

The Maine Entomologist

A FORUM FOR STUDENTS, PROFESSIONALS & AMATEURS IN THE PINE

Volume 9, Number 1, February 2005



From the President

From cold and wet to colder and snowier, Maine at its winter best brings out the garden catalogues in us all! While most insects are still snug in their winter quarters many MES members are busy taking care of specimens and records from 2004, looking for insects in warmer parts of the world, or planning for the season ahead. To remind you of the many fascinating Maine insects and the upcoming field season events you can simply look at your 2005 MES calendar. And don't forget to keep those cameras ready for that unique shot for our 2006 calendar.

To help with those tricky identification problems, our recent highly successful winter workshop provided a wealth of helpful tips. I would like to thank our organizer, Chuck Peters for a great time; presenters Don Chandler, Connie Stubbs and Reggie Webster for their valuable guidance; Tom Vining for use of the very suitable Delta Institute facility and all attendees for their support. Even the weather cooperated! Thanks to all.

Now get your planners out and jot down those special dates for 2005. We again have plans for a great field season. Since our annual meeting, new events have been added starting with an Insect Interest Day at the Fields Pond Audubon Center in Holden on Thursday, April 21. This event will give us a chance to present displays of various insect activities for school children and adults alike. If you would like to present a display let me know or just join us in support of MES and Maine Audubon. Another new event is a Coleoptera Blitz planned for Schoodic Point, July 16 to 18. While the area and scope of this event is the same as our 2004 Lepidoptera blitz, the focus this season will be beetles (Coleoptera). Look for more on these and other events in this issue and on our website.

While it takes a core of active members working behind the scenes to keep MES moving, our success ultimately depends upon participation by all of you, our members. Whether it is organizing or attending an event, writing an article or simply keeping your dues paid up, you are the reason for our success. I hope to see more of you in the months ahead so please join us in the field or through one of the many modes of communications. Join us today in an amazing adventure into the world of insects.

-Dick Dearborn

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Monarch Plastic Surgery

It was one of those perfect late August mornings. Contributing to its perfection was a first-time visitation of a monarch butterfly to a recently planted butterfly bush in the garden. Living in an upside down house is fun because we are closer to the world of birds and the second floor dining room area has a very large window overlooking a modest raised garden beside the driveway. But, to my dismay, by the third day I realized the monarch was still on the same plant and appeared to be in the exact spot where it originally landed. Was something wrong? Was it alive? It was time to check the situation. I cautiously approached Mr. M and was stunned to find his right wing had a razor-like slice running almost its entire length! What to do - no wonder the butterfly hadn't flown away. Would my wonderful hobby glue called Sobo glue work? No harm in trying. I quickly gathered the glue and a flat wooden toothpick and again slowly approached this beautiful creature. After applying just a drop on the toothpick and working it smoothly over the split I decided the underside should also receive a thin application. During lunchtime, while sitting at the dining room table, I happened to look out just as the monarch seemed to flutter its wings. The next thing I saw amazed me - it raised up from the butterfly bush about a foot and then fluttered back down. A second try, a bit higher this time, and then a third time even higher. Within a second it raised up for the last time and headed south west climbing "up, up and away!"

-June Ficker

Insect Issues: Spread of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid *Adelges tsugae*

I am not going to detail the life history of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) here, I will just say it is a very small insect that sucks the life out of eastern hemlock trees (*Tsuga canadensis*). This insect came from Asia where it does not kill the trees. There the trees and adelgids have co-evolved so that the trees are resistant to the insect, as are the hemlock species in the western part of North America. Unfortunately the eastern hemlock did not evolve with an adelgid and so whole stands of hemlocks south of Maine are being decimated by the HWA.

There has been a Maine quarantine banning the importation of hemlocks from infested areas since the 1980s and it was not until 1999 that the quarantine was breached and infested nursery stock started finding its way into Maine. This quarantine was, and is, very important because the HWA does not fly and its normal spread is very slow. It spends most of its life tethered to the tree by its proboscis and is mobile only in the crawler stage before it begins feeding. Wind or animals, especially birds, can spread the adelgid naturally. People spread adelgids by moving hemlock trees. There is also what is known as the "FedEx Effect" observed in infested suburban areas. The hemlock is a wonderful tree to plant for privacy in a landscape. People tend to let it grow unpruned even next to their driveways so that delivery trucks brush against the branches as they make their rounds, picking up crawlers from infested trees and depositing them on uninfested ones.

Observant homeowners and green industry people are generally the ones who pick up on infested trees and have been very cooperative with the Maine Forest Service in dealing with this invasive insect.

The following is an excerpt from the Maine Forest Service report to the USDA Forest Service, written by Don Ouellette detailing the current HWA situation in Maine:

"Hemlock Woolly Adelgid was found for the first time in native hemlocks in Maine a year ago on Gerrish Island in Kittery Point where a low intensity population was confirmed to be established. Delimiting surveys conducted during 2004 have detected scattered light spot infestations over an area of 3500 acres in hemlock stands in Kittery, Kittery Point, York and on two abutting trees in a stand in the town of Wells. Detection surveys were performed in every town in York County to determine the presence of HWA. No new HWA infestations were found on hemlock nursery stock in Maine in 2004."

The Maine Forest Service has implemented an integrated Slow-the-Spread (STS) management program to reduce the impact of currently established HWA populations and reduce the rate of natural and artificial spread. A total of 7500 *Sasajiscymnus tsugae* (Sasaji and McClure) were released by the Maine Forest Service on Gerrish Island during the late spring and early summer to establish this predatory lady beetle in a forested part of the island. In October the Maine Forest Service treated nine sites in Kittery Point, York and Wells with the insecticide Talstar plus horticultural oil to control HWA populations around residential and urban forest areas. In early 2005 the state HWA quarantine will be expanded to include the towns of Kittery, York, and Wells in York County, Maine.

For more information go to:

www.state.me.us/doc/mfs/idmhwa.htm

www.fs.fed.us/na/morgantown/fhp/hwa/hwasite.html

Or call the Maine Forest Service at (207) 287-2431

-Charlene Donahue

PLEASE RENEW TODAY!

Please check the year in the upper right hand corner of your mailing label. If it reads 2004, it's time to renew your membership. MES memberships run on a calendar year and if you don't renew now this is the last issue you will receive. Dues are \$10 per year, or \$18 for two years. Make checks payable to Maine Entomological Society and mail to: Dana Michaud, Treasurer, at 3 Halde Street, Waterville, ME 04901.

A Message From MDIFW



Among the diverse mandates assigned to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) is the protection and management of *all* Maine's fish and wildlife resources. Many of these species are vital to the health of Maine's natural ecosystems, serve important ecological roles in pollination and pest control, and contribute to our quality of life, by providing aesthetic and recreational values (butterfly and bird watching). While most of Maine's non-game species are common and widely distributed, others are vulnerable to state extinction - a fate that has beset many species already, from the well known wolf and cougar, to the cryptic but colorful American burying beetle. The key to maintaining a successful nongame species program in Maine is adequate and stable funding.

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MES Winter Workshop A Success

On January 15th, twenty-eight entomophiles filled the comfortable classroom at the Delta Institute of Natural History in Bowdoin. As a relative newcomer I was impressed that folks drove all the way from New Hampshire, New Brunswick, Massachusetts and the hinterlands of Maine to share the biology and beauty of insects with like-minded souls. In the morning, Don Chandler, Connie Stubbs, and Reggie Webster gave excellent overviews of the Coleoptera, Hymenoptera, and Lepidoptera respectively. They were accompanied by the quiet buzzing of two boxes of bumblebees in the back of the room. Frank Drummond got the bees from an agricultural fair where the vender, who sells them as pollinators, had them on display.

During the morning session we were warned by Don and Reggie about the difficulties of keys. They both try to avoid using them, but admitted that they had paid their dues with keys when they were starting out. With that warning still fresh, several of us tested out a colored, pictorial key to the bumblebees of Maine that Connie and a student created. It had fewer pitfalls than the keys of which we had been warned because this was relatively short and contained no entomological terms; just color patterns to match up with an unknown specimen. It was fun and worked fairly well.

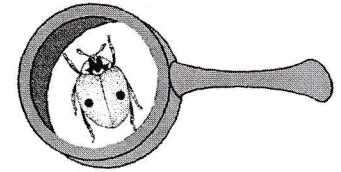
In the afternoon folks worked on a diversity of projects. Some people brought in extensive collections of the three orders that helped us to see similarities and differences within a particular family. People brought in puzzling insects to identify with help from the experts. Molly Schaufler was charmed by Chuck Peters' case of Coleoptera and created beautiful ink and watercolor paintings of some.

Thanks to Chuck Peters' planning there were instructive handouts, delicious snacks, and all the required teaching tools. Tom Vining's Delta Institute offered a great setting and facilities for learning and mingling. The weather cooperated too because rain and one day of warm temperatures had melted the perfect snow and then frozen everything up again. We were content to stay inside, admire insects, and look forward to their appearance next spring.

At home days later I read the handouts from the workshop and learned to "Avoid horticultural doubles because these plants have been bred for showy petals in place of anthers. Thus, they have little or no pollen. Also the many petals often make the nectar physically inaccessible to bees, butterflies and others." This information came just in time because I was about to place my seed order. Actually, in the past I have avoided double flowers because I do not think they are as beautiful as more simple flowers. Now I have two reasons to avoid them.

-Tulle Frazer

Bug Maine-ia Revisited



On September 23, 2004, while standing behind the MES table, surrounded by an ever-changing crowd of schoolchildren and adults, I had the pleasure of handing out live, scurrying banded woolly bear caterpillars to anyone eager to hold one. The vast majority handled them with respect and gentleness, while letting the hairy caterpillars roam freely over hands and arms often remarking that "They tickle," or they "feel funny." A few caterpillars got dropped for that reason, but none suffered injury, and were eagerly picked up again to begin their wanderings. Many kids asked questions like, "Are they poisonous?" while others shared their own experiences with woolly bears. A few even wanted to take them home!

It wasn't only those eager to accept one that stood out, but also those that recoiled with cringing revulsion that caught my eyes. Often I would coax one of these persons to at least try a woolly bear. Some did, some didn't. The thought of handling an ugly creepy crawly sent shivers down their spines. Fear ruled the day for a few. Perhaps next time.

Bug Maine-ia is a wonderful idea that transcends the chasm that exists between man and insects. These much-maligned and underappreciated creatures of planet earth are important to terrestrial life as we know it today. By placing them in the phylogenetic tree as primitive life forms we disregard the fact that most of the tree wouldn't exist today had the "lowly insects" never evolved. Paleontologists tell us that most primitive mammals were most likely insectivores. Today, much of the terrestrial life benefits either directly or indirectly from insect life. Their survival, and their ability to evolve and survive catastrophe, has earned them the right to be called vital to life on the planet.

The many people who took the time to put up various exhibits revolving around insects were wonderful. From beekeepers, to those with live specimens, collections, displays, and artwork, the Maine State Museum in Augusta on that day became a monument to insects and their importance, by those who wished to share their knowledge and love of insects to the many who ventured in to learn.

I am looking forward to doing it again next year. By partaking in Bug Maine-ia and all that it offered, I hopefully reached a curious few through the simplest task of handing out live woolly bears. Who knows, one of them may go on to become tomorrow's entomologist! I hope so.

-Dana Michaud

A Great Golden Digger Excavation

On August 16, 2004, at about 4:45 PM, Kevin noticed a large wasp flying close to the ground in a small parking lot behind the office of the York County Coast Star in Kennebunk. The wasp was a great golden digger *Sphex ichneumoneus*, a large solitary fossorial species. The females hunt grasshoppers to stock their nurseries. The larvae feed on the paralyzed hoppers, but adults are often seen feeding at flowers in gardens, especially milkweed and dogbane in weedy areas. They have been recorded nesting at the Kennebunk Plains. These beautiful wasps are named for the golden color on the thorax and head. They have orange legs, and an orange-red abdomen.

Kevin was able to get a couple of great shots of this great golden digger as she worked at excavating a nesting burrow. These wasps usually nest in open, sunny, sandy areas such as the edge of a garden, alongside a dirt path, or a gravel roadway. They dig with their front legs, which have spines or "rakes," and the resulting entrance to the underground nursery is large enough to poke a pencil into. But the golden digger here in Kennebunk was in a parking lot!

On August 18th, the nest site was visited again, about 10:23 AM. It was 73 degrees F, with 79 percent relative humidity at our cabin in Arundel, so we assumed it was similar in Kennebunk. It was overcast. When we arrived at the nest, the female golden digger was just flying in. We could easily see the nest entrance from just a few feet away, and we saw a bright green grasshopper lying about an inch from the entrance, with its head near the opening. We may have frightened the digger away initially, but in seconds she landed, went down the burrow as if to check that everything was prepared, then came out and flew away again. She came right back and left right away. On the third return landing, she crawled over the grasshopper, aligning herself with it so that its head was under her own, as if matching it for size or shape. She took off again a fourth time, and came right back, crawled down the burrow, then popped her head out, grasped the grasshopper by its head or antennae, and pulled it quickly down the hole. All of this happened in less than two minutes.

While this may be a first case for this species nesting in a crack in asphalt, there is a record of a similar digger wasp *S. pennsylvanicus*, nesting in a bottom of a sewer drain!

Many thanks to Sam Ristich for confirming our identification. He noted that indeed it is characteristic of the great golden digger to grasp its prey by the antennae, to drag it into the nursery. The diggers hunt bush katydids (*Scudderia*) and meadow grasshoppers (*Conocephalus*). Sam documented the nesting biology and ethology of *Sphex ichneumoneus* in the October 1953 issue of *The Canadian Entomologist*.

-Monica Russo and Kevin Byron

2005 MES Events and Field Trips

Thursday, April 21. Fields Pond Audubon Center in Holden (Penobscot County) MES will be sponsoring an Insect Interest Day from 10 AM to 2 PM. Members are encouraged to participate in this public event by setting up or helping with insect related displays. Our last event at the Fields Pond Center was a success and we look forward to another great event in support of Maine Audubon and MES. A small fee will be charged for attendees. For more information please contact Dick Dearborn at (207) 293-2288 or modear@prexar.com.

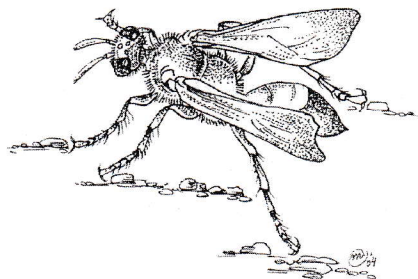
Saturday, June 18. Waterford (Oxford County). Annual butterfly count. Contact Gail Everett (capriolee@yahoo.com) for more information.

Saturday-Sunday, July 16-17. Schoodic Point (Hancock County). Following the highly successful Ant Blitz of 2003 and the Lepidoptera Blitz of 2004, The Maine Entomological Society, National Park Service, and Maine Forest Service will be joining forces to conduct a Maine Coleoptera Blitz in Acadia National Park. It will be based at the National Park Service's new Schoodic Education and Research Center, located at the former U.S. Navy base campus in the Schoodic Peninsula District of Acadia National Park. The blitz itself will run from 9 AM Saturday, July 16, to 5 PM Sunday, July 17. Additional work sessions will be held on Monday, July 18. The National Park Service has a limited amount of free housing available between July 15-18 for participants at the Schoodic Education and Research Center. For more information please contact Lynn Havsall at (207) 565-3424 or lhavsall@hotmail.com or Dick Dearborn at (207) 293-2288 or modear@prexar.com.

Saturday, July 23. Kennebunk Plains (York County).

Saturday, August 20. Clinton (Kennebec County).

More details for July and August trips are on the website and will appear in the next newsletter.



Sphex ichneumoneus. Drawing by Monica Russo.

MDIFW Message Continued from Page 2

Unfortunately, there has never been an adequate and secure source of funding for these wildlife programs.

The Nongame and Endangered Wildlife program began in 1984 with establishment of the Maine Endangered and Nongame Wildlife Fund, which is based on the "Chickadee Checkoff," a voluntary tax check-off on the state income tax form. In 1993, the Conservation Registration Plate (Loon Plate), a voluntary vehicle plate registration, was introduced to provide additional funding for these programs. The Loon Plate has been very successful, but competition with the free general issue Chickadee Plate and several other specialty plates has eroded this source of funding by 31 percent since 1998. Keep in mind that while there is more than one animal adorning Maine's license plates, only one contributes to wildlife conservation - the Loon! Finally, the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, established in 1996, allocated proceeds from a lottery ticket sale to conservation, including 15 percent for Endangered and Threatened species projects. All money donated, whether through the tax check-off, conservation license plates, Outdoor Heritage Fund grants, or as direct gifts, is deposited into a special account dedicated to Maine's Nongame and Endangered wildlife.

Given limited resources, MDIFW can be proud of the accomplishments made for nongame and endangered wildlife in the last 20 years.

We thank those of you who buy a Loon Plate, participate in the Chickadee checkoff, or purchase a Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund lottery ticket. Your voluntary support and generosity deserves special "Thank You."

-The staff of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Cooperation with the Entomological Society of America

The Entomological Society of America (ESA) is the largest entomological organization in the world. Founded in 1889, ESA today has more than 6,000 members. The society has five regional branches (Eastern, North Central, Pacific, Southeastern, and Southwestern), and six subject sections that range from Systematic and Morphology to Pest Control.

Although membership in the ESA is open for everybody, it is essentially a professional organization that serves the needs of academic and economic entomologists. However, recently there was an idea floating around the society to make it an umbrella organization for all entomology-related societies in the nation. To start exploring the possibilities of this happening, Kevin Steffey, the President of the ESA, invited representatives of other groups to meet with him during the Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City. On November 16, 2004, I attended the meeting on behalf of the Maine Entomological Society.

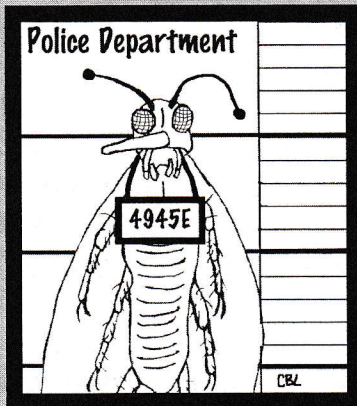
The meeting lasted one hour and was attended by the representatives of American Entomological Society (not to be confused with the ESA), Florida Entomological Society, Entomological Society of Pennsylvania, Acarology Society, Coleopterist Society, Orthopterist Society, working group on Diptera, and the Royal Entomological Society (United Kingdom). It was exploratory in nature, with the ESA trying to learn about the needs and concerns of other groups. Therefore, no real decisions have been made or resolutions passed. However, there was a useful exchange of information and I got an impression that the ESA is very open for cooperation.

The general consensus developed during the meeting was that forging closer relations would be mutually beneficial for the ESA and smaller local or special interest groups. ESA is considering developing guidelines for affiliate memberships for such organizations. Possible benefits for smaller group members might include reduced-rate subscriptions to *The American Entomologist*, attending ESA Annual Meetings without paying full registration fees (which are rather hefty), access to the ESA website with its chat rooms, and increased interaction with professional entomologists in general. Possible benefits to the ESA might include increased outreach to the amateur community and members of the general public.

Overall, the ESA has definitely made the first step towards entomological societies like ours. However, now the ball is in our court. It was suggested during the meeting that regional branches (which, in our case, is the Eastern Branch) might be the most appropriate interface between the local societies and the ESA. If we are interested in such cooperation, we should start working with the Eastern Branch on developing a closer relationship.

-Andrei Alyokhin





The Bug Mug Shot: A Day-Glo Flower Fly

Order: Diptera (Flies). There are probably as many as 2000 species of Diptera in Maine although fewer than 1000 have been catalogued.

Family: Stratiomyidae (Flower Flies). This family contains roughly 260 species in North America and possibly as many as 50 species in Maine. Adults are frequent visitors to flowers along with those of the similar syrphid flies (Syrphidae) which are also known as flower flies. Both are considered pollinators.

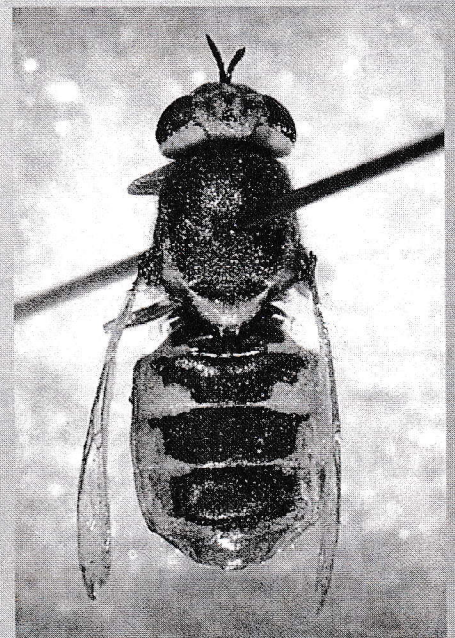
Larvae of Stratiomyidae range from terrestrial to aquatic and from predators(not common) to scavengers.

Species: *Odontomyia cincta* Oliv. While many flies are brightly colored, none have the very vivid day-glo type yellow to blue-green markings of a few species of Stratiomyinae in such genera as *Stratiomys* and *Odontomyia*. The color resembles that of many dragonflies and is evident only in living specimens fading quickly after death. *O. cincta* is one of the more common day-glo species occurring throughout much of the eastern two-thirds of the US including Maine.

Description: *O. cincta* adults are the larger of our species, 12 - 15 mm. long with a squatish or blocky abdomen which protrudes laterally beyond the wings as they overlap and lay flat over the back at rest. The day-glo markings are most evident laterally and basally along the abdomen and are readily visible from a distance as they feed at contrastingly colored flowers. Wing characters such as a small discal cell, crowding of the radial veins along the anterior wing margin and lack of a spurious vein separate Stratiomyidae from Syrphidae.

Primary Habitat: Our featured species is most often solitary and nervously visits flowers such as goldenrod, spirea and numerous bog plants in July and August. They feed on pollen and nectar from flowers and honeydew from aphids. They usually occur near water where the unique larva lives.

Notes: While it is most often the striking adults that draw attention, the larvae are equally fascinating to those collecting in aquatic habitats. The aquatic larvae of *O. cincta* are 20-30 mm long at maturity, faintly striped and have a rough (shagreened) skin due to calcium carbonate plates. Larvae are widest near the head tapering to the posterior end which terminates in a fan of hydrofuge (water repelling) hairs used in obtaining air. Larvae can be found at the water surface or at the edge of pools. Larvae are probably filter feeders, feeding on microscopic organic particles. When ready to pupate they move toward the edge of the water body that they are in and pupate within their larval skin. Larvae and pupae are extremely tolerant of heat, drying conditions and elevated levels of salt. It may take more than one year for this species to complete its life cycle.



***Odontomyia cincta*.** Image appears courtesy of Iowa State University.

Entomology Courses at Eagle Hill

There are many natural history seminars scheduled for 2005 at the Humboldt Institute at Eagle Hill in Steuben including:

May 17-21. The EPT Taxa: Systematics and Biomonitoring: Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, and Trichoptera with Steven Burian

May 29 – June 2. Damselflies and Dragonflies: Systematics and Biomonitoring with Fred Saint Ours

June 19-25. Insects in the Boreal Forest Ecosystem with Richard Dearborn

July 3-9. Biology of Hymenoptera with Michael Gates

July 17-23. Biology of Spiders with Linden Higgins

August 7-13. Aquatic Entomology: Systematics and Biomonitoring with Steven Burian

For a full course listing or more information, please visit www.eaglehill.us, e-mail office@eaglehill.us, or call the Humboldt Institute at (207) 546-2821



Photos Wanted for 2006 Calendar

MES members are encouraged to submit a favorite photograph for our 2006 calendar. The 2006 calendar committee (made up of Gail Everett, Dana Michaud, and Dick Dearborn)

is looking for photos of insects, insect-related subjects, or member activities. Photos will be selected by the committee based on a good balance of subject material as well as photograph quality. Insects should be those that occur or could occur in Maine. Images may be submitted as 8x10 color digital images (JPG format preferred), with or without accompanying prints. Digitally enhanced, remastered, or previously published images will not be accepted. A "landscape" page orientation is preferred. Images should be sharp quality and each photo should be accompanied by species identification (as close as possible) with the date and location, if known. Entries must be received by July 15, 2005. A complimentary calendar will be given to those whose photos are chosen for inclusion. For further details, please contact Gail Everett at capriole@yahoo.com or (207) 743-2840.

Volunteer Needed!

The Maine State Museum in Augusta needs a volunteer to check Museum properties for pests, identify any potential insect pests and dispose of the mice. The volunteer must be able to do the checking on Tuesday or Wednesday (7:30-4:30) or Thursday morning. Initially this needs to be done once a month, if there are no pest problems the inspection need only occur once every three months thereafter. Estimated time involved is six hours at a minimum that can be broken up to suit the volunteer. The volunteer will be given resources for identifying the insects. The volunteer needs their own transportation and be able to get in and out of relatively inaccessible spaces.

If interested please contact:
Kris Oliveri
Maine State Museum
83 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0083
Phone: (207) 287-2302

2004 Lepidoptera Bioblitz Epilogue

An unexpected, serendipitous event occurred during the 2004 Lepidoptera Bioblitz at Schoodic Point; a migratory flight of a very colorful and rare dragonfly, the Painted Skimmer, *Libellula semifasciata*, was observed passing over the point on June 13, 2004. Charlene Donahue and her team collected a specimen (a fresh male). The specimen was passed along to the Acadia National Park collection and the date added to the Maine Damselfly and Dragonfly Survey database. Some of the *L. semifasciata* apparently remained along the coast into the summer; I collected a male patrolling around a small pond on July 11, 2004 at Petit Manaan National Wildlife Refuge in Steuben.

Recently I received my copy of *Ode News* (Volume XI, Number 2, November 2004). This issue, which is focused on the 2004 odonate field season in Massachusetts, reports a big northward flight in Massachusetts of *Libellula semifasciata* (plus some other migratory species) on June 9, 2004. It appears that at least some remnants of this great flight reached Schoodic Point four days later.

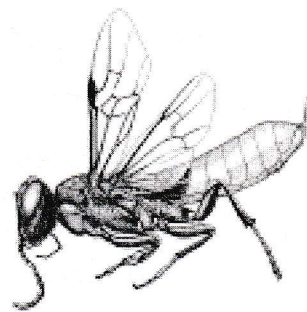
-Richard W. Hildreth

Don't Throw It Out!

There is a reason why you don't throw anything away. One part of my job at the Maine Forest Service is to run the light trap survey each summer to monitor levels of forest defoliators, moths whose larval forms do the damage. (A number of MES members run traps for me). I, not being a Lepidopterist or even a taxonomist, inherited the job just three years ago, and have lots of other things to do. So I focus on the pest species I am paid to find but I can not just ignore ALL those other beautiful insects. After mulling over this quandary I finally decided that as I picked through the material, I would save anything that looked unusual, pretty, or was in good shape for someone else to look at. I now save 4 to 6 boxes of material out of the 100 plus boxes I go through each summer. Some of it I have gone back to and identified and some I use in programs I have put on for various groups.

This past January when I went to the MES Winter Workshop, I brought along a couple of the boxes of "leftover leps" for people to look at if they had not brought their own specimens to ID. I gave Reggie Webster, who was leading the Lepidoptera part of the workshop, the boxes and went in the other room to look at the Hymenoptera I had brought along (more on that in a minute). Sometime later Reggie came over to me and said, "You might want to keep the small green moth on the top layer of one of the boxes you gave me. I believe it is a rare Noctuid species *Cerma cora*!" I kept it.

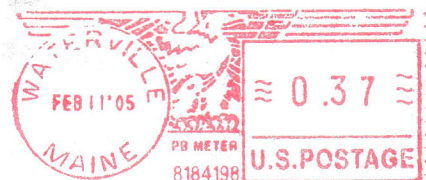
The other material I brought was left over from a research project that had not been well labeled. I was going to throw it out because dates and locations had not been put on the labels although I knew month, year and general area of the State where they had been collected. Again I decided instead to keep the good quality specimens for people to practice their ID skills and there WERE some interesting looking Hymenoptera in there. As Connie Stubbs gave her overview of the Hymenoptera families, I realized I had might have some specimens of the rare family of sawflies Orussidae. They were in that box of material I had almost thrown away! Sure enough, that is what they are and I have seven specimens and possibly two species. We have no other representatives of that family in the Maine Forest Service insect collection. I have since sent away for a copy of Revision of the Family Orussidae.



-Charlene Donahue



Maine Entomological Society
c/o Newsletter Editors
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Please visit our website at www.colby.edu/MES

Charlene Donahue
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Augusta, ME 04330

2005

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The Maine Entomologist is published quarterly by the Maine Entomological Society. Dues are \$10 per year or \$18 for two years. Checks should be made out to M.E.S. and sent to Mr. Dana Michaud, Treasurer, at 3 Halde Street, Waterville, ME 04901. Dues are paid through the year printed on the mailing label.