

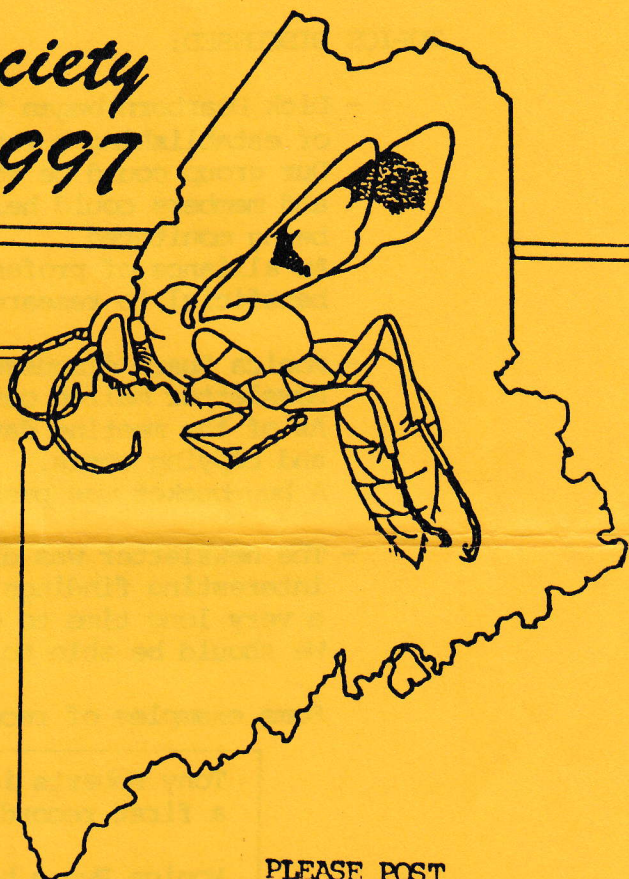
Maine Entomological Society

Newsletter

NO. 2., SUMMER

1997

A FORUM FOR STUDENTS, PROFESSIONALS & AMATEURS
IN THE PINE TREE STATE



YES, THERE IS A MAINE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY!

On June 7, 1997, an organizational/business meeting was held at the Pine Tree State Arboretum in Augusta.

Fourteen people were present for the meeting, which was followed by a field trip on the grounds of the Arboretum, to collect specimens.

Fortunately, it was a great day, weather-wise. Many fruit trees were in flower, attracting a variety of insects. Russian olive was flowering, as was a special treat -- a colony of yellow ladyslipper orchids!

The Arboretum affords a variety of habitats: open fields, native wildflower areas, horticultural plantings, woodland, and water areas, so it was a great choice of a meeting site (thanks to Don Ouellette's planning!)

Here are the meeting minutes for those who were not able to attend this first meeting:

PLEASE POST

MEETING MINUTES: MAINE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY
PINE TREE STATE ARBORETUM

JUNE 7, 1997
CALLED TO ORDER: 9:44 AM

PRESENT: Dick Dearborn, Don Ouellette, Monica Russo, Charlene Donahue, Sam Ristich, Kathy Murray, Ruthann Coulombe, Gail Everett, Edie King, Tony Roberts, Don Mairs, Robert Nelson, Richard Folsom, and Michael Mazurkiewicz.

Everyone was given a chance to introduce themselves and discuss their interests or specialties.

Continued...

TOPICS DISCUSSED:

- Dick Dearborn began the meeting, discussing the importance of establishing a formal network of entomologists and amateurs. Our group could be active in inventories and survey work, and members could help observe or collect in areas that are being monitored.
An alliance of professionals and serious amateurs could be beneficial to research here in Maine.
- Monica Russo discussed the logistics of getting a regular newsletter mailed out, and having a Directory made.
As of the meeting date, over \$20.00 had been spent on stamps and copying costs.
A bug-bucket was passed around to collect donations.
- The newsletter was discussed as an excellent forum to publish interesting findings and state records. At present, it can take a very long time to get published in another journal.
We should be able to document state records sooner, ourselves.

Some examples of recent findings:

Tony Roberts identified Acrolophus morus (a small moth) a first record for Maine

Monica Russo has taken specimens of Polistes dominulus, a paper wasp native to the Mid-East, also a record, in both 1995 and 1996

Bob Nelson has a first record for a tiger beetle, (Cicindela sp.), which he'd found at a gravel pit in Sanford.

- The possibility of field collecting trips was discussed.
We could consider meeting at the same time as the APHIS field trip on August 6th. Kathy Murray also suggested hosting a meeting/field outing at her home.
Both Bob Nelson and Michael Mazurkiewicz felt there would be no problem with having meetings on-campus, at Colby or at U.S.M.
- A tentative fall meeting date was set for Saturday, September 20, to be held at Kathy Murray's home in Troy.
- Since meeting in public places like schools may cost us from \$25-45, we need to explore other options. We cannot use State buildings.

- The present members of M.E.S. voted in unanimous agreement to the following items:
 - A membership fee of \$5.00 would begin in 1998, to cover costs of the Newsletter & Directory and mailing labels.

(Those present made donations during the meeting, with significant support from Sam Ristich. Donations from additional interested members would be welcomed, including stamps).
 - M.E.S. would send a letter to Fred Hutchinson, Univ. of Maine at Orono, concerning the planned demolition of the Edith Patch house. This issue was discussed by Kathy Murray. (A letter did go out, drafted by Dick Dearborn, noting that "those present at the June 7th meeting of the Maine Entomological Society unanimously voted to support all efforts to preserve the existing structure as a memorial to Dr. Edith Patch and to explore additional opportunities for its use.") (See also NEWS & NOTES, page 5.)
 - Dick Dearborn noted the need for formalizing our structure and organization, and the following officers were voted in:

M.E.S. President: Dick Dearborn
M.E.S. Vice President & Treasurer: Don Ouellette
M.E.S. Secretary/Editor: Monica Russo
 - It was agreed that the M.E.S. Newsletter should have the following quarterly news submission and mailing dates:
January 30th (News mailed in to Secretary by Jan. 1st)
April 30th (News forwarded by April 1st)
July 30th (News forwarded by July 1st)
October 30th (News forwarded by October 1st)
 - A Directory will be printed before the year is out.
- A total of \$72.00 was collected at the meeting. Ms. Russo will provide a statement to Don Ouellette of expenditures to date, so he may keep track of our funds/needs.
- Summer field collecting trips were discussed:
 1. There will be a Butterfly Count at the Brownfield Bog, lead by Gail Everett on Saturday, July 5th. Call Gail for information and directions, at: 878-3794. Volunteers are needed.
 2. Maine Audubon also conducts a butterfly count. Look in their publications for the date.
 3. Don Mairs will be at the Kennebunk Plains on August 23, and Nancy Sferra at the Waterboro Barrens on July 12, for insect tours for the Nature Conservancy. Call the Conservancy for details.



OTHER MISCELLANEOUS NEWS:

- Sam Ristich noted that the Thorncrag Sanctuary in the L/A area has recently acquired additional land, and would welcome survey or monitoring work.
- Ruthann Coulombe offered to create mailing labels on her personal PC. (THANKS! - Ed.)
- Don Ouellette offered future help with printing.
- We will submit a list of the species we collect on Arboretum grounds, after the meeting, as the Arboretum allowed us to use their conference rooms free for this meeting.

AND:

- We will develop a flyer or notice announcing our organization, which can be distributed or posted at colleges, to generate new member interest.
- Dick Dearborn will be letting us know of a dragonfly survey that is in the works for Maine. Specimens will be welcome!
- Don Mairs suggested that M.E.S. could make a distinct voice in the legislature for supporting the effort to keep invertebrates on the state endangered species list.
- Once the Directory is printed, we should distribute it to other entomology organizations, or universities.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM for lunch. Field activities followed.

ATTACHED IS THE NOTICE ANNOUNCING OUR ORGANIZATION -- PLEASE FEEL FREE TO POST THIS, OR PASS IT ON.

The Directory is under way. If you were not at the meeting, OR did not make a donation, you will not be in the Directory! It will include your interests and specialties.

SEND IN YOUR NEWS, OR MEMBERSHIP REQUEST, OR DIRECTORY INFORMATION TO:

Monica Russo, M.E.S. Sec.
19 North Skilling Road
Arundel, Maine 04046

We need short, interesting, newsy articles about insects, collectors, and entomological events around the State, for future issues. Write them down while fresh in your mind! Just one paragraph is fine!

NEWS & NOTES

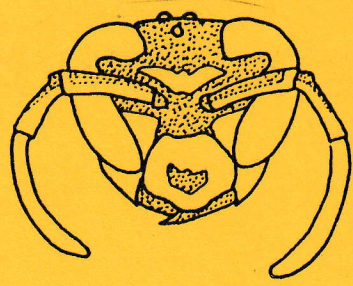
Tony Roberts is continuing to inventory the small moths of the Downeast area, & he welcomes any correspondence with anyone seeking information or identification of microlepidoptera. T. Roberts, 367 Village Rd., Steuben, ME 04680

Dick Dearborn will be giving an insect walk & talk at the Gray Animal Farm, on July 27, at 1:00 & 3:00 PM

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Addendum on the Edith Patch House, from D. Dearborn: A contractor was brought in by the University to assess the condition of the Edith Patch House, & the estimated costs for repairs are far in excess of what the Univ. has for such purposes. Demolition will begin as soon as crews are available to do so. As a result of interest in an Edith Patch memorial, a committee will be formed to explore various alternatives.

There are many insect collectors & observers out there. If you know of someone who might be interested in our group, share this Newsletter with them -- we'd like our name to get around!

Sam Ristich is continuing studies on a variety of entomological & botanical subjects. He leads regular outings, each month, and can be reached at 829-3375.



CLASSIFIED ADS

("FLEA" MARKET)

Feeling waspish? Wear a Sphex pensylvanicus T-shirt. Black art on ivory, only size Medium left (good for big kids or small adults.) Send \$10.00 to: Monica Russo, 19 North Skilling Road, Arundel, Maine 04046

Monarch metamorphosis, Butterfly garden, Dragonflies, & Milkweed Village -- Insect T-shirts by D.D. Tyler are now available through Liberty Graphics, Liberty, Maine 04949. Phone orders: (207)589-4596. Adult shirts \$15.00, (XXL \$16) Kids' shirts \$11.00. MC or VISA accepted. All prices include shipping & handling.

WANTED: A copy of: BOHART, R.M. A Review of Aphilanthops and Related Genera Proc. Ent. Soc. Wash (D.C.) 68:158-167 1966. Contact M. Russo, address above. Thanks!

THE NEXT M.E.S. NEWSLETTER WILL BE OUT THE END OF OCTOBER.

SEND IN YOUR NEWS, NOTES, OBSERVATIONS OR CLASSIFIEDS BY: OCTOBER 1, 1997 TO MONICA RUSSO OR DICK DEARBORN.



HERE IT IS:

THE ANNUAL A.P.H.I.S. FIELD TRIP !

Ron Mack (Maine Coop. Ext. Svc) & Don Mairs (Maine Dept. of Agric.) will lead a field trip to the "Peatlands of Belgrade" on August 6th. This will be a trip for all interested in collecting & observing insects. If you missed our exceptional 1996 Waterboro Barrens trip, this should not be missed!

Call Ron Mack (207) 581-3880, or Dick Dearborn (207) 287-2431 for more details.

Did you know that we have at least two species of Antlions in Maine? A spotted-winged species, Dendroleon obsoletus (Say), has been recorded from York County. A more common unspotted-winged Hesperoleon abdominalis (Say) has been seen as far inland as Kennebec County. The larva of H. abdominalis, known as the "doodlebug", makes craters in the sand to trap prey. Another curious Neuropteran, Mantispa brunnea (Say) (Mantispidae) has been collected in York and Cumberland Counties. Adults somewhat resemble small preying mantids.

(And are Polistes paper-wasp mimics. -M.R.)

A Yellowjacket (Hornet) Tree!!! We occasionally observe situations where large numbers of yellowjackets hang out around a single tree night & day. They appear to have a small nucleus colony, while most workers are required to keep on the move. This seems to be most common in northern Maine in wooded areas. We would like specimens & comments. Contact Dick Dearborn, Insect & Disease Lab, 50 Hospital Street, Augusta, ME 04330. Tel: (207) 287-2431.

THE MAINE CARABID BEETLE PROJECT:

A concerted effort is being made to catalog as many species of the Carabidae as possible, so that an annotated list can be published by the year 2000.

We would be glad to do identifications and are interested not only in new species records, but also distribution records for more common species.

Contact: Dr. Robert E. Nelson, Dept. of Geology, Colby College, 5804 Mayflower Hill Drive, Waterville, ME 04901-8858.

Tel: (207) 872-3247, or Dick Dearborn at 287-2431 for more details.

OBSERVERS ALMANAC

- April 26. Arundel. Osmia lignaria (Blue orchard bees) Mating. (M. Russo)
- June 6. Arundel. First Luna Moth out (M. Russo)
- June 5-15 No. Yarmouth. Tiger Swallowtails out. (S. Ristich)
- June 15-25 No. Yarmouth. Banded Purples out (s. Ristich)
- June 28 Arundel Town Dump: Amphiphila wasps mating (M.R.)
- June 29 Huge male pine sawyer beetle (Monochamus) walking in front door of the new Biddeford WalMart (Yes, I saved it) M.R.