

# The Entomological Society of Manitoba *Newsletter*



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## **About the ESM Newsletter**

The Entomological Society of Manitoba Newsletter is published three times per year. It is a forum whereby information can be disseminated to Society members. As such, all members are encouraged to contribute often. The Newsletter is interested in opinions, short articles, news of research projects, meeting announcements, workshops, courses and other events, requests for materials or information, news of personnel or visiting scientists, literature reviews or announcements and anything that may be of interest to ESM members.

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## **Editors' Comments**

This is the third issue of the ESM Newsletter under the current editors, and we were worried a little while ago that we had run out of ideas already and that this would be a rather thin issue. Thanks to our involved and active members, not only have our fears not been realized, but this issue may turn out to be our fullest yet. However.....we don't have much for the next issue so far, so get busy. It's due out sometime in January/February; so get your material in to us early in January, or at least let us know that it's coming by then.

Speaking of getting busy, Desiree Vanderwel, the Chair of the Scientific Program Committee for this year's meeting, which is on November 05 and 06, is looking for volunteers to help out with setting up, with registration, with audiovisual equipment, etc. If you are able to assist, call her at 204 786 9033, or email her at [d.vanderwel@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:d.vanderwel@uwinnipeg.ca).

Finally, on a sad note, Gordon Hamilton passed away on October 5 at age 62. He spent much of his 35 years with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada as an entomology technician, first at the Belleville Research Institute, and then from 1972 until retirement in 1997 at the Cereal Research Centre. In Manitoba he first worked with flea beetles on canola with Dr. C. Osgoode and then Dr. B. Hegdekar. Later he worked with Dr. L. Smith in stored product entomology before joining the Plant Pathology program for the last years before retirement. He was an active member of the Entomological Society of Manitoba for many years during his time in entomology.

Pat MacKay & Mahmood Iranpour

## Tales from the Head Bug

It certainly was a cool, wet summer in Manitoba. Many days were of the type where you just wanted to curl up with a good book and read. And what better topic to read about than entomology. That was the featured topic at the South Central Regional Library children's book club for the summer, as well as the Boyne Regional Library in Carman.

The program was more officially called "Get Carried Away with Books", with the featured topic being insects. The libraries in the South Central Regional (Altona, Winkler, Morden) and Carman were decorated with pictures of insects, and non-fiction books on insects were displayed on their display tables. At each library, children were divided into 2 teams, the wingers (which were dragonflies), and the stingers (which were bees). The premise behind the teams was that all the dragonflies and bees were on an island in the middle of the river, and they were getting a bit too numerous for both groups to stay on the island. So they would have a competition, and the losers would have to move to another island on the river. The contest was to see which team could spend the most hours reading over the summer.

Since I know entomologists like data, here are some numbers from the program. The Morden library had 343 children in the program, The Winkler library had 541 children in the program, and Altona had 220. The total reading over the summer from these 3 libraries was 1,290,879 minutes, or 20,165 hours. Not all of the reading was about insects, but the featured topic was a hit and it later became obvious that the children had learned a lot from the insect books that were displayed at the libraries.

Lori-Ann Kaminski and I together gave presentations on insects at each library at the end of the program. Part of the presentations involves a series of skill-testing questions on insects for the kids.



The Head Bug working with a number of juvenile bugs (photo by Heather Baril, Valley Leader Newsnaner)

Prior to these presentations, I had only 1 group of kids answer all the questions correctly (that was a class at Graysville school about a year ago – there was a future entomologist in that class that could not be stumped).



Hissing roach and friends (photo by Heather Baril, Valley Leader Newspaper)

I was amazed when at 2 of the 4 libraries all of the questions were answered correctly (although there was adult assistance identifying the viceroy butterfly correctly at one of the libraries – but I still gave it to them). The answers that these children gave made it clear they had read some good entomological literature this summer. To have 2 of the 4 libraries answer all the questions, and the other libraries get only 1 or 2 wrong, was amazing. Lori-Ann and I were both impressed with the number of children who came out for the presentations. We had about 200 children packed tightly

into the library at Winkler, about 100 in Altona, about 125 in Morden, and about 40 in Carman.

Judging by the enthusiasm shown by these children and librarians, Manitoba could soon be swarmed by amateur and professional entomologists. Let's hope so.

John Gavloski  
President, ESM

### **THE AWEME BIOBLITZ, 5-6 June 2004 by Pat MacKay**

The Bioblitz at the Criddle/Vane Homestead, Aweme, was a great weekend! Depending on which list you looked at, either 47 or 57 people attended. Some people camped at Aweme, some people camped at Wawanesa, and some reveled in luxury in hotels in Brandon. People came from Alberta, North and South Dakota, Saskatchewan, and even Nova Scotia.



Norman Criddle's first laboratory as it was on 06 June 2004, prior to restoration. If you wish to make a tax deductible donation to the restoration cost, contact Sherry Dangerfield of the CVHHC at the address given.

There were tours of the house, the surrounding farmstead, the nearby Yellow Quill Prairie, and the Assiniboine River Wildlife Management Area. The Criddle/Vane Homestead Heritage Committee had arranged for coffee, hotdogs and other treats to be available for most of both days. There were a number of serious bioblitzers collecting and identifying specimens (insects, mollusks, birds, plants, lichens, and probably others). Then there were many of us who were just there to enjoy it all. Two fairly serious participants were Tonya Mousseau and Lisa Capar, both graduate students in Entomology at U of M. Read below for their impressions of the weekend.

The Criddle/Vane Homestead Heritage Committee (CVHHC) has done a fabulous job of raising awareness of the significance of Aweme, both historically and scientifically. Due in large part to their efforts, Aweme was formally designated as a heritage provincial park shortly after the BioBlitz, on Saturday, 17 July 2004. The Heritage Committee is now in the process of

restoring Norman Criddle's laboratory. They have proceeded with the work, while still short of their fund-raising goal, so if you wish to make a tax deductible contribution, contact Sherry Dangerfield, Criddle/Vane Homestead Heritage Committee, 3-733 McMillan Avenue, Winnipeg, MB, R3M 0S8.

**Mothing** by Lisa Capar and Tonya Mousseau  
At dusk the preparation for a night of mothing began. Bucket traps, which were equipped with a light, a funnel, and a piece of Vapona, were strategically placed on the ground or in trees near the Criddle homestead. Locations of the traps were based on the intuition of the experienced lepidopterist from Alberta, Greg Pohl, as well as on the advice of another couple and their dog. The most common place to set the traps was near groups of trees in a clearing.

After the bucket traps were in place, the sheet traps were set up. Rope was tied between two trees and a white bed sheet hung from the rope. Mercury vapor light bulbs powered by small gas generators were angled to cast an eerie purple light on the sheet. Two sheets were placed at a short distance from each other so the lepidopterists could walk back and forth between them throughout the night.

All seven entomologists returned to camp to wait until darkness took over the homestead. At 10:30pm, geared with killing jars, needles, ethanol, envelopes, and snacks, the entomologists made their way back into the woods to the sheets. Various species of moths showed up at different times throughout the night. One of the most exciting arrivals was that of the sphinx moths. These moths could be heard crashing through the brush before they landed on the sheets. Greg demonstrated a killing technique, other than a killing jar, used on

sphinx moths to ensure better quality specimens. By injecting ethanol into the thorax with a needle, the moth died immediately and could then be placed in a collecting envelope with minimal wing damage.

Moths were easy to collect since they did not try to fly away when picked off the sheets. Not all moths were collected, although there was a great deal of discussion about each one. Greg was extremely interested in collecting the microleps which are often ignored. After three productive hours, the entomologists decided the night was late and turned back to the tents. In the morning, the bucket traps were emptied into containers for further examination in the lab. Overall, everyone had a great time and learned a great deal about moths.

**Clamming** by Lisa Capar and Tonya Mousseau  
A group of about 15 people traveled down the banks of the Assiniboine River for some good old-fashioned clamming. Joe Carney and his friend, both expert clammers, were sporting chest waders and were eager to climb down the muddy banks into the river. The current was strong and the water level higher than normal, leading to an unfavorable clamming environment. However, this did not discourage the clammers and a couple of clam remains were found.

The group learned: 1) how to sex clams based on their structure, 2) how to identify pea and fingernail clams, 3) that clams can live for over 100 years, 4) that the larval stages must live on the gills of fish for the first couple of years, and 5) about declining clam populations due to pollution and disturbance of waterways.

**Yellow Quill Prairie** A poem by Tonya Mousseau  
The Yellow Quill Prairie Trail,  
a passage of history

Worn weary first by First Nations People,  
Later, by horse-drawn carts carrying  
settlers of the Pioneer Era.

We walked along the uncultivated  
prairie, noticing the imprint the trail  
had left in the land, so long ago.

Here and there, a *Callasoma* sp. would  
flit across our path, a lone roamer  
amongst the lichens, mosses, and  
various  
flowering plants.

Here too, were the likes of *Hyla*  
*versicolor/chrysoxcelis* (?)

And *Bufo americanus*.

In the quiet stillness of the trees,  
long ago abandoned,  
we came across an old log cabin  
where once lovely women resided  
to please the military men down the road.  
Or so the rumour goes...



Some of the bioblitzers in St Albans (the Criddle/Vane farmhouse):  
standing, right to left, Rob Roughley, Greg Pohl, 2 unidentified  
individuals (one in front of the other), Tonya Mousseau, Kristy  
Jackson, unidentified individual, Heather White, Derrick Kanashiro;  
seated, right to left, Bill Gallaway, unidentified individual.

## THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ENTOMOLOGY DOWNUNDER

by Pat MacKay

The International Congress of Entomology, on the theme of “Strength in Diversity”, took place in Brisbane, Australia in the week of August 15-21, 2004. The venue was the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, a superb facility near the Brisbane River, and bordered by the Southbank recreation area, which was full of excellent restaurants, an outdoor marketplace and other tourist facilities including the art gallery and at least two museums.

The conference attracted approximately 2700 registrants from 78 countries, of which about 350 were students. It included about 2000 presentations subdivided into 370 different sessions. These sessions were grouped into 20 topical sections ranging from broad topics such as IPM, Ecology & Population Dynamics, Physiology & Immunity, or Biodiversity & Biogeography to more specialized topics such as Urban & Stored Products, Acarology or Social Insects. All presentations were PowerPoint and were handled centrally, with the video images being delivered electronically to the individual meeting rooms from a central location. In most cases this went relatively smoothly. The sum total of all the presentations was 25 gigabytes with the largest single presentation consisting of 330 megabytes.

The formal sessions ran from 8:00am till about 6:00pm each day, after which folks spilled out into Southbank and found other venues to continue the discussions. During the day, coffee and tea breaks as well as a box lunch were available in a huge exhibition hall filled with the stalls of publishers and other entomology-related enterprises as well as hundreds of poster presentations. The only criticism of the Congress I can come up with is that seven full days of intense and

intensive entomological discussion is one of the more draining experiences I can imagine, and I was exhausted by the end.

Manitoba was represented at the Congress by five entomologists: Paul Fields, Neil Holliday, Noel White, Bob Lamb, and myself. All of us took the opportunity to travel in Australia before and/or after the Congress. I have asked each of the others to summarize the best, the worst, or the funniest part of their Australian visit. These are given below in the order in which I received them.

**Down Under in August** by Noel White

My wife Sandi accompanied me to Australia this past August (3<sup>rd</sup> visit for me, 2<sup>nd</sup> for her) while I attended the International Congress of Entomology in Brisbane. The trip started with a 2½ hour flight to Vancouver followed by a 5 hour layover. The flight to Sydney included a refueling stop in Honolulu (5½ hours from Vancouver) where you have to leave the plane to go through U.S. customs, even though you can't go beyond the boarding lounge. You can't leave anything on the plane – if you do it is confiscated – while apparently they do a complete sweep of the passenger cabin. (Coming back from Australia was the same only it took longer & we even had to take our shoes off!) From Honolulu came the longest leg of the journey, about 9½ hours, then 2½ hours later, after we transferred to the domestic terminal, we got on one more plane & finally arrived in Brisbane. We left our house in Winnipeg at about 10:30 a.m. Aug. 12<sup>th</sup> & arrived at the Brisbane Hilton Hotel on Aug. 14 at 12:30 p.m.



The Congress logo was a stylized honey pot ant.

After the meetings we took a 2 hour flight further north to Cairns in tropical north Queensland. We almost missed that plane when we went to the wrong terminal first – our “domestic” flight took off from the international terminal because it was actually a continuation of a flight to Singapore. The temperature in Cairns was 27°C every day and there was virtually no rain. About 50% of this rapidly growing city of 120,000 people are tourists enjoying the tropical winter – both foreigners & people from south Australia. There are many, many souvenir shops, tour outlets & restaurants. We stayed in an apartment hotel, so we were able to make a lot of our meals. We were 8 blocks from the ocean and the marina. We did a tour a day. We snorkelled on the Agincourt Reef, which is at the outer edge of the Great Barrier Reef, about 31 km from shore. We also tried it on our own at Fitzroy Island, which is a short ferry ride off the coast from Cairns. I found snorkelling less than enjoyable as I tend to swallow a few cups of ocean every time – it's hard to realize how incredibly salty that water is. I had the misfortune of losing one of the lenses out of my glasses through the floor of the reef platform & now it's on the ocean floor. After that I wore my clip-on sunglasses all the time to cover up my missing lens. We also toured

rainforests & saw crocodiles in zoos & in rivers, and lots of other wildlife. I saw few insects, other than some flies and bright green ants, and only one snake.

### **Australian Anecdotes** by Bob Lamb

The 2004 International Congress in Brisbane, Australia was a great entomological experience. I also enjoyed other entomological experiences, for example finding a 15-cm walking stick crawling down my shirt, on a pre-congress trip to sub-tropical rainforest. Where it came from I don't know. I took less pleasure, much less pleasure, from an attractive orange-brown mosquito (*Mansonia* sp.?) that pestered us on our post-congress tour to the tropical north. The bites of this mosquito were unbelievably itchy, and lasted for days although it felt like weeks. Perhaps the most memorable experience, other than the congress itself, was a night spent camping in Gregory National Park in the far north of Western Australia. The campground was small and dusty-dry with leafless boab or bottle trees scattered among the campsites. These trees have huge, but short, water-storing trunks and thick short branches, festooned with baseball-sized seed pods. That night the moon was full and the sky perfectly clear, and so it never became really dark. One of the many birds in the area is the pied butcher bird, rather like our magpie with a shorter tail. This bird sings beautifully at dawn. That night it was fooled by the bright full moon, and sang from midnight right through to sunrise.

The song was musical with a recognizable 4-5 note tune, but the bird improvised around this tune. It was like having a flutist sitting near the tent and serenading all night. The only interruptions were the mobs of wallabies that thumped by, a bit like a kettle drum backup, and the mournful French-horn sound of a dingo in the distance. It was a night in a magical wood, with the strange shadows of boabs moving across the tent, to a slow progression of eerie music. Did I mind lying awake watching and listening? Not at all!



Bob Lamb stands beside a stunning version of the Congress logo created by Anthony Hiller and Michelle Larsen of Mount Glorious Biological Centre. The panel at the right shows the species of insects, all native to Australia, used to create the logo on the left.

### **The end of the road** by Neil Holliday

In Western Australia, the Great Northern Highway winds equator-wards from Perth, through 3200 km of desert, to its conclusion on the gently simmering waters of the Cambridge Gulf. Along the final six miles are three hamlets that make up Wyndham. First comes Athe Six Mile@, a collection of red-dusted dwellings and a derelict race track; next is Athe Three Mile@ with shops and services and most of the housing; finally there is the Port. During our August stay in Wyndham Port, it was Athe dry@, which is cool: overnight temperatures dropped to 27EC and daytime highs reached 37EC.

The snake and mosquito-free winter Adry@ alternates with the steamy monsoonal deluges of Athe wet@ and shapes the landscape and its inhabitants. Ancient red hillsides are soil-free shattered rock, a consequence of the alternate baking and scouring seasons and periodic fire. Spinifex endures patchily, giving refuge to darting lizards. Baobab trees C boabs to the Ozzies C are ubiquitous. Their pepper-pot-like presences obstruct the main street, provide surfaces for graffiti and posters, but offer no shade. Boabs rise abruptly from the ground like buildings, not trees; one hollow boab was used as a prison. At high tide in the wet, Cambridge Gulf and its five estuaries surround the town with shallow brackish mosquito breeding sites; in the dry, these bake down into miles of salt encrusted flats, cracked and flaked like an abandoned burned lasagna pan. Wyndham=s buildings seem old and tired, though few older buildings have survived the termites.

Most Australians who know of Wyndham cannot understand why one would choose to live in a place that the tourist brochure notes A...has more than a passing resemblance to hell@. Some locals seemed imprisoned by the isolation, serving time until they can leave, but a few seem at home, not just enduring but enjoying. These latter entertain us with stories of the animals with which they share their town. They magnify the lengths of the snakes they catch in their living rooms, and the number of green tree frogs you can find in a toilet tank. They advise setting out melons on a Aroo-bar@ to keep kangaroos well-enough fed that they do not devour the garden. They rhyme off the names of the big salt-water crocodiles that live by the old wharf and occasionally come into town to inflict Asudden slack leash syndrome@ on nocturnal dog-walkers.

They exaggerate the speed and range of a lunging saltie, or do they? My scientific curiosity deserts me. One can see the attraction of a town with such characters, and with such quirkiness that one can be buried under one=s favourite bar stool in one=s favourite bar. The end of the road is an unusual place, but if it does resemble hell, then at least hell would be an interesting place to visit!



A close-up of the anterior portion of the congress logo.



## **Lord Howe Island** by Paul Fields

After a great week at the conference, I headed to Lord Howe Island with my 16 year-old son and his best friend. Lord Howe Island is a small island (2 km wide by 11 km long) 500 km off the east coast of Australia. Bob Lamb and Pat MacKay had recommended this stop in our two weeks of holidays in Australia. Lord Howe Island was designated World Heritage Site in 1982 because of its unique flora and fauna.

Upon arrival by Dash 8, you are met by your hotel staff, given a brief tour of the island's four roads and shown to your room. There are no keys given at the hotel. The island has about 300 residents, and they have limited the number of guest rooms on the island to 300. We rented bikes, no locks needed. There is one police officer, whose main job was to make sure that people were wearing their bike helmets. One of Lord Howe Island's claims to fame is that it is the most southerly coral reef on the planet. We rented snorkel gear with wet suits for the week, and spent part of the week snorkeling from the beach.



Unidentified insect on beach on Lord Howe Island.

Hiking and bird watching are other activities that attract people to the island. Lord Howe Island is home to one of the rarer birds on the planet, the woodhen *Gallirallus sylvestris*; there are only about 200 individuals surviving. Of entomological interest there is the Lord Howe Island phasmid *Dryococelus australis*. It was thought to be extinct, due to rat predation, but it was found on a nearby island in 2001. Finally there is a scientific research facility which will can rent lab and simple accommodations for those of you that have projects that may interest the island caretakers. When we were there, two entomologists from Denmark were using the Berlese funnels to extract mites.

## **Unexpected Entomological Connections**

Rob Roughley & Noel White

Rob Roughley, currently a professor in the Department of Entomology at the University of Manitoba and Noel White, currently a research scientist at the Cereal Research Centre of Agriculture and AgriFood Canada in Winnipeg, were entomology M.Sc. students together in Environmental Biology at the University of Guelph in the mid-70s, not a particularly unexpected connection in itself. The unexpected bit occurred in 1975 when they took a Philosophy of Science course from Reg Shuel. What sets this connection apart is that they were the only two registered in the course



that year. The lectures were at 8:00am, not a favourite time among many university students, and at least one of them claims to have found the lectures less than stimulating. The lecture hall had about 35 seats, and they sat beside each other in the front row. One morning, both were either a bit tired or a bit bored, and both dropped off to sleep, leaning against each other. They awoke to the noise of a slamming door as Professor Shuel left them to themselves. They later apologized, and it's hard to guess who told the story more often, the professor or the students. A Rob and a Noel of that era can be seen in the accompanying photograph, with Noel standing and Rob seated on the right, and two other colleagues on the left.

## **NEWCOMERS TO ENTOMOLOGY IN MANITOBA**

### **Visiting Scientist at U of M**

In September the Entomology Department at the University of Manitoba welcomed Rasoul Bahreine, a visitor from Iran here for a nine month visit. Rasoul joins Rob Currie's laboratory to work on honey bee biology. In Iran he works in the Honeybee and Silkworm Department of the Animal Science Research Institute in Karadj. His BSc is in Plant Protection from Tabriz University and his MSc is in Agricultural Entomology from Ahvaz University. He is particularly interested in the mites and other pests and predators attacking honey bees. He has 18 papers published or in press, 35 papers in conference proceedings on the topic and is advisor to four MSc students in this area of study.



### **A Manitoban Returns**

Kathy (McGinnis) Cano was a graduate of the University of Manitoba, Dept of Entomology and did her Master's degree with Dr. Reiny Brust. She just returned to Winnipeg after 15 years in the Toronto area. She has been working with Orkin Canada for the last 15 years in many capacities. Orkin bought the pest control company PCO Services a few years ago and just last year bought the Winnipeg pest control company 'Swat'. Kathy provides Pest management and Sanitation audits and Training for food manufacturing plants and warehouses, restaurants, health care facilities and a variety of other types of facilities throughout Manitoba and Saskatchewan. She also assists in providing training and technical advice to service



technicians and to the general public. Kathy is also the ISO Coordinator and Health and Safety Coordinator for Orkin Canada. Kathy's husband Marcelo also works for Orkin Canada and they have 2 children, Alejandra, 11, and Patrick, 8.

## **MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS\***

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.entsoc.org/annual_meeting/2004/index.html)

**International Symposium of Ecology and Management of *Lygus* Plant Bugs**  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, 30 January – 03 February 2005  
[Lygus\\_Symposium@hotmail.com](mailto:Lygus_Symposium@hotmail.com)

**Great Lakes Odonata Meeting**  
Clearwater Lake Lodge (near Emo), Ontario, Canada, 13-17 July, 2005  
([www.rainyriverfieldnaturalists.org](http://www.rainyriverfieldnaturalists.org)).  
Registration forms are available from Terry Galloway, Dept. of Entomology, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2 (204-474-6024).

**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 January 2005

## ESM EXECUTIVE 2004

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