

# 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**

A belated Happy New Year!

Time to Renew your ESM  
Membership Dues!

Did you miss it? I did. Many of us pay our dues at the ESM Annual Meeting, which we didn't have a chance to do last October because of the Joint Meeting with the ESC. So now is the time!



Send your payment to the ESM Secretary at:

Sarah Semmler  
Living Prairie Museum  
2795 Ness Ave  
Winnipeg MB R3J 3S4

Some benefits of membership? You receive the Proceedings of the ESM, the ESM Newsletter and an opportunity to attend the Annual General Meeting featuring a diverse seminar schedule which would appeal to a variety of interests. Social functions such as the New Members' Social and luncheon meetings featuring guest speakers complete our annual program.

Marjorie Smith & Jordan Bannerman

## President's Message

**Greetings from the Entomological Society of Manitoba (ESM) - Happy New Year everyone!**

I hope you all had a wonderful time with your family and friends during the holiday season, and stayed warm despite the cold weather.

I would like to thank you for providing me with the opportunity to serve the Society as the elected President for 2017-2018. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Dr. John Gavloski, for his significant contribution to the Society by serving as the President last year. I am pleased to report that all the vacant executive positions and committee chairs are now filled. My sincere thanks to all who served last year, and those who accepted to serve in the positions this year. Collectively, we need to increase the ESM membership. I encourage you to take the time to introduce the ESM to your graduate and undergraduate students and staff, and let them know of the significant role that they can play as the members of the Society in meeting its mission.



In October 2017, we had a successful joint meeting of Entomological Society of Canada (ESC) and Entomological Society of Manitoba (ESM), which was held here in Winnipeg. Over 200 people attended. There were seven symposia as well as 64 student presentations and 78 regular submitted papers. I would like to thank the scientific committee and all volunteers for a wonderful job in organizing such a great meeting.

The upcoming meetings in 2018 are: the 2018 annual meeting of the North Central Mosquito Control Association that will be hosted by the City of Winnipeg Insect Control Branch on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. More information can be found at: <http://north-central-mosquito.org/WPSite/home/meetings/2018meeting/>. The joint annual meeting of Entomological Society of British Columbia, Entomological Society of Canada and Entomological Society of America will be held in Vancouver, BC, November 11-14, 2018. It is anticipated that over 3000 scientists and researchers from all around the world will be attending this meeting and exchanging their research findings and experience. More information can be found at: <http://www.entsoc.org/events/annual-meeting>. The ESM annual meeting will probably be in October 2018.

Some local insect news: based on information I received from ESM members, the three worst agricultural pests in 2017 were soybean aphids (*Aphis glycines*), diamondback moth (*Plutella xylostella*), and flea beetles in canola (*Phyllotreta spp.*). The first two are occasional pests and flea beetles are frequent pests in Manitoba. The only insect in field crops that caused a lot of concern was the thistle caterpillar (*Vanessa cardui*), which is the caterpillar stage of the painted lady butterfly. If you are interested, more information on field crop pests in Manitoba in 2017

can be found at the following link: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/insects/pubs/insect-summary-2017.pdf>

Within the city of Winnipeg, bed bugs, German cockroaches and stored product pests were still problematic insects in homes. Yellow jacket wasps were very abundant last summer and considered the biggest number on our history records in Winnipeg. On the other hand, mosquitoes appeared in very low numbers last summer because of the unfavorable combination of heat and rain for them during late spring and summer of 2017. In urban areas, forest tent caterpillar, elm span worm and elm bark beetles were abundant as usual. Finding Emerald ash borer in a tree in St. Boniface in Winnipeg in mid-November 2017 caused significant concern in the city and province as this invasive beetle can eventually affect more than 100,000 ash trees on public property and more than 250,000 on private property in and around the city of Winnipeg.

**Mahmood Iranpour**

## **FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR TO THE ESC**

Greetings!

ESM members who attended the ESC-ESM Joint meeting last October may recall the ESC governing board members and invited guests participated in a strategic planning session to produce a new Vision and Mission, and a strategic plan to help set priorities for the future. The ESC supports the Canadian entomological community in many ways, but believes it can and should communicate better with regional societies, like the ESM. In February, the ESC Executive will meet with all Regional Directors to discuss ways to improve communication and collaboration with regional societies. If you have ideas on how the ESC could be more relevant to and better connected with the ESM, please let me know!

Have you checked out the ESC's *NEW* website yet? Webmaster Jordan Bannerman (yes, "our" newsletter co-editor) has done a great job of creating a site that is full of information yet is easy to navigate. Take a look: <http://esc-sec.ca>. While you're there, you can view the updated Vision and Mission, the ESC Blog, and you can find some ways the ESC supports the entomological community. Did you know the ESC distributes \$12,000 annually in scholarships and student prizes?

If you are not yet a member of the ESC, I encourage you to consider membership. If you are a member, did you remember to renew for 2018? You might want to opt for the new automatic renewals using your credit card – very handy for people who constantly forget to renew!

Kateryn Rochon  
Regional Director, ESC

## MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS\*

### **14th Annual Meeting of the North Central Mosquito Control Association**

Soul Sanctuary, 2050 Chevrier Blvd. Winnipeg, 5-6 April 2018

[Meeting page](#)

### **XV international Congress of Acarology**

Antalya, Turkey, 2-8 September 2018

[Meeting page](#)

### **Joint Meeting of the Entomological Society of Canada, the Entomological Society of British Columbia and the Entomological Society of America**

Vancouver, 11-14 November 2018

[Meeting page](#)

### **Joint Meeting of the Entomological Society of Canada, the Acadian Entomological Society and the Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution**

Fredericton, 18-21 August 2019

### **26th International Congress of Entomology (Entomology for our planet)**

Helsinki, Finland, 19-24 July 2020

[Meeting page](#)

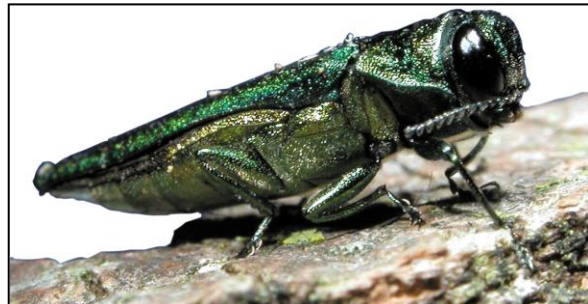
\*If you have a meeting you would like listed in the next ESM Newsletter, contact Marjorie Smith or Jordan Bannerman with the details by **15 April 2018**.

### **Presentation at the Living Prairie Museum on 13 March 2018:**

#### **What you need to know about Emerald Ash Borer**

By Martha Barwinsky, City of Winnipeg Forester

Since the 2002 discovery of emerald ash borer (EAB) in North America, millions of hectares of ash trees have been decimated in the United States, Ontario, and Quebec. Now that EAB is in Manitoba, it poses a significant threat to Winnipeg's urban forest and will result in a significant change to our urban forest cover. Winnipeg is home to over 350,000 ash trees and over 30% of the city's public urban canopy is comprised of ash. Learn what you need to know about EAB, how the City of Winnipeg is preparing for EAB, and what can be done to slow the mortality of the City's ash population.



Emerald Ash Borer. CFIA photo.

**Note:** This presentation is part of the Living Prairie Museum Winter Speaker Series. The full list of speakers, and details about registration, can be found [here](#).

## Todd Lawton Wins Norman Criddle Award

By Bob Wrigley and Terry Galloway

The 2017 recipient of the Norman Criddle Award for his contributions to amateur entomology was Todd Lawton, presented to him in Winnipeg at the Joint Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of Canada and the Entomological Society of Manitoba. Todd grew up enthusiastic about nature and the outdoors, being a keen collector of mammal skeletons in his early years. He was turned on by insects when he made a collection for an introductory entomology course at the University of Western Ontario. Although beetles were his first fascination, tiger beetles soon became his



Todd collecting tiger beetles in August 1985 in Canal Flats, BC. Todd Lawton photo.

working in areas populated by a variety of poisonous snakes, and traversing fast rivers while fully clothed! He thinks nothing of driving thousands of kilometres to check his traps set months earlier. He has persisted through inclement weather, including tornadoes, hurricanes, heavy rains, floods, snow storms, and debilitating heat, as well as biting insects. Todd is an accomplished writer (with a keen sense of humour) of entomological articles, and has contributed to the Newsletter of the Entomological Society of Manitoba.

His innovations in developing pitfall-trap techniques include a super bait for collecting certain rare carabids and other taxa in various regions of Canada and the United States. This work has led to the discovery of at least one new species in the Appalachians. He is preparing the description of a new species of *Scaphinotus*



Terry Galloway presents the Criddle Award to Todd Lawton. Tyler Wist photo.

passion. When he moved to Manitoba in 1980, he continued to collect tiger beetles and soon developed considerable expertise in the group. After a short hiatus, he resumed his intense study of tiger beetles in 2002. Todd is an extraordinarily determined and knowledgeable collector, willing to risk life and limb to reach just the right habitat or location to find his insect quarry. This includes climbing treacherous mountainsides in the dark,



June 2015, Lynn Lake, MB, after three weeks of camping and cold pizza. Todd Lawton photo.

(Carabidae) that he discovered in the eastern USA. His attention to detail is illustrated by his careful dissections of beetle genitalia, and his pen and ink drawings of beetles. For example, his rendition of *Amblycheila cylindriformis* is exceptional. Todd and Robert Wrigley have recently undertaken to complete a manuscript on the tiger beetles of Manitoba.

He has amassed one of the most comprehensive collections of species and subspecies of tiger beetles (with the exception of the few endangered ones) in Canada and the United States, and has shared ecological information with many North American carabid experts. He makes annual donations to the Wallis/Roughley Museum of Entomology (WRME) and the Canadian National Collection of Insects, Arachnids and Nematodes. The total number of specimens to the WRME alone is approaching 10,000. His specimens are beautifully prepared and fully labelled with complete collection data, and have been a valuable contribution to the WRME.

*Editor's Note: If you missed Todd's accounts of his amazing beetle collecting trips, or want to enjoy reading them again, here are three links to the ESM Newsletter issues:*

[Volume 39 numbers 2+3](#)

[Volume 41 number 1](#)

[Volume 42 number 1](#)

## **Congratulations to Winners of Student Awards, 2017**

This year the ESM Student Awards were given out at the Joint Annual Meeting of the ESC and ESM, held at the Fairmont Hotel in Winnipeg. The 2017 ESM President, John Gavloski, was on hand to present the ESM awards to the winners.

The winner of the **ESM Student Achievement Award** was **Ivan Drahun**, who is in his final year as an undergraduate Biochemistry student at the University of Winnipeg. Ivan has written a directed studies project on the potential vector competence of North American mosquito species (including some in Manitoba) for exotic viruses such as Zika and Chikungunya. Ivan is currently working on an honours project evaluating the oviposition decisions of two species of mosquitoes with respect to organic content in aqueous habitats.

The **Orkin Award** was won by **Corey Blad**. Corey has worked in the Department of Entomology at the University of Manitoba as a student lab technician since 2015, helping with a variety of projects such as maintaining insect colonies, setting insect traps, and identifying insects. Corey is currently working under the supervision of Dr. Alejandro Costamagna on a project that he helped to develop, to determine if *Brassica napus* (canola) produces more seeds when infested by the butterfly *Pieris rapae*, as a means of reproductive escape from predation.



Corey receives his award from John Gavloski. Tyler Wist photo.



Martine receives her award from John Gavloski. Tyler Wist photo.

The **ESM Graduate Scholarship** was awarded to **Martine Balcaen**. Martine is enrolled as an M.Sc. candidate in the Dept. of Biology in the Bioscience and Technology Program at the University of Winnipeg and is supervised by Dr. Richard Westwood. Martine's M. Sc. research focuses on better understanding the dispersal behavior of adult mosquitoes in relation to climatic and habitat variables. The ultimate goal is to improve mosquito management and the efficiency of control measures, by integrating the enhanced understanding of the dispersal behavior into Geographic Information Systems (GIS) models for mosquito distribution.

Each year, the **ESC** offers two **Danks Scholarships** of \$1000 each to support studies on the Canadian fauna. The scholarships are in memory of David Danks (1974-2008) and reflect the interests of David and of his father Hugh in environmental science and entomology.

This year, **Thais Guimaraes** was awarded a **Danks Scholarship**. Thais is a PhD candidate at the University of Manitoba, Department of Entomology, in the lab of Dr Alejandro Costamagna. Her thesis focuses on landscape effects on flea beetles and their natural enemies in the Canadian Prairies, and their movements between crops and more natural habitats.



Dr. Hugh Danks presents Thais with her Danks Scholarship. Tyler Wist photo.



Megan Colwell giving her talk at the Graduate Student Showcase. Jason Gibbs photo.

This year **Megan Colwell** was an invited speaker participating in the **Graduate Student Showcase** at the Joint Meeting. Megan is a PhD candidate in Dr Rob Currie's lab. She spoke on "Epidemiological implications of wax- and airborne honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) viruses and potential treatments".

## ESM EXECUTIVE 2018

POSITION	PERSON	EMAIL ADDRESS
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