

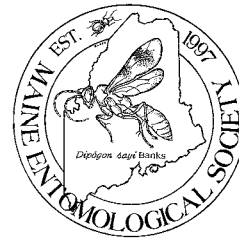
# The Maine Entomologist

A forum for students, professionals and amateurs  
in the Pine Tree State

The Official Newsletter of the Maine Entomological Society

Vol. 19, No. 2

May, 2015



by Charlene Donahue

Insects have been in the popular press recently. The comic strip Mark Trail ran a series from the end of March through April on emerald ash borer - after all, April IS Invasive Species Awareness Month. On April 26<sup>th</sup> the strip was about mosquitoes. In the May issue of Popular Science there is an article about insects as a viable protein source,

<http://www.popsci.com/rise-incredible-edible-insect>.

National Geographic's April issue had an article about the mountain pine beetle and climate change, at

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2015/04/pine-beetles/rosner-text>

- and the May issue has a honeybee article. So our favorite creatures are getting some press, although not all present them in a favorable light.

Last summer the USDA Forest Service ran Lindgren funnel traps in the tornado blowdown area of Baxter State Park's Scientific Management Area. They are looking at the bark beetles, woodborers and associated families of beetles to see what comes in after a major forest disturbance. MES members Dave Bourque and Dana Michaud agreed to take the bycatch from the traps and look at what else is found in the park. Neither part of the study is done yet, as it takes A LOT of time to sort through, pin, label and then identify hundreds - or thousands - of insects. It will probably be sometime next year that the work gets finished. But in the meantime, Dave and Dana say they are impressed with the diversity of insects identified to date. There are species that are relatively rare and some that have not been found in Maine before. This comes from sampling over a whole season and having the time to go through a lot of material. It is like a treasure hunt and can become addictive, you never know when you are going to find something exciting.

Every summer the Maine Forest Service runs light traps across the state looking for forest defoliators. In this project too, there is a lot of bycatch. Some of it is in pretty poor condition but some is well preserved. This winter MES members Karen Hopkins and Pete Darling worked through the material from a couple of sites. It will be interesting to hear what they have found.

Now the season is approaching to spend time observing, photographing or collecting insects to satisfy our curiosity

about how insects live their lives. I never cease to be amazed at where and when I find insects and how they manage to thrive in seemingly inhospitable places. Hope to see you some field trips this summer, no experience needed.

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## Special Field Day on May 16th in Orono

Saturday, May 16th, provides an opportunity for MES members to join with University of Maine's entomology faculty, staff, and students, and members of the Friends of Dr. Edith Marion Patch in an *Insect Adventures!* Day (see notice below) at the **Orono Public Library**.

The Friends of Edith Patch have been holding this day for a number of years and would like MES members to have a field day in the gardens behind the library to augment their program. We will be expected to share what we are doing with the public.

This is also a great opportunity to meet like-minded folks from the University. The community garden folks would love to know what insects are found around that particular section of the site - there might be useful indicators of what's good and what could be better in their organic practices!

The library (and restrooms) will be available until closing time at 2:00 p.m., and we are invited to continue collecting in the afternoon.

### The official notice:

**Saturday, May 16, 2015, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon**

***Insect Adventures!***

**Location: Orono Public Library**

Children of all ages are invited to bring their friends and families to this annual event. Go on a bug hunt, get up close and personal with aquatic insects, play camouflage games, learn about Maine's lost ladybugs, and lots more. Hosted by the Orono Public Library and staffed by volunteers from the Friends of Dr. Edith Marion Patch, the University of Maine's entomology faculty, staff, and students, and members of the Maine Entomological Society.

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## Chinavia pensylvanica: A Rare Stinkbug

### Found in Maine

by Brandon Woo

On June 27th, 2013, I found a large green stinkbug while sweeping a brushy area in South Berwick, Maine. At first, it looked like the common green stinkbug in our area, *Chinavia hilaris* (once called *Acrosternum hilare*), which is often seen on goldenrod and asters. However, something about the shape didn't seem right, so I took it home for a closer look. Browsing through Stephen Marshall's *Insects: Their Natural History and Diversity*, I saw that there was another species in the genus in our range, *Acrosternum pensylvanicum*. Marshall noted that this species had a shorter, broader head than the common species. This seemed to match up with my specimen, so I hopped on to BugGuide.net to see if I could find any more information or photos.



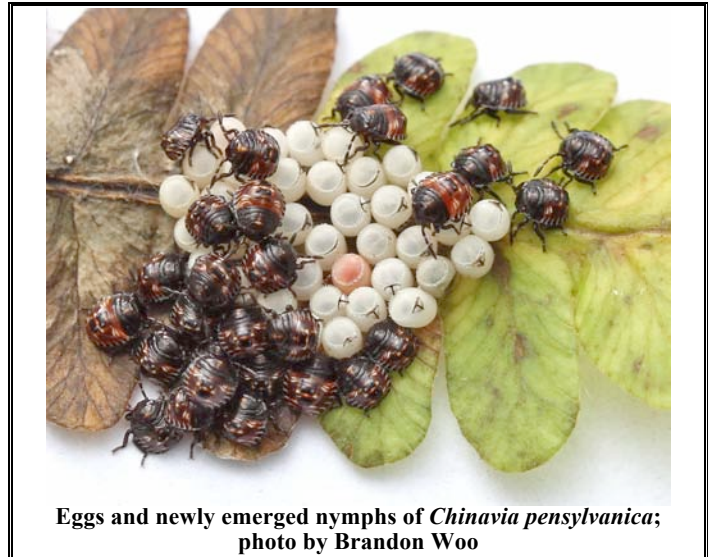
*Chinavia pensylvanica* adult; photo by Brandon Woo.

To my surprise, there were no photos of this species, and the only information I could find was that it had been transferred to the genus *Chinavia* along with *C. hilaris*. Getting more and more intrigued, I photographed the stinkbug and posted it to BugGuide. Editor Vassili Belov agreed with me that *C. pensylvanica* looked like the best match, and contacted Dr. Donald Thomas, an expert on the Pentatomidae, for confirmation. Sure enough, within a few days, he confirmed that it was indeed *C. pensylvanica*. He also filled us in on a few more details about the bug's life history: it was a seldom seen species, more common in the southeastern U.S, and it fed on ferns. This matched the habitat in which I had found it, which was mostly composed of several fern species. Unfortunately, by this point, I had released the stinkbug.

A few months later, Vassili Belov brought one of my older photos to my attention: an unidentified stinkbug nymph that had a similar pattern to *C. hilaris* nymphs, but strikingly different coloration. Whereas *C. hilaris* nymphs are greenish with orange and black markings, this one was bright orange with white and black markings. I suddenly had a brainwave: I had photographed this nymph at the same locality where I found the adult *C. pensylvanica*! Although most stinkbug nymphs are notoriously difficult to identify, we seemed to

have a very strong case, as it did not match any other local species.

The next year, I was determined to visit the spot again and see if I could collect any more individuals. I managed to do this on July 6, 2014. I only found one specimen, but had a nice surprise the next day when a batch of eggs suddenly appeared in the stinkbug's container. I photographed the eggs, suspecting that these would be the first photos of *C. pensylvanica* eggs. When the nymphs hatched about a week later, I photographed them as well. I had intended to raise them, but I was leaving for Maryland and I could not hope to keep them alive, so I pinned the adult and returned the nymphs to their home.



Eggs and newly emerged nymphs of *Chinavia pensylvanica*; photo by Brandon Woo

All in all, it was an interesting experience documenting this species. I think it would be very cool to rear them all the way from egg to adult, and maybe to do some more investigating into this species' biology, given that it is so poorly known. It goes to show that anyone and everyone can make useful contributions to entomology.

#### References:

Marshall, Stephen, 2006: *Insects: Their Natural History and Diversity*. Richmond Hill, Ontario, Canada: Firefly Books; 718 pp.

BugGuide: <http://bugguide.net/node/view/795878>

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#### Wanted: Invasive Paper Wasp

by Julia Pilowsky



[http://cjai.biologicalsurvey.ca/bmc\\_05/74p\\_dominula.html](http://cjai.biologicalsurvey.ca/bmc_05/74p_dominula.html)  
*Polistes dominula* female.

Have you seen this wasp? If you have, let me know! This is the European paper wasp, *Polistes dominula*, an invasive (continued on next page)

**Invasive Paper Wasp (cont.)**

species that was introduced in Massachusetts in the early 1970s and has been moving steadily northward ever since. A single European paper wasp consumes 82 caterpillars in its lifetime, and the species' range expansion may have impacts on local butterfly populations. They can also be a vector for disease in fruit crops.

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Polistes\\_dominulus\\_nest\\_1.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Polistes_dominulus_nest_1.jpg)



*Polistes dominula* female on the typical open-cell nest.

I am a biology PhD student at Tufts University studying the behavioral ecology of these wasps and how it varies from north to south along their East Coast range. I'm looking for sites in Maine to represent the northernmost part of their range. I can collect wasp nests from your home or barn without the use of pesticides.

If you have any nests of these, please e-mail me at [julia.pilowsky@tufts.edu](mailto:julia.pilowsky@tufts.edu), preferably with a photograph of the nests so I can confirm the species, and let me know when I can visit. With your help, I can learn more about the behavior and genetics of this invasive species.

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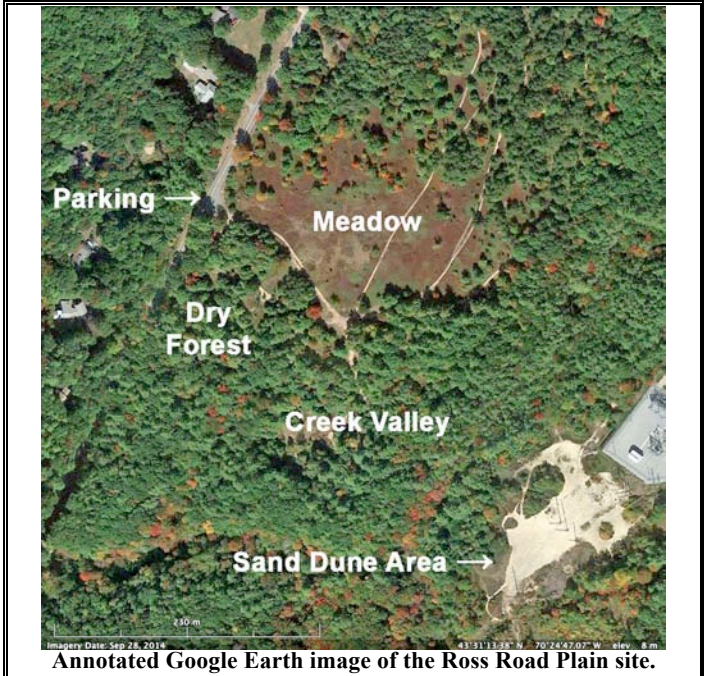
**May Field Day, at Ross Road Plain in Old Orchard Beach Saturday, May 30th**

Join us at the Ross Road Blueberry Plain (formerly the Reclaim Plains) of Old Orchard Beach in York County at 10:00 a.m. on May 30th!

We were here last August with Brandon Woo, and the collecting was great – even though it was but a week after the torrential downpour that had left parts of Portland flooded. We got some highly unusual Orthopterans last year, too, including a tree cricket, as well as a variety of other relatively uncommon species, such as a mantid and an uncommon hummingbird moth, as well as three species of tiger beetles. Dave Bourque and Dana Michaud have been here in the spring, and said the spring fauna is totally different, so ... let's go buggin'!

This area features a broad grassy meadow, similar to the Kennebunk Plains, that hosts several uncommon wildflowers and birds. There are also many woodland trails that have a mix of conifers and broadleaved trees. There's a creek flowing through the area and even some sand dune habitat.

Bring a bag lunch; also be aware that there are no bathroom facilities at the Plains, but there is a Hannaford's grocery store about a mile away.



Annotated Google Earth image of the Ross Road Plain site.

**Directions:** From either north or south on I-95, take exit 36 onto route I-195. Take exit 2B (Saco/Portland). Continue onto Route 1 and take a right at the first light (Ross Rd.). Go 0.8 miles, and a small parking lot will be on the right. There's an old, dilapidated sign that says Reclaim Plains. If you get to Dunegrass Golf Club, you've gone too far. Coordinates for the parking area are: 43°31'16.60"N, 70°25'0.35"W

For further information, e-mail  
Bob Nelson ([BeetleBob2003@yahoo.com](mailto:BeetleBob2003@yahoo.com))  
or Pete Darling ([petedarlingii@yahoo.com](mailto:petedarlingii@yahoo.com)).  
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**June 13th Field Day at Hidden Valley Nature Center in Jefferson  
by Kathy Claerr**

Hidden Valley, a non-profit education center on Little Dyer Pond in Jefferson, offers 1,000 acres of contiguous forest, steep rock walls, gorges, vernal pools, many small ponds, a 112-acre “great pond,” and 30 miles of trail.



A boardwalk across the sphagnum mat takes visitors out onto the kettle bog. (HVNC photo, from their website)

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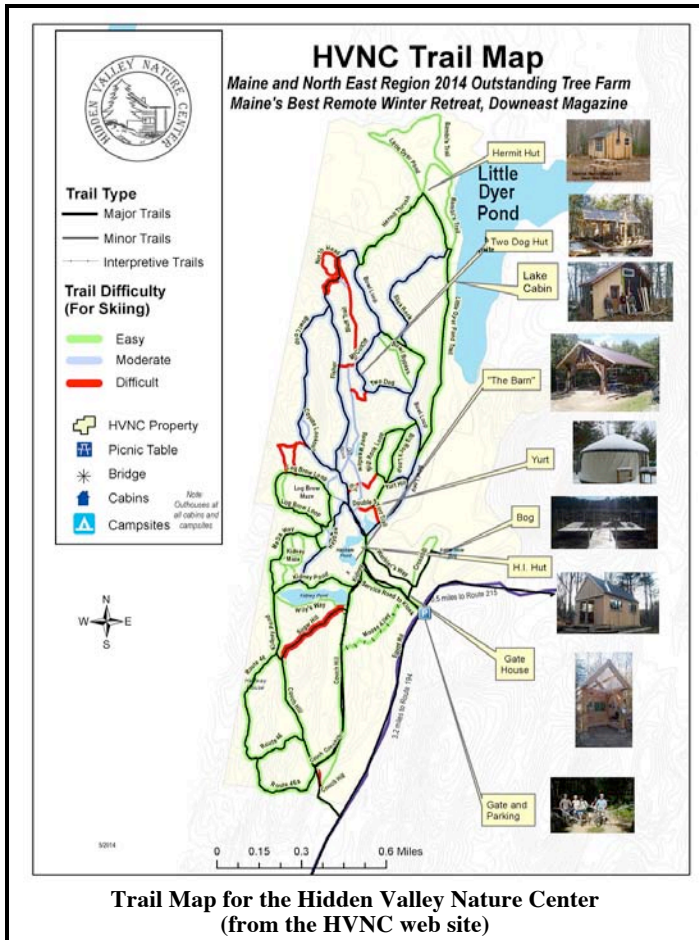
### Hidden Valley Nature Center Field Day (cont.)

Our first collecting trip there will cover only 2 or 3 of those miles, but will take us to a boardwalk on a lovely kettle hole bog, and through a mainly deciduous forest to a small pond. After lunch (bring your own) at the grassy pond's edge, we'll decide which route to take for our return trip. Parts of the trails may be a little muddy or wet.

On this joint MES-HVNC event, MES has the opportunity for outreach and to contribute perhaps the first insect records for HVNC's species list! HVNC asks us to consider supporting their educational mission through their \$5 day use fee. Meet at the trailhead at the parking lot at 10:00 a.m.

See you there!

Hidden Valley Nature Center  
131 Egypt Road  
Jefferson, Maine  
web site: <http://hvnc.org>



### Directions:

**From Augusta:** Estimated Driving Time: 35 minutes.

Take Rt. 17 headed east out of Augusta. After a little more than 10 miles bear right onto Rt. 32 East. After 0.8 miles turn right onto Rt. 215 south/South Clary Rd. Follow Rt. 215 for nearly 5 miles, and turn right onto Egypt Rd. Proceed about 0.5 miles and the parking will be on the right.

**From Camden:** Estimated Driving Time: 45 minutes

Head south on Rt. 1, and continue for about 2 miles. Turn right onto Rt. 90 West and go about 2.5 miles. Turn Right onto Rt. 17 West and continue another 14.5 miles. Then turn left onto Rt. 220 South and proceed about 1 mile before turning right onto Rt. 126 West. Continue to follow Rt. 126

West, after it merges with Rt. 32 N, and continue after Rt. 32 branches off again. After about 10 miles total on Rt. 126, go left onto Rt. 215 South/South Clary Rd and proceed 4.5 miles until you turn right onto Egypt Rd. Parking is 0.5 miles south on the Egypt Rd. on the right.

### From Points South and West:

Head through Brunswick on Route 1 North / Pleasant Street. Continue on Route 1 for 20 miles until you enter historic Wiscasset. Just before the bridge, turn left onto Route 218 North. Go 6 miles and bear right onto Dock Road at the Alna Store (Stop for lunch!). At the end of Dock Road turn right onto Route 194 East, and take the first left in 1/4 mile onto Egypt Road Continue north on the Egypt Road for 3.5 miles. There'll be a gravel parking lot on the left.

### 2015 BioBlitz in July to Focus on Hymenoptera and Myriapoda On-Line Registration Opens May 6th

Focus groups for the 2015 Acadia National Park Bioblitz, to be held Friday, 17 July, through Monday, 20 July, 2015, will be Hymenoptera and Myriapoda, with an iNaturalist all-species component

Registration will **open** on Wednesday, May 6. You can register between May 6th and July 3rd at:

<http://www.uevent.com/registration?code=IWLLLB7JTR>

The registration fee for the Blitz is \$40. There will be additional fees for food and lodging; costs for these will depend upon registrant choices.



*Cerceris fumipennis* (Crabronidae) on goldenrod in Fairfield, Maine; photo by James Reben. (used with permission)

Here is a brief biography on this year's Lead Taxonomist:

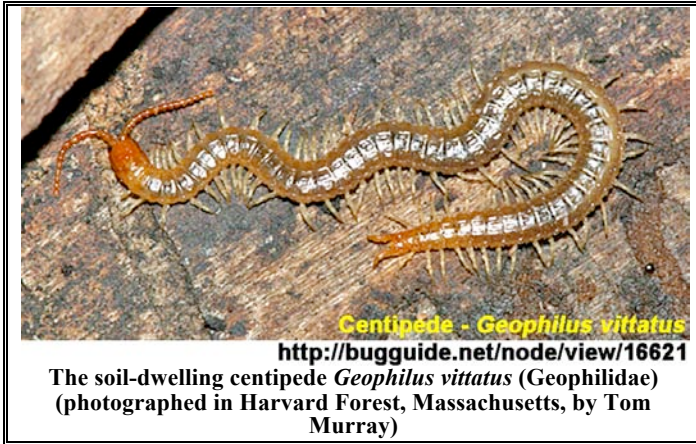
Robert R. Kula is a Research Entomologist with the Systematic Entomology Laboratory, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. He is an Adjunct Scientist with the Smithsonian Institution and is Curator of Ichneumonoidea at the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC. His research focuses on parasitoid wasp systematics and biodiversity, particularly for species of Braconidae. Additional interests include systematics support for biological control programs, development and refinement of techniques and equipment for sampling parasitoid wasps, and development of web-accessible databases of information relevant to wasp systematics and natural history.

Joseph DeSisto is the Myriapoda taxonomist for this year's BioBlitz. He is a University of Connecticut student who hails from Bangor.

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**2015 BioBlitz at Acadia (cont.)**

The iNaturalist component will be facilitated by Schoodic Institute staff.



Check the M.E.S. web site for information updates, which will be posted as soon as they're received. Additional information can also be found at the Schoodic Institute web site, [www.schoodicinstitute.org](http://www.schoodicinstitute.org).

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**Big Wilson Stream Trip in Ellitsville, August 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Date:** August 8th

**Time:** Meet at the Monson Community Center parking lot on Routes 15 & 6 (Main Street) at 10:00 a.m.; we will car pool from there. Big Wilson Stream is in Ellitsville (see the Delorme Maine Atlas and Gazetteer # 41, area E4)

**Logistics:** We could use as many four-wheel-drive vehicles as folks have to get to the stream crossing. The road is rough, but usually passable with high clearance. We will cross the Stream close to the Appalachian Trail. Bring sturdy waterproof shoes or boots and poles to get across, and boots for hiking around. Bring water, lunch, nets, collecting containers, and your favorite field guides.

**Site Description:**

When we cross Big Wilson Stream we will be in a 65-acre Hardwood River Terrace Floodplain, a rare natural community type. This community is located on the floodplain of the stream and is dominated by a mix of hemlock and northern hardwood species, including a significant amount of red oak. Staff from the Department of Conservation agreed that a 33-inch-diameter red oak located on a rise above the floodplain was the largest example of this species they had ever seen in Maine. A smaller hemlock, at 24 inches in diameter, cored out to 170 years old. There is a lot of coarse woody debris, which should be interesting in terms of insects. There is also a floodplain vernal pool here, and cool lichens and fungi.

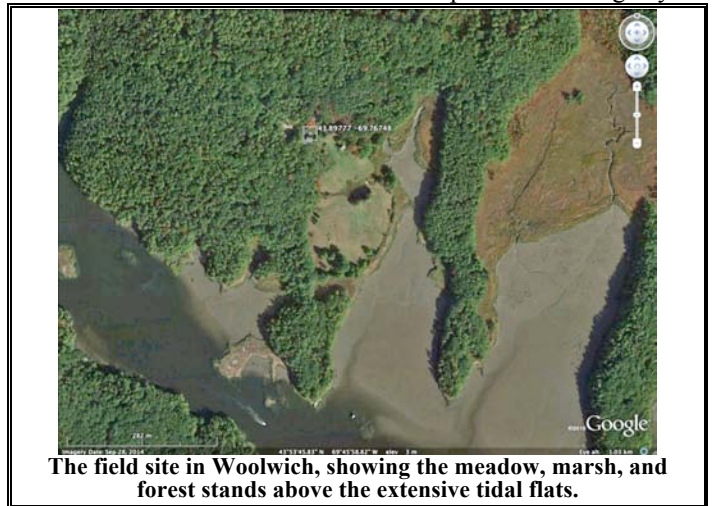
The upland portion of the forest (295 acres, owned mostly by Plum Creek) is an exemplary Spruce-Northern Hardwoods Forest Natural Community. It's a mix of sugar maple, yellow birch, beech, red spruce, and white ash. Cores from two red spruces showed them to be 263 and 195 years old! This area is a strenuous hike up slope, but there are magnificent trees up there.

**For further information call Diane Boretos at 564-2966**

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**August 22nd Field Day in Woolwich**

MES has been invited to explore 120 acres of marsh, river edge, mixed forest, hemlock stands, and field in Woolwich. Join us at 10:00 a.m. for a special collecting day.



The coordinates for the farm are 43.89777, -69.76748 elev. 19 m. The address is 454 Hockomock Road, Woolwich, Maine, but when you put that information into Google Earth it puts you on the wrong end of Hockomock Road. To drive to the farm you get off Route 1 at Nequasset Road (has fire station and historical society on this road), turn left onto George Wright Road, right on Barley Neck Road, a hair pin lift onto Hockomock Road, which you follow to the very end. There is a sign at the end of the road that says "private" or something like that. There is a dirt parking lot part way down, if you get to a gray shop, you missed the parking.

Bring your collecting gear, lunch, camera, insect and sun protection as usual.

Contact: Charlene Donahue via e-mail at [donahuecp@juno.com](mailto:donahuecp@juno.com) or at her cell phone (485-0960) if you plan on attending, or if you have questions.

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**Southern Pine Beetle Expands North to Long Island**

According to a recent article, Southern Pine Beetle (*Dendroctonus frontalis*) has now appeared on Long Island, New York, a new northern range extension that was confirmed in October of 2014 (<http://tinyurl.com/pntsao3>).

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### *Southern Pine Beetle on Long Island (cont.)*

In February of this year, two-person teams from New Hampshire, Nova Scotia and Maine traveled to Long Island to assist with the evaluation and eradication efforts of the infestation, as part of the Northeast Forest Fire Compact. According to Charlene Donahue, one Maine Forest Inventory & Analysis (FIA) team has been sent to help, consisting of Aron Bishop and Kate Locke. (See their report, below.)

Southern Pine Beetle is a major forest pest in the southern United States, attacking all species of pine. This appearance on Long Island represents a new northern expansion of its range – previously limited to New Jersey and regions farther south. Almost 2500 trees have been cut and destroyed on Long Island in an attempt to stop the spread of the beast.

Time will tell whether with increasing mean annual temperatures, this species is able to make it north into New England and the pine forests of Maine.

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### **Results of Southern Pine Beetle Survey on Long Island** by Kate Locke

Last week, Aron Bishop and I travelled to Long Island, New York, as part of the Northeast Forest Fire Compact, to assist the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) with efforts to control a recently detected outbreak of Southern Pine Beetle. We surveyed and delimited infestations on DEC properties in Suffolk County.



Southern pine beetle damage beneath the bark of a dead pine on Long Island. Maine Forest Service photo.

We spent a day working directly with DEC staff, learning how to identify Southern Pine Beetle damage as opposed to damage caused by other beetles, and understanding the data collection protocols and technology. They utilize Samsung

smartphones hooked to a Garmin Bluetooth GPS, Locus Pro mapping program, ODK Forms for data entry, and Dropbox to house aerial imagery and to upload forms at the end of each day.

In addition to DEC staff, there were forest pest crews from New Hampshire and Nova Scotia. As well as learning about Southern Pine Beetle and its potential movement into Maine, it was a great opportunity to learn about pest issues impacting our neighbors and the monitoring and control activities that they are conducting.

The infestation was first detected on Long Island in October of 2014. It is believed to have come from New Jersey with recent large storms. Treatment began in February 2015 on the two largest damage areas, but the true extent of the infestation is not currently known. We were able to visit the two treatment areas in Henry's Hollow State Park and the Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge while we were there.

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### **Eagle Hill Summer Workshops on Insects**

For those who may have missed this announcement in the February issue, the Eagle Hill Institute in Steuben, Maine, has announced their summer workshop and seminar schedule, which once again is impressive. This year's offerings seem particularly strong in lichens, fungi and mosses. Five of the workshops, however, are specifically focused on insects:

**June 14-20** will feature **Ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)** of the Northeast, with Amy Arnett of Unity College.

**July 5-11** will feature **Dragonflies and Damselflies: Field Techniques and Identification** with Bryan Pfeiffer, of the University of Vermont

**July 12-18** will feature TWO concurrent workshops. The first will focus on **Moths and Butterflies: Identification, Specimen Preparation and Taxonomy** with Hugh McGuinness of the Nature Conservancy and Smithsonian Institution, and Bryan Pfeiffer, of the University of Vermont. The second workshop will focus on **Beetles: Diversity, Identification and Natural History**, with Warren Steiner and Gary Hevel, both of the Smithsonian Institution.

**July 19-25** will feature **Native Bees as Pollinators** with Allison Dibble and Frank Drummond of the University of Maine.

A complete listing of the seminar topics can be found at the Institute's web page at

<http://www.eaglehill.us/programs/nhs/nhs-calendar.shtml>

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<http://entomologytoday.org/2015/02/25/famous-female-entomologists-part-3-looking-beyond-edith-patch-c-v/>

### **Edith Patch Biography Published**

The biography of Edith Patch, *Without Benefit of Insects: The Story of Edith M. Patch of the University of Maine* by Elizabeth (Cassie) Gibbs has just been published.

It is available free of charge as a digital version at the Maine Agricultural Forest Experiment Station site. The

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### Edith Patch Biography (cont.)

direct link is "MP763: Without Benefit of Insects: The Story of Edith M. Patch of the University of Maine" by K. Elizabeth Gibbs; it can be downloaded at

[http://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/aes\\_miscpubs/23/](http://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/aes_miscpubs/23/)

Printed softcover copies are also available for \$10.00 plus \$3.00 mailing fee from Nancy MacKnight, Secretary, Friends of Edith Marion Patch, 52 Penobscot Street, Orono, ME, 04473. Checks should be made payable to: *University of Maine Foundation* and payment designated to the *Edith Marion Patch Fund*.

### Pollinator Conservation Short Course

The XERXES SOCIETY, which is focused on invertebrate conservation issues, is sponsoring a Pollinator Conservation Short Course in Dover, Massachusetts, on 20 May, 2015. Registration is \$35 per person. For more information, go to <http://tinyurl.com/medvzdv>.

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### Maine Bumble Bee Atlas Project Launched Volunteers Sought!

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (MDIFW) is seeking volunteers to assist in the *Maine Bumble Bee Atlas* (MBBA) project, a multi-year statewide survey designed to document the diversity, distribution and abundance of Maine's bumble bee species. Coordinated in partnership with the University of Maine at Orono and Farmington, the MBBA is modeled after MDIFW's highly successful *Maine Butterfly Survey* and *Maine Damselfly and Dragonfly Survey*, which marshal the efforts of volunteer citizen scientists from across Maine to increase our knowledge on the status of the state's invertebrate fauna.

To recruit volunteers for the survey, MDIFW will sponsor free six-hour training workshops across the state during each year of the project. The first workshop will be held on **Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the University of Maine in Orono**. Attendees will be trained in a standardized survey and data collection protocol, and project staff will give presentations on bumble bee behavior, ecology, conservation, and identification. Participants do not need to have prior experience in surveying for bees – just an interest and willingness to learn and contribute data to the project.

Workshop space is limited, open to adults only, and **pre-registration is required**. Lunch will be provided. For more information or to pre-register for the training workshop, contact the MDIFW Coordinator, Beth Swartz, at [beth.swartz@maine.gov](mailto:beth.swartz@maine.gov). Project details and information about the training workshop can also be found on the MBBA website

<http://mainebumblebeeatlas.umf.maine.edu/>

and their Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/MaineBumblebeeAtlas>

### Sustaining "Good Bugs" In Your Yard

The University of Maine has a marvelous web page (<http://umaine.edu/publications/7150e/>) with extensive information on beneficial insects and spiders. Excerpted from that is a nice list of suggestions for attracting and sustaining the "Good Bugs" in your yard and gardens:

- (1) Develop a tolerance for some damage by arthropods to your plants; many plants can tolerate low levels of pest damage with few ill effects.
- (2) Provide shelter. Leaving some leaf litter and debris under shrubs may provide beneficial arthropods a place to hide during adverse conditions such as hot summer days.
- (3) Increase the diversity of your landscape. Grow a wide assortment of plants to create habitat for a wide range of natural enemies. Also, diverse plantings of the right species that are pest and disease resistant make it less likely that pests will cause problems.
- (4) Do not use zapper lights that electrocute insects. In study at the University of Delaware, these lights killed many more beneficial insects than pests.
- (5) Ensure a continuous supply of floral nectar and pollen by selecting plants with a succession of flowering times. Nectar is an important source of carbohydrates that provide energy; pollen is a protein source. Because the appetites of beneficials may peak before your garden does, plant an early bloomer, such as sweet alyssum or pansy. Include late-blooming plants such as goldenrod and aster species, many of which colonize areas on their own.
- (6) Choose their favorite plants. Many beneficials like tiny flowers that offer both pollen and nectar.

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### Native Plants Increase Insect, Bird Biodiversity in Your Back Yard by Bob Nelson

According to an article in the May 1st edition of the Bangor Daily News (<http://tinyurl.com/npkmtad>) by Bob Duschne, Vice President of the Penobscot Valley Chapter of Maine Audubon, planting more native plants in your garden will increase the diversity of birds in your back yard. This is because the native plants will have larger numbers and greater diversity of **insects**, insects to which the native plants have developed defenses and for which the native birds have developed a fondness.

One of the sets of examples he provided was with regard to caterpillars on trees. In one backyard, observers in a study counted 410 caterpillars of 19 different species in a native oak tree. A nearby native black cherry harbored 239 caterpillars from 14 different species. But another nearby tree, a non-native Bradford pear, had only one caterpillar species on it – an inchworm (Geometridae).

We do have a pair of the Bradford pears at our place, and this time of year they're just covered with flies and small bees as they flower. And we have other non-native taxa – such as a tulip tree, apples, pears, flowering crabapples, pin oak, flowering plums, ponderosa pines and both blue and Norway spruce – that we've planted, as well as a number that we haven't, such as the bush honeysuckles and Japanese barberries that are found scattered throughout the woods. We're also planting *Scabiosa* and other particularly bee-friendly perennials this year .... so, where to draw the boundary? It's a tough call!

Then again, at my last count, we had over 40 species of trees at Rock Ridge, most of which – from the red maples to the hawthornes to the tamaracks, bur oaks and basswood – are

(continued on next page)

### Native Plants, Bugs and Birds (cont.)

all native. My latest discovery is of a lone striped maple (*Acer pensylvanicum*), which now joins the sugar maples, red maples, and silver maples on the list.



The beebalm (left foreground), foxglove (bottom front) and purple coneflowers may not be native, but they do bring in a host of butterflies and Hymenoptera to our yard.

So I don't worry too much that we're going to totally disrupt the local insect or bird world. The rest of the 40 acres is pretty much dominated by native trees and plants. We've even left standing two large dead pines – that are going to do wonderful things for our woodpeckers as they provide generations of carpenter ants for years to come.

\* \* \* \* \*

### UNH Bee Lab Organizing a Bee BioBlitz in the White Mountains, June 26-29

The UNH Bee Lab is organizing a Bee BioBlitz of the White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) in New Hampshire. This will be the first full-scale Bee BioBlitz of the WMNF and will take place from June 26 - June 29, 2015.

The WMNF is a national forest made up of over 800,000 acres. Our home base will be the Joe Dodge Lodge in Pinkham Notch, White Mountains, NH. Pinkham Notch is a mountain pass between the Presidential Range and the Wildcat Range. There are two rivers that drain into the notch: the Ellis and Peabody River. This starting location allows us access to a variety of environments, including Northern hardwood forest (below 2500 ft.), spruce/fir forest (2500-4000 ft.), Balsam fir forest (4000 ft. to timberline), and the alpine zone (above timberline). In addition to the variety of environments up Mount Washington, there is also a nearby bog ecosystem.

The objectives of the Bee BioBlitz are:

**Objective 1:** Document the diversity of bee species in the White Mountain National Forest with a particular focus on native bees.

**Objective 2:** Connect bee researchers across New England.

**Objective 3:** Demonstrate bee surveys and research techniques to interested public and students.

The preliminary schedule of events is as follows. A more detailed schedule will be available closer to the event date.

**Dates:** June 26-29, 2015

**Travel dates:** June 26th and 29th

**Collecting dates:** Saturday, June 27th and Sunday, June 28th (special arrangements can be made to collect before or after these dates). The general public will be invited to collect both days

This event will feature a public lecture by Sam Droege on Saturday, June 27th from 8-9 p.m. at the Joe Dodge Lodge, titled: "Native bees, native plants: their conservation, place in the world, and beauty."

**Processing date:** Sunday, June 28th, at the Joe Dodge Lodge conference room. Ideally, they will have a group to help with the identification of the bees. Following the processing, labeled specimen will be distributed to museums and interested parties.

**Housing options:** They have set aside a group of rooms at the Joe Dodge Lodge. *The deadline for advance registrations was April 26th*, but rooms may still be available. Call the **AMC Reservations Line at 603-466-2727** **ASAP** Monday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and ask the Customer Service Representative if you can still reserve a room with the **Bee BioBlitz and Group #280529**.

They will be using the meeting room at the Lodge for processing and lectures. Other options include: Dolly Copp Campground, which has 176 primitive sites, or a variety of bed and breakfast or resort locations near Pinkham Notch.

**Meals:** Breakfast and dinner are provided with housing at the Joe Dodge Lodge; lunch can be purchased at the Lodge for \$10.95. The Black Moose Deli also has *a la carte* options.

Permits will be required for collecting on public lands. If you are interested in collecting in particular areas let us know.

See <http://www.unhbeelab.com/bee-bioblitz.html> for additional information. Please contact Sandra Rehan ([Sandra.Rehan@unh.edu](mailto:Sandra.Rehan@unh.edu)) if you are interested in participating or have any questions about the event.

### COMING M.E.S. EVENTS in 2015:

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 30 May       | Field Day on Ross Road Blueberry Plain, Old Orchard Beach (York County) (contact persons: Peter Darling or Bob Nelson)                         |
| 20 June      | Field Day at Hidden Valley Nature Center, Jefferson (Lincoln County)(contact person: Kathy Claerr)   |
| 17-20 July   | Entomological Bio-Blitz at Acadia National Park. Target groups will be Hymenoptera and Myriapoda; contact persons to be announced.             |
| 8 August     | Field Day at Big Wilson Stream in Sangerville (Piscataquis County)(contact person: Diane Boretos)  |
| 22 August    | Field Day in Woolwich (Sagadahoc County)(contact person: Charlene Donahue)   |
| 9 September  | Bug Maine-ia, Maine State Museum, Augusta (contact person: Joanna Torow – <a href="mailto:Joanna.Torow@Maine.gov">Joanna.Torow@Maine.gov</a> ) |
| 12 September | M.E.S. Annual Meeting, Clinton (contact person: Bob Nelson - <a href="mailto:BeetleBob2003@yahoo.com">BeetleBob2003@yahoo.com</a> )            |

(See <http://www.colby.edu/MES/> for more detailed information; new information on any event will be posted as it is received.)

*The Maine Entomologist* is the quarterly newsletter of the Maine Entomological Society. Dues are \$10 per year. Checks should be made payable to the M.E.S. and sent to Mr. Dana Michaud, M.E.S. Treasurer, at 3 Halde Street, Waterville, ME 04901-6317. Our records show your dues are paid through the year printed on your mailing label; please contact Dana if you believe this is in error. *Individual articles reflect the opinions of the authors and mention of any specific commercial products or businesses should not be construed as formal endorsement by the M.E.S. of any such product or business.*