

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

As we start to prepare Issue 31 Number 2, it's approaching mid-May, and spring is supposed to be here, but there's quite a bit of snow everywhere, and we can't remember more than one day above 20 C yet. It is nevertheless without any irony that we draw your attention to three interconnected items about Aweme (a notice, a press release, and a request) which you will find in this issue and in honour of which we are hoping for some great spring weather. The BioBlitz at Aweme is rapidly approaching and it sounds like lots of interesting people will be there including several entomologists, a malacologist, and lots of Manitoba Conservation folks, to name only a few. Perhaps we'll see you there too. Read further for more important information on **Aweme, the Criddle/Vane Homestead**.

Also, in this issue look for details on the Society's **2004 Annual Meeting**, and for an ad for the position of **ESM Webmaster**. The Society wants your participation, so mark your calendars for the first item and think seriously about volunteering for the second.

Finally, in this issue is the first in a new series entitled "**Unexpected Entomological Connections**", which will continue for at least this and the next two issues. For it to last longer, we need your help to tell us about additional connections, so start reminiscing. There are also several reports on Society activities, on activities of Society members, and on some new additions to the Manitoba entomological community. Let us know if we've missed anyone or anything. The next issue will be out at the end of September or in early October, so we'll need your input by early September. Meanwhile, have a great summer. May you find lots of the kind of insects you like and few of those you don't like.

Pat MacKay & Mahmood Iranpour

Tales from the Head Bug

The first executive meeting for the current year was held on March 23, 2004. One of the issues that was discussed at the meeting was regarding providing feedback to students making presentations at the ESM Annual Scientific Meeting. It was decided that averaged marks from the 3 grading forms for each student will be provided as feedback. Hopefully this will help students determine the strength of their presentation in each category, while minimizing any excess work for judges.



ESM president: John Gavloski

The ESM Annual Meeting has tentatively been set for November 5 and 6, 2004. Désirée Vanderwel is chairing the Scientific Program Committee for the 2004 meeting. Desiree and the committee have tentatively selected a theme around factors affecting insect navigation (how and why they go where they go).

Many thanks to Rheel Lafreniere and Sheila Wolfe for their work in organizing the New Members Social. The curling was fun, and I was amazed at the amount and quality of the door prizes that were obtained. The numerous curling-related competitions that took place after the curling games demonstrated what a talented bunch we have in the ESM. And from the “fastest-sweeper”

competition I now know why it is that they warn you not to run on the ice.

From an agricultural extension perspective, it has been a slow start to the season in some regards. Most of the questions coming in are inquiries about what effect the cold or wet weather will have on insects. Although many would like to think that May snowstorms must have some negative effect on some of the insects we consider crop pests, one thing we can't underestimate is the resilience of insects, although many will be behind in their development. Pheromone baited traps for diamondback moth were put up the second week in May, and as of May 26th we have not had any diamondback moths showing up in our traps. Pheromone baited traps for bertha armyworm will go up in mid-June. Results from these trapping programs can be viewed through the insect page on the Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives website. Regular Insect and Disease Update should be starting the beginning of June.

If anyone is looking for insect jokes to use for school visits, or just keeping yourself entertained, a fairly long list of insect jokes can be found at: <http://yahooligans.yahoo.com/content/jokes/category?c=4>
Some of these would be great for presentations to schools, daycares, etc.

John Gavloski
President, ESM

Aweme BioBlitz

June 5-6 2004

At Aweme, Manitoba

Site of the Criddle/Vane Homestead

Help us Record the Biodiversity at
Aweme



This is an Event for Everyone

For more information contact Bill Galloway at 204-727-9655, galloway@brandonu.ca
or visit www.brandonu.ca/zoology/aweme%20bioblitz

In cooperation with the Criddle/Vane Heritage Homestead Committee

CRIDDLE/VANE FAMILY HOMESTEAD TO BE PRESERVED AS LATEST ADDITION TO MANITOBA'S PARK SYSTEM

Conservation Minister Stan Struthers today announced the creation of the Criddle/Vane Homestead Provincial Park, a 130-hectare park located just south of the town of Shilo. The park is the former homestead of the Criddle and Vane families.

"The Criddle and Vane families were Manitoba pioneers well-known for their contributions to the fields of science, art, sports and culture," said Struthers. "We are pleased to work with the Criddle/Vane Homestead Heritage Committee to recognize their contribution through this heritage park designation."

"The heritage park designation will maintain the natural and scientific significance of the site including natural features representative of the Assiniboine Delta natural region and will recognize the contributions of the homestead families," said the minister.

The minister commended the efforts of the Criddle/Vane Homestead Heritage Committee in the establishment of this significant Manitoba heritage park designation. The group is a subcommittee of the Friends of Spruce Woods organization and has provided countless hours of time in maintenance and fundraising efforts for this site.

March 12, 2004

Excerpted from a Manitoba Government
News Release

Restoring Norman Criddle's Lab

The Criddle Vane Homestead Heritage Committee would like your help. Our committee is an eclectic group that came together in 2000 when the historic buildings at the homestead were under threat of demolition. Norman Criddle's first entomology laboratory on the Prairies, his second laboratory and the house that entertained so many visiting scientists were now on Crown Land and the land managers could see no reason to save the buildings. The committee prevented the demolition – concerned not only for the buildings but that once the buildings were gone the land would soon be sold into potato production.

In four short years our group has accomplished many things, from shoveling 40 years of porcupine droppings out the Big House to having the site established as a provincial heritage park. But the park status does not mean our work is over. The three buildings remaining on site are our responsibility – they are still viewed by some as problematic.

In our struggle to protect the buildings we had the Provincial Risk Assessment office inspect them. The Big House and the second laboratory were not only given a clean bill of health, they were seen as important to preserving the history of the homestead. The report stated: *“The original entomology lab should be protected from the elements. The structural integrity of the building should be assessed and upgraded as required.”*

Our committee then arranged for a restoration expert from Parks Canada to advise us on how to restore Norman's first laboratory. The building itself is small, about the size of a garden shed. We were advised to use much of the original building, replacing rotting or missing pieces with

materials that match the original. With the help of the folks at CFB Shilo we have a materials list and a few carpenters willing to guide us in the restoration. Now we just need \$5000 to purchase the materials.

Over the last four years we have heard from many entomologists how important the homestead is to the history of entomology in Canada. We have been told that most Canadian university and museum collections contain specimens from Aweme. The American Museum of Natural History, Harvard University, U.S. National Museum in Washington and other collections around the world have specimens from Aweme. Entomologists have told us that the homestead continues to be important because of this vast collection and that the site is still in a natural state, allowing entomologists to continue to do research on the site. One scientist wrote: *“The Criddle property represents one of those rare and wonderful resources that will serve ecologists and entomologists in their analysis, literally, for centuries to come.”* Just last year two entomologists from Zurich, Switzerland visited the homestead.

Because Norman's laboratory is a touchstone of entomological history we are hoping the entomology community will take figurative ownership of the small building. We have other organizations to approach for the other buildings, but hope the entomologists will take the lead with the first laboratory. We would like to raise \$5000 to purchase the materials to restore the laboratory with any additional monies going to an interpretive display for the laboratory. We are a registered charity and provide tax receipts for donations. Your support would also go a long way in demonstrating to the park managers that the

entomology community values the site and laboratory.

There is some urgency to our restoration work because the laboratory will not likely make it through another winter. We need to do the work this summer. It is now or never.

If you would like to make a donation or for more information please contact:

Criddle Vane Homestead Heritage
Committee
c/o Sherry Dangerfield
3 – 733 McMillan Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3M 0S8
(204) 452-2949 sherryd@mts.net

If you would like to find out more about the homestead and the Criddle Vane family our committee has recently reprinted *Criddle-de-Diddle Ensis* by Alma Criddle, which provides an intimate look into the life and times of this unusual pioneer family.

Hope we will see some of you out at the homestead for the BioBlitz June 5 & 6.

Sherry Dangerfield
Criddle Vane Homestead Heritage
Committee

ENTOMOLOGY FOR NON-ENTOMOLOGISTS

Manitoba Naturalists' Society Workshop: Caterpillars

Rob Roughley of the Department of Entomology at the University of Manitoba presented a workshop on lepidopteran caterpillars to the Manitoba Naturalists' Society on February 25th, 2004 in Room 203, Animal Science/Entomology Building. It was attended by about 20 people. Among the topics covered were the importance of insects in biodiversity and the role and function of biological diversity on a world and provincial level. The species richness of Lepidoptera in Manitoba was explored in terms of general life history strategies as well as life history peculiarities. Recognition and identification of caterpillars was discussed. A generalized butterfly life history was explored and the phenomenon of puddling of adult butterflies was explored. The initial planning of a butterfly garden was emphasized including kinds of nectar and food plants associated with butterfly gardening as well as activities such as rearing and photographing caterpillars. Various specimens of adult and larval insects were on display from the JB Wallis Museum of Entomology.

Creative Retirement Manitoba: Nature Series

On Wednesday, 07 April 2004, Pat MacKay, Senior Scholar in the Department of Entomology at the University of Manitoba, gave a 2-hour workshop on "Why we should all love insects" to a group of 13 keen seniors who braved a miserable spring rainstorm to show up at the downtown campus of the University of Manitoba. She combined pretty (and sometimes not so pretty) pictures with a discussion of the role and importance of insects in the ecosystem and a description of some of their typical and some of their more bizarre habits. The session finished up with some "wowie" boxes of both tropical and Manitoba pinned insects, and a selection of the live insects from the cultures maintained by the Entomology graduate students for use in the work of the ESM Youth Encouragement and Public Education Committee, including a couple of

hissing cockroaches, some stick insects, an enormous lubber grasshopper and lots of mealworms. The audience was almost as enthusiastic as the 6-year olds are.

Youth Encouragement Activities

The Youth Encouragement and Public Education Committee is always looking for volunteers. If you haven't tried it yet, why not get involved when they start up their activities again in the fall after the end of the field season. Ask any of the old hands or recent participants how much fun it is. New volunteers include Scott McMahon, Pat MacKay, Bob Lamb, and lots of others; just ask Kathleen Ryan for more names.

Robyn Underwood recently described an opportunity to have a long-lasting impact on young minds: "One time Carla Wytrykush and I were doing a Youth Encouragement presentation for a kindergarten class. We were looking at pinned specimens of tropical insects – you know, the really big ones that catch your eye. One boy pointed to a large dung beetle and said "What's that?" We answered "That's a dung beetle – he loves to eat poo!" The kids just thought that was the funniest thing ever! They asked "So, do they crawl inside your bum?" "Do they drink pee too?" Their imaginations went wild. The teacher had left the room, probably deserting us for coffee in the staff room, and didn't catch any of this. I can only imagine the conversation that went on after we left. Serves her right for leaving us alone with the kids."

If you are interested in participating in Youth Encouragement activities, Kathleen Ryan, the Chair of the Committee will show you all the material, live and preserved, that's available, and then arrange for you to be broken in gently if you wish, by sending you out on one or two visits with an experienced presenter. Just contact Kathleen in the Department of Entomology by leaving a phone message (474 9439) or sending an email (kat_ryan@hotmail.com).

ESM SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS

On Friday March 26, 2004 the ESM Social Committee hosted a 'New Members Curling Night'. The event took place at the Wildwood Curling Club and began at 7:00 PM. Pizza hors d'oeuvres were served to give players the energy needed to curl. There was also a cash bar to give the players the courage needed to curl. About 19 people attended the event. This broke down to 4 teams of 4 players, 1 'scorekeeper', 1 'drink runner', and 1 spectator. The teams were:

1. QMP's
2. Beeginners
3. The Bee Hives
4. Curling Bees

The contestants competed to win tickets which were then put in for chances to win prizes. There were some great prizes to be won so competition was fierce. Contestants also had the opportunity to enter extra skills contests to win more tickets. The three skills categories were:

closest to the button, farthest slider, and fastest sweeper. Not only did this reveal the true curlers in the group, but made for some entertainment as well.

We would like to thank everyone who came out and hope to see you all at the next event. As always, we would welcome any ideas and or suggestions. Have a great summer, and watch your e-mail for information regarding upcoming events!

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following sponsors:

Canada Safeway
Bee Maid Honey
Pick Seed Canada Inc.
Phil Barker
Dimo's Tool & Die, and Labtronics.

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One of the keener but less skilled teams of curlers, the QMPs: from left to right, Robyn Underwood, Sheila Wolfe, Pat MacKay and Desiree Vanderwel. (Normally QMP is the acronym for Queen Mandibular Pheromone, but in this case it was short for Quintessential Matrons of Perfection.)



One of the keener and more skilled teams of curlers, the Beeginners: from left to right, Rheal Lafreniere, Carmelle Lafreniere, Deirdre Zebrowski and Kenton Frith.

UNEXPECTED ENTOMOLOGICAL CONNECTIONS*

Tonya Mousseau & Kim Riley

Tonya obtained her B.Sc. at the University of Victoria and started an M.Sc. in 2001 with Rob Roughley in the Department of Entomology at the University of Manitoba. Kim obtained her B.Sc.Ag. at the University of Guelph in 2003. That summer she began field work for her M.Sc. with Neil Holliday in Delemont Switzerland with the plan to arrive in Winnipeg for the first time in September 2003.



Mid-summer, in the Entomology coffee room, Tonya heard Kim's name mentioned, and piped up "I know her!" Tonya and Kim are together again after many years of no contact whatsoever. They grew up together in Gold River, a town of about 1400 people on Vancouver Island. They can be seen together as 7 or 8 year olds in ballet class in the accompanying photograph.

***Do you know of any unexpected entomological connections? If so, contact the editors of this Newsletter and let us tell everyone.**

NEW ARRIVALS IN APICULTURE

Manitoba Agriculture Extension Apiarist Appointed

The Manitoba Department of Agriculture is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. David Joseph Ostermann to the position of Extension Apiarist effective March 1, 2004.

David will be employed in the Apiculture Section of the Soils and Crops Branch and in this position will be responsible for providing assistance in the delivery of Departmental programs in support of the honey bee and leafcutter bee industries. This includes providing extension information related to bee management and bee related products, as well as the administration of the Manitoba Bee Act. In his capacity as Extension Apiarist, David will work closely with the two producer groups representing these two industries: the Manitoba Forage Seed Association and the Manitoba Beekeepers' Association.

David grew up in Lockport, Manitoba where his father and two



uncles grow grain and raise beef cattle. He was introduced to beekeeping as a teenager when he assisted a local commercial beekeeper to move hives and extract honey. This was a very positive experience and the beginning of his interest in honey bees.

Upon completion of his Bachelor of Science in Agroecology degree, he commenced working on his Master's degree at the University of Manitoba under the supervision of Dr. Rob Currie. The topic of his thesis was the interaction of chalkbrood and nosema diseases with varroa mites in honey bee colonies treated with formic acid. He also examined the effect of formic acid on the growth of chalkbrood fungus.

Upon completion of his graduate studies in February 2003, David moved to Ithaca, New York and worked with Dr. Nick Calderone at Cornell University's Dyce Lab on a North America-wide honey bee breeding program. Here he managed and examined colonies. He tested colonies for evidence of varroa mite suppression. He helped with studies on varroa infestation, concerning drone comb removal and screen bottom boards, as well as a study on pollen foraging. He also examined commercial colonies, in the upstate area, for evidence of hygienic behaviour.

David can now be reached at the address below.

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Extension Apiarist
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204 - 545 University Crescent
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Visiting Scientist at U of M

This spring, the Department of Entomology at the University of Manitoba welcomed Dr Gholamhosein (Hosein) Tahmasbi for a nine month visit.



Hosein joins Rob Currie's laboratory to work on honey bee biology. At home in Iran, he is an Associate Professor in and the Head of the Department of Honeybee and Silkworm Research at the Animal Science Research Institute in Karaj. He obtained his B.Sc. from Tehran University and his M.Sc. and Ph.D. from Tarbiat Modarress University also in Tehran. Since completing his Ph.D. in 1996, he has published 22 journal papers, two books, and numerous conference proceedings, as well as holding one patent. He has taught a wide range of entomological subjects,

including general entomology, honeybee rearing, queen rearing, and honeybee morphology and physiology, and been the supervisor of or an advisor for nearly 30 graduate students. A busy

man! He's here in Winnipeg with his wife, son and daughter. Here's hoping that the weather for the rest of his stay is a little better than it has been for his first month.

ENTOMOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENTS

Rebekah Rooney

Rebekah Rooney joins the University of Manitoba's Entomology Department from the Department of Environmental Science at Carleton University where she completed her undergraduate degree in April 2003.

She is currently working on her MSc. under the supervision of Dr Cheryl Podemski based out of the Fresh Water Institute. She is studying the effects of cage based fish farm effluent on the structure of the benthic invertebrate community as a part of the Experimental Lakes Area Aquaculture Project. She would like to thank NSERC for supporting her research on this project.



Scott Derham



I started my Masters degree at the University of Manitoba in January of 2003 after spending some five and a half years completing my undergraduate degree at the University of Winnipeg. The normal four year period for obtaining a BSc was extended in my circumstances as I could not give up my love of history, particularly that focused on sub-Saharan Africa. My decision to continue exploring biology and in particular entomology arose out of my participation in a Parasitology course during my undergraduate studies. This course opened my eyes to the role that insects, such as my research subject mosquitoes, play in vectoring disease causing agents and their

debilitating impact in developing regions. My interest led to my subsequent work with Dr. Rob Anderson in 2001, when I completed a directed studies course under his supervision examining tsetse fly control efforts in sub-Saharan Africa. In the summer of 2002 I worked partly at Delta Marsh field station studying host attraction of local mosquitoes thought to be bridge vectors for West Nile Virus. After working for Dr. Anderson in the summer of 2002 at Delta and with West Nile Virus surveillance, I was offered the opportunity to work on a Masters degree studying the evolution of feeding duration in *Anopheles gambiae*, the primary vector of human malaria in sub-Saharan Africa. My aim, if it has not yet become clear, is to leave Winnipeg where I have lived all of my life and work with vector control programs in developing regions, perhaps in sub-Saharan Africa.

REPORTS ON MEETINGS

NCB-ESM Joint Meeting

As many of you know, in March 2007, the ESM and the North Central Branch (NCB) of the Entomological Society of America (ESA) will be holding the first meeting of the NCB in Canada. The ESA is split into different geographical branches that hold annual meetings. The NCB includes the states of Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin and in Canada; Manitoba and Northern Ontario.

The Executive of the NCB invited Manitoba to host the meeting in 2007. Brent Elliott and Paul Fields attended the NCB meeting that was held in Madison, Wisconsin in March 2003, to discuss with the NCB executive the possibility of having the meeting in Winnipeg, and to familiarize ourselves with the running of the meeting. They were enthusiastic about the possibility of having a joint meeting with the ESM in Winnipeg in 2007.

These meetings attract about 300 entomologists from across the mid Northern USA. Consult the NCB web site to get a detailed break down of the presentations and symposia (<http://esa.ent.iastate.edu/>). The Linnaean Games make for a few lively evenings, as students from different universities try and beat the buzzer and each other to answer questions on entomological fact and trivia. The two top teams go on to compete at the national meeting.

We see several areas of common interest between the people that normally attend the NCB meeting and the ESM meetings. Several of the insect pest problems are similar in the two areas. For example West Nile Virus has been a major problem in the states bordering the Great Lakes. The NCB also houses a strong contingent of stored product insect expertise, likely lending itself to an excellent session with both Canadian and US contributions. A further unique opportunity is the placing of Canadian research at the forefront for a U.S. audience in areas such as canola and wheat research. This is an excellent opportunity for the ESM to bring a number of experts that we normally we not have the opportunity to hear speak. Also it is an excellent opportunity to tell our neighbours to the south the work we have been conducting here.

In 2005, Brent and Paul will be looking for volunteers to help with putting on the meeting.

Paul Fields and Brent Elliott
Co-Chairs of the NCB-ESM 2007 Joint Meeting

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS*

International Congress of Entomology

Brisbane, Australia; 15-21 August 2004

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

Western Forum (Western Committees on Crop Pests & Plant Diseases)

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; 12-14 October 2004

Entomological Society of Canada & Acadian Entomological Society

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

For information email Donna Giberson: giberson@upei.ca

Entomological Society of Manitoba

U of M Fort Garry Campus, Winnipeg, MB; 5-6 November 2004

For information email Desiree Vanderwel: d.vanderwel@uwinnipeg.ca

Entomological Society of America

Salt Lake City, Utah; 14-17 November 2004

http://www.entsoc.org/annual_meeting/2004/index.html

Entomological Societies of Canada and Alberta

Fall 2005; date and location to be determined

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

WANTED

A WEBMASTER for the ESM WEBSITE

Paul Fields, the creator and first Webmaster of the ESM Website
is stepping down

The duties of Webmaster are estimated to take about 3-4 hours, 3-4 times a year
to maintain the site at its current level

If you have super computer and internet skills

OR

If you have minimal skills but a willingness to learn

Contact John Gavloski, President of ESM

[\(jgavloski@gov.mb.ca\)](mailto:jgavloski@gov.mb.ca)

It's not a difficult job!

Ask Paul and he'll tell you and he'll help you

[\(pfields@agr.gc.ca\)](mailto:pfields@agr.gc.ca)

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