registered in the Department. Two M.Sc. students, Robyn Underwood and Tanya Rampersad have joined Rob Currie's laboratory and will be working on aspects of parasites and diseases of honey bees. Heather White, supervised by Pat MacKay, and Nicole Lauro, supervised by Neil Holliday, will be doing Master's programmes on aspects of classical biological control. These two projects involve field work at the International Institute of Biological Control station at Delémont, Switzerland, and involve three new adjunct professors in the Department: Dr Ulrich Kuhlmann, Delémont, Dr Peter Mason, Ottawa, and Dr Bruce Broadbent, London. Md. Jashim Uddin, a new Ph.D. student to be jointly supervised by Pat MacKay and Neil Holliday, joined the Department in September and will be working on the population biology and natural control of pests of seed alfalfa. Our most recent arrival is Hou Xingwei, who has started a M.Sc. degree on stored product insects under the supervision of Paul Fields.

Calendar of Events

Seminars:

All seminars are held in Room 220, Animal Science/Entomology Building at 10:00 a.m.

January 19 – Ticks and tick-borne diseases in Canada. Robbin Lindsay, Health Canada, Winnipeg, MB

January 28 – Managing ecological bottlenecks in commercial populations of the alfalfa leafcutting bee. W.P. Kemp, USDA, ARS Bee Biology & Systematics Laboratory, Utah State University.

February 02 – Sex and the virgin mealworm: Biology and biochemistry of 4-methylnonanol production in female *Tenebrio molitor*. Desiree Vanderwel, University of Winnipeg.

February 09 – In search of Siberian nomads: Lifestyles and clothing. Jill Oakes, Native Studies Department and Rick Riewe, Zoology Department, University of Manitoba.

February 23 – The chemistry and biology of soil architecture. T.B.Goh, Soil Science Department, University of Manitoba.

March 02 – Host relationships between cereal aphids and wheats in the genus *Triticum*. Sam Migui, Entomology Department, University of Manitoba.

March 09 – What is happening to Delta Marsh and why? Gordon Goldsborough, Botany Department, University of Manitoba.

March 16 – FQPA: What's that all about? Brent Elliott, Manitoba Agriculture.

March 23 – Insect monitoring programs at Manitoba Agriculture. John Gavloski, Manitoba Agriculture.

March 30 – *Lygus* and Canola: Managing mobile, polyphagous herbivores in a large-area crop. Bob Lamb, Cereal Research Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Meetings:

March 28-31, 1999. Entomological Society of America – North Central Branch Annual Meeting. Des Moines, Iowa. Contact is Ted Radcliffe, University of Minnesota.

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One last thing...

In the next (spring) issue of the newsletter we would like to include a list the e-mail address for each member of the society. To accomplish this goal, please e-mail me at belliott@agr.gov.mb.ca and I will compile the list. Please also indicate whether you would like to save your society some money and receive the newsletter via e-mail. Pretty sneaky way to ask that question again, wasn't it. Later.