

The Maine Entomologist

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

The Official Newsletter of the Maine Entomological Society

Vol. 26, No. 1



February, 2022

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



BY HILLARY MORIN PETERSON

Dear MES Members,

Happy February! I hope you have been able to get out and enjoy some of this fresh snow.

This winter has been eventful for MES – since the last newsletter, we have enjoyed several webinars including *Aphids in the Time of Global Change* by Andrei Alyokhin, *Tagging Monarchs at Fields Pond* by Wesley Hutchins, *Fun with Citizen Scientists - Biosurveillance for Emerald Ash Borer* by Colleen Teerling, and we are looking forward to the upcoming *Grasshoppers of Maine: from the everyday to the extraordinary* by Brandon Woo on February 10th.

The winter workshop was also wonderful this year, even with the virtual format. While we hope *greatly* that it can be held in person next year, 22 MES members enjoyed a Saturday morning and afternoon learning about aquatic insects from Dr. Jeffery Heilveil of SUNY Oneonta with his keynote presentation *Aquatic Insects: from intrinsic value to partners in conservation* plus his excellent virtual Q&A and ID session, and from Dr. Hamish Greig from the University of Maine with his presentation *Aquatic insect diversity in two of Maine's rare and unique habitats: tidal freshwaters and riverside rock pools*. Thank you to Mike Parisio and Tom Schmeelk for serving on the 2022 winter workshop planning committee with me.

Since we all work in Augusta, I have to admit that we planned the whole workshop over several pizza lunches at Wander Pizza Company. A fun thing about this year's workshop was that Dr. Heilveil was someone who was an early professor of entomology for Tom, inspiring him to pursue his career, and Dr. Greig was the same for me! If any MES members are interested in joining the planning committee for 2023, or have any ideas for a theme, please do not hesitate to reach out.

While thinking about what to talk about in this winter newsletter, I thought about a lot of connections that have been taking place through MES recently. Something that has been really enjoyable during my time as the MES president has been the behind-the-scenes networking that takes place through the official MES email address (maineentosociety@gmail.com) – for example, recently we were able to connect Dr. Heilveil with someone reaching out from a museum looking for guidance on creating habitats and displays about aquatic insects in Maine. Through the email network, we have been able to connect MES members with taxonomic skills with people looking for identifications, connect members with people looking for someone to give a talk, get MES signed up with the Maine Stream Explorers project through Maine Audubon, and much more. It is so excellent that we can connect virtually throughout the year in addition to in person at our events.

Finally – on the note of events, the online event calendar has been recently updated with some more dates and details for field days this summer. Before we know it, March 26th will be here and hopefully lots of us will gather to enjoy a day of conversation, bugging, and maple syrup at Charlene's. Until then, stay warm, stay in touch, and enjoy the upcoming webinars (also found on the event calendar).

- Hillary

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Dip-netting for aquatic larvae at Holt Pond in Bridgton provided many surprises and a rich diversity of insects.

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Remembering Field Days Past

Photos by Kate Wilcox

In the middle of the winter, for those who aren't excited about all the snow and ice for recreational pursuits, dreams of field days to come can brighten what can otherwise be somber times. Kate Wilcox has been actively documenting many of the activities on field days past here's a small sample of some of her work, to help people dream forward!

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Nina Beckwith, Charlene Donahue and Hillary Peterson identify specimens collected at the Bridgton field day.



Dana Michaud looks for ants and other ground-dwelling critters at the Hirundo Wildlife Refuge field day. A surprising diversity of smaller insects and other arthropods can be found by carefully examining leaf-litter habitats.



Immature milkweed bugs (Hemiptera: Lygaeidae) were one of the finds on the Viles Arboretum field day in 2020. Though famous as a host for caterpillars of Monarch butterflies, Maine's native milkweeds also support a number of other specialist insect species.



Insects can be found in almost any setting or habitat, as evidenced by close inspection of a Queen Anne's Lace seed head on the Viles Arboretum field day. Revealed at the top is a ladybird beetle (Coccinellidae), most likely *Propylaea quatuordecimpunctata*, and towards the base, a twice-stabbed stinkbug (Pentatomidae), *Cosmopepla lintneriana*.

First Field Day of the Season: Saturday, March 8th!

Saturday, March 26: Whitefield (Lincoln County) - Maple Syrup and Insect Collecting at Charlene Donahue's home. Join us from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at 460 Mills Road, in Whitefield.

Maple syrup buckets often contain a fascinating assemblage of insects, plus there are insects on tree boles, in the woodpile and tucked in other nooks and crannies this time of year. There is a seep open all winter down near the Sheepscot River at the foot of the slope, and wetlands across the road. Plus, we have a beeyard.

Come visit a backyard sugar operation, enjoy the company and collect a bug or two or maybe more.

Dress for the weather and be sure to wear boots; bring snowshoes if conditions permit, as well as your lunch and drinks. If the sap cooker is running, there are usually people hanging out, and it's a laid-back time (until a batch of syrup is ready to come off!).

DO PLEASE contact Charlene Donahue if you're planning to attend: call 485-0960, or by e-mail at donahuecp15@gmail.com.

Directions: Take Route 17 east out of Augusta. Go 12 miles, and then turn right onto Route 218 (Mills Road); Charlene's house is 0.8 mile down the road, on the right. It's a cream-colored cape, with a garage with rounded doors.

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Dance of the Snow Bugs by Frank Woodard

I first encountered the dance of the Snow Bugs while walking during a sunny winter day just warm enough to make the snow softly quiet. I came upon a patch of snow that instead of being pristine white appeared to have pepper spilled upon it. On closer inspection the pepper was bouncing about! I collected a few of the specks and using a microscope and the book *Soil Animals* by Freidrich Schaller I learned the "Snow Bugs" were in fact insects from the order Collembola, commonly called springtails.



"Snow bugs," Collembola of the family Hypogastruridae; spruce twig and needles for scale.
- Photo by Stephen Luk, from <https://bugguide.net/node/view/1650304>

Springtails are an important part of creating healthy soil. The tiny vegetarians occupy every niche on the farm from the soil to the trees yet can only be seen with the *The Maine Entomologist*

naked eye when dancing on the snow or during what seems to be an early spring mating dance. The book "How to Know the Insects" by H.E. Jaques reports that the species can appear in unusual places at unusual times in unbelievable numbers and cites an example where half bushel piles occurred one Spring in a recently plowed field.

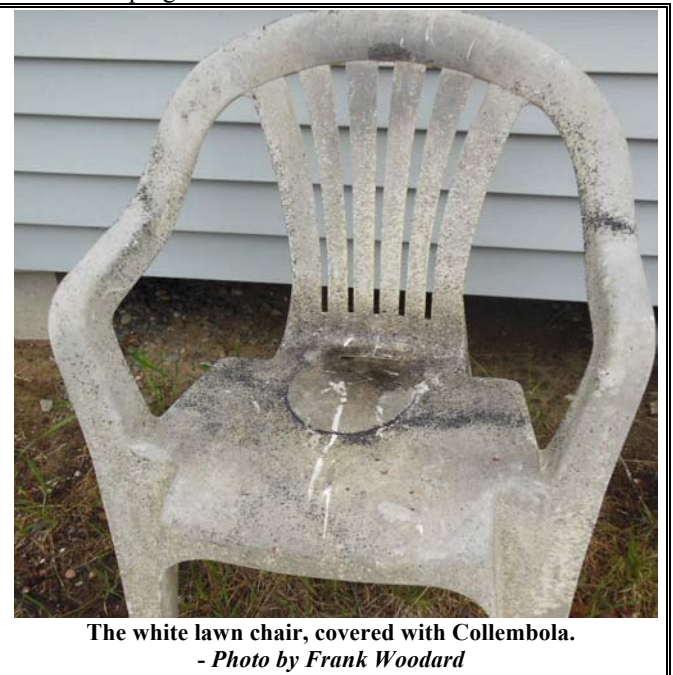
While they are difficult to see, the springtails' handiwork is always readily apparent. In the woods they help the fallen leaves melt into the ground. In the garden, the rough compost tilled into the soil in the autumn disappears below ground by spring, for springtails don't let winter slow them down. Springtails are active year-round.

According to Katie Kline, in an article titled "Snow Fleas: Helpful Winter Creatures" on the Ecological Society of America website, springtails have a protein that prevents ice crystals from forming. Springtails are also called "Snow Fleas" because of the way they bounce, yet unlike fleas they use a tail like appendage called a furcula to bounce along.

I worried that having stepped on hundreds of dancing insects I'd return to find many of them smushed in the snow. When I returned to the spot as the sun sank behind the tree line, I found they had disappeared completely. Springtails are tough critters and seem to be indestructible by boots in the snow or by a tiller in the garden.

Twice in my life I've witnessed the spring mating dance. Last spring, I put out a white lawn chair by the garden shed after the snow had melted. I walked by a few days later and the white chair was dark gray. Thousands of springtails were having a big party that lasted a couple days before they all disappeared once again.

Now I look forward to warmish winter days and a chance to once again witness the remarkable "Snow Bugs" at work helping to create rich soil on the farm.



The white lawn chair, covered with Collembola.
- Photo by Frank Woodard

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According to Dana Michaud, M.E.S. now has 155 members, including 26 life members!

The Legend of the “Up-Island Spider”

by Dana Wilde

On Islesboro there is a lively legend, several decades old at least, that a unique species of enormous spider lives on the upper end of the island. Lore has it that the “up-island spider” can grow as large 8 inches from toe to toe. It has red eyes. Its footsteps have been heard pattering at night. Sightings often occur in the vicinity of an old church, giving rise to the story of a huge spider arriving long ago in a coffin from the mainland on its way to a funeral at the church - so the spider is also referred to as the “hearse house spider.”

Now, the World Spider Catalog as of Jan. 5, 2022, lists 49,830 officially identified species of spiders. Arachnologists are confident there are between 75,000 and possibly 190,000 spider species on Earth, all told. At least 677 species are at home in Maine, as listed in the 2020 *Checklist of Maine Spiders*. So strictly speaking, it is not impossible that a unique spider species inhabits a limited area on one of Penobscot Bay’s larger islands.

It does, however, seem unlikely. So when the rumor of the up-island spider came to my attention recently, I conducted an unscientific internet research mission to see if I could figure out what’s going on.

Some of the up-island spider reports describe huge spiders with tiny spiders riding on their backs. This description checks out for wolf spider mothers. They carry their kids around on their backs for a couple of weeks after the eggs hatch. Some wolf spider species can be startlingly large (up to a half inch in body length). Their eyes are constructed like human eyes and can shine red (or green). And going by Daniel Jennings and Frank Graham, Jr.’s extensive count of spiders in Milbridge, they’re the most abundant family of spiders found in Maine.

Sure enough, among the photos posted online of up-island spiders, some of them are plainly wolf spiders.



A Maine wolf spider with her babies clinging to her back.
- Photo by Dana Wilde

There also are some startlingly large orbweaving spiders in Maine, too, including the barn spider, *Araneus cavaticus*, the model for E.B. White’s Charlotte whom he fashioned at his home in Brooklin, Maine. But probably the

overall largest spider you’re likely to see in Maine is the fishing spider (*Dolomedes*), also known as the wharf, dock, or raft spider. It lives principally near water, as the name suggests, but also wanders into houses. Female *Dolomedes tenebrosus*, commonly seen in Maine, can be an inch or more in body length. Add eight long, banded legs, and you have a spider big enough to startle you into thinking it’s way bigger than it actually is.



A Maine specimen of *Dolomedes tenebrosus*. The banding on the legs serves to distinguish this easily from the two other Maine species of *Dolomedes*. - Photo by Dana Wilde

Again, not surprisingly, many of the up-island spider photos posted online are of fishing spiders.

Andrew Roberts, president of the American Arachnological Society and a lifelong regular visitor to Islesboro, recently wrote me to say that one arachnologist who worked with fishing spiders speculated on the possibility that an isolated population of *Dolomedes triton* (also known as the six-spotted fishing spider) lives around Meadow Pond, not far from the up-island church. The geology there includes a freshwater pond and more swampy terrain, while down-island has more cliffs and dry forest, he said. So it is not a stretch to imagine an isolated population of *D. triton* “hiding on the north end somewhere.”

This sounds like a very plausible explanation, with a couple of notes. In Daniel Jennings’ huge collection, which was the basis of the *Checklist of Maine Spiders*, he had just nine individuals of *Dolomedes triton*, according to a count during the preparation of the *Checklist*; meanwhile he had dozens of *D. tenebrosus* and *D. striatus* specimens. Also, the *Checklist* indicates *D. triton* has been identified in just one coastal Maine county (Hancock, while Islesboro is in Waldo County), and guidebooks indicate *D. triton*, though large, runs a little smaller than *D. tenebrosus*.

I think it’s extremely unlikely that a unique spider species is living only on one limited area of Islesboro. So my best guess - not yet actually having made an expedition to the island - is that islanders and other adventurers are encountering fishing spiders, probably *D. tenebrosus*, and sometimes unusually large wolf spiders or orbweavers (or even nursery web spiders).

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"Up-Island Spider" (cont.)

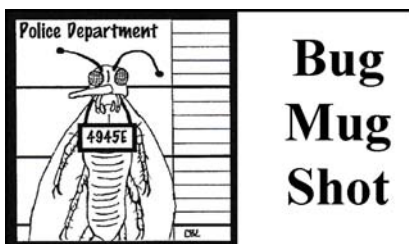
Most people coming upon unusually large spiders can get startled; it happens to me. The startle can make the spider seem bigger than it really is. In the story told to friends, family, and maybe tourists, the spider gets bigger, details get added. And when that story gets woven in with other tales that make up the Legend of the Up-Island Spider, you have quite a unique creature on your hands!

Sources

Bradley, Richard A. 2013. *Common Spiders of North America*. University of California Press.
Jennings, Daniel T., and Charlene P. Donahue. 2020. *A Checklist of Maine Spiders (Arachnida: Araneae)*. Technical Report No. 47, Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.
Jennings, Daniel T., and Frank Graham, Jr. 2007. *Spiders (Arachnida: Araneae) of Milbridge, Washington County, Maine*. U.S. Department of Agriculture/Forestry Service.
Roberts, J. Andrew, president, American Arachnological Society. 2021. Personal communication.

M.E.S. member Dana Wilde is the author of *A Backyard Book of Spiders in Maine* (Unity, Maine: North Country Press).

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Notiophilus, A Cool Genus of Ground Beetles (Carabidae)
by Bob Nelson

One of my favorite genera among the ground beetles is *Notiophilus*. These are small visual predators that prefer generally open substrates with at least some bare ground exposed, though this can include forest floors where understory vegetation is limited or nonexistent and leaf litter is thin.

Overall body length typically runs 4-6 mm (1/6 to 1/4 inch). Unlike many Carabids, these are active by day. They are known to feed on Collembola (springtails) and gnats, but likely will eat anything they can subdue.



A specimen of *Notiophilus biguttatus*, showing bicolored elytra and the ridges on the face between enormous eyes.

- Photo by A. J. Cann, from

<https://www.naturespot.org.uk/species/notiophilus-biguttatus>

Once you've seen one of these beetles, you'll instantly recognize the genus. The eyes are enormous, and the front of the head looks like, if this were a ceramic sculpture, someone had drawn their outstretched fingers downwards through the wet clay before it dried and set, resulting in a series of sharp ridges between the eyes. Only one other uncommon genus of Maine ground beetles, which otherwise looks totally different, shares this characteristic.

Another physical characteristic of the genus is that the gap between the first and second striae (the "lines" down the elytra) is 2-4 times as wide as the spacing between any other pair of striae.

Maine has six species in this genus. Two are restricted to high elevations and far northern Maine; one is known from a single record in Paris, but is more common in southern New England. A fourth is restricted to open areas in pine and spruce forests. But two are common enough to be commonly encountered by beginning collectors.

The first of these is a European introduction, *Notiophilus biguttatus*. This species can be found in gardens and driveways, or other disturbed areas, and is highly distinctive by its bicolored elytra - which are quite pale at the apex and partly along the sides.

The second species likely encountered is our native *Notiophilus aeneus*. This species may be encountered in thin, loose leaf litter in or at the margin of mixed or hardwood forest. The entire beetle is black with a hint of brown, but the legs are reddish brown to red.



Our native *Notiophilus aeneus*, showing its uniformly dark elytra and bright reddish legs.

- Photo by Tom Murray, from

<https://bugguide.net/node/view/50890/bgimage>

Active collecting specimens of *Notiophilus* requires getting down close to the ground, as Dana Michaud is shown doing in the Kate Wilcox photo on page 2. They are very fast runners, but an aspirator bottle (and sturdy lungs!) is more effective than trying to catch them by hand, or by tapping them with a wet fingertip. They can also be collected via pitfall traps or by processing leaf litter in Berlese funnels.

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**Maine State Museum
2021 Insect Collection Report**

**by Charlene Donahue,
MSM adjunct insect collection curator**

As with everything else in the world, the insect collection work at the Maine State Museum was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Dana Michaud, Gail Everett and I soldiered on anyway. In 2021 only eight people worked on the insect collection (and one of them was one of my sisters up for a visit). In each of the three previous years there were over two dozen people who volunteered. We, like everyone else, hoped that life would be back to normal in 2021 and we would feel comfortable having more people come in and work on the collection; hopefully that will happen in 2022.

The cataloging of Tony Robert's Lepidoptera collection was completed in January and the specimens destined to remain at the MSM were separated out and labelled. Then in August, Andrei Sourakov, Collections Coordinator at the McGuire Center for Lepidoptera and Biodiversity at the Florida Museum of Natural History picked up the specimens donated to that institution. Thank you to all the MES members who assisted in this project. All told, it took 650 hours over 17 months across three years with time put in by 25 MES and non-MES people.

Dr. Sourakov was very impressed by the effort and data made available to the McGuire Center. Because of the work of the Maine Entomological Society, this invaluable collection of Lepidoptera made by Tony Roberts has been preserved and both the specimens and data will be accessible to researchers in Maine and across the world.

The sorting of specimens continues, in fact that was a major portion of the work accomplished in 2021. Gail Everett has spent her time on the Lepidoptera learning more about moths as she goes along. Dana Michaud has not only worked on sorting but has also been identifying beetles and specimens in other orders to keep things interesting. After the moths were sent off to Florida Dana rearranged the collection in the cabinets to accommodate expansion.

I have sorted and labelled material in the orders Odonata, Hymenoptera and Diptera, and still have more work to do. I hope to spend more time identifying material in 2022. A young man, Ian Miller, was job hunting and had some free time. So, he volunteered at the museum and helped us on various projects. We were sorry when he found a job and no longer had time to work with us. Anna Court assisted with cataloging and labelling drawers. There is so much basic work still to do.

Karen Hopkins is working on compiling a list of Lepidoptera in Maine. She has begun borrowing specimens from the museum to add to the compilation and at the same time identifying unidentified specimens, correcting errors and updating nomenclature. This project benefits her project and improves the museum collection.

The MSM and the Maine Natural History Observatory are collaborating on a pilot project to start digitizing the museum natural history collection starting with the insects. Funds for this project were supplied by Dr. Andrei Alyokhin, University of Maine Entomology professor;

Maine Inland Fisheries & Wildlife; the Maine Forest Service, Forest Health & Monitoring and MES. All these entities utilize and value the MSM insect collection. The plan is to use this project as a starting point for obtaining more funds to fully digitize the collections.

Donations to the insect collection have continued in the form of specimens from the University of Maine and MES members as well as a microscope and collection supplies.

We wish to thank Maine State Museum employees Paula Work, Curator of Systematic Collections, and Natalie Liberache, Collections Manager, who continue to support our labors on the insect collection.

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Book Review: by Dana Michaud

Super Fly: The Unexpected Lives of the World's Most Successful Insects, by Jonathan Balcombe; 2021; Penguin Books (paperback); 340 pages; ISBN-9780143134275. (\$18 list price)

This book is well worth the \$18 cover price. In this book Balcombe elevates the often-maligned Dipteran order to a status of equal importance to other well-loved orders of insects.

Rightfully dedicated "to the anonymous quintillions," Balcombe divides the topics covered into three parts. Part I,

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"Superfly" (cont.)

What Flies Are, includes Chapters 1-3. In Chapter 1, "God's Favorite," the diversity of Diptera and their success in sheer numbers alone, with a global population estimate exceeding 17 quadrillion, or over 20 million for every human, boggles the mind. The topic of fecundity is also covered as one of major reasons for their success. Diptera fortunately have many natural enemies, which keep their numbers in check. The fact that so few of the species have been either named or discovered is evidenced by citing a 2016 Canadian DNA barcoding study, which estimated the number of gall midge species alone to exceed 16,000, or 10 times the previously predicted number.

In Chapter 2, "How Flies Work", Balcombe explores the many adaptations flies have evolved that enable them to be successful, including flight, taste, smell, motion sensors, and vision. In Chapter 3, "Are You Awake? (Evidence for insect minds)", the notion that insects think, feel pain, or are conscious, is analyzed through Balcombe's many years as a biologist with a PhD in ethology, and well-versed in animal behavior.

In Part II, How Flies Live, the five topics covered individually in their own chapters, reveals the many aspects of Dipteran biology that make us both hate and love flies. In Chapter 4, "Parasites and Predators," the topics of parasitism (including myiasis, in which a fly maggot develops in human tissue, generally seen only in the tropics), kleptoparasitism, and predation are touched upon. Balcombe, in exploring the topic of parasitism, reveals how some flies have evolved an immune response to wasp parasitism that is called "cellular encapsulation." The fly larva, after having been attacked by a parasitic wasp, entombs the doomed egg with a layer of cells that encapsulates it, so it never develops, thus defeating the threat.

In Chapter 5, "Blood Seekers", Balcombe notes how both cold- and warm-blooded animals are exploited by many groups of Dipterans, as a necessity for egg fertilization. He also points out that Tsetse, a group of 23 species that feed on both humans and cattle and can spread sleeping sickness and nagana, have actually postponed habitat destruction by limiting human presence in many areas, thus protecting biodiversity.

In Chapter, 6, "Waste Disposers and Recyclers", the importance of Diptera in recycling both animal and plant material is both explored and explained. Their contribution to cleaning up our environment is, to say the least, critical. Unfortunately, many view what they do as unsanitary and filthy, and being carriers of many diseases associated with their feeding habits, humans overlook the role Diptera play in cleaning up.

Chapter 7, "Botanists", explores the major role of Diptera as often-overlooked pollinators. Balcombe reveals that of the 150 families of flies, at least 71 feed on flowers as adults. As pollinators of flowers, these Dipteran groups become extremely critical in their importance when one examines not only their nectar feeding, but also their capacity to pollinate.

Many species of plants have evolved flowers that can only be pollinated by one or two flies. For example, consider the cacao tree, the source of pods that yields one of mankind's favorite beverages, cocoa, and the sweet product chocolate. Having a very complicated flower, the cacao is pollinated almost exclusively by tiny midges (and one flower fly species), whose life cycles are tied to the understory where decaying leaves create habitat for their larvae. Balcombe cites many adaptations where flies are critical to many of man's food sources, both fruits and vegetables.

In Chapter 8, "Lovers", the many adaptations that flies have gone through to succeed at reproduction are shown. Balcombe delves into both behavioral and physical changes that have evolved over time. From courtship dancing, bribery through gifts, perfumes, colors, and dueling, he touches upon the many adaptations males go through to propagate their genes.

In Part III, Flies and Humans, another aspect of Dipteran importance is revealed. In Chapter 9, "Heroes of Heritability", the fruit fly *Drosophila melanogaster* and its importance to understanding human genetics, is explored. Balcombe dedicates most of this chapter to genetics, from its early days to the modern lab, expounding on the reasons why *Drosophila* was chosen, and continues to be.

In Chapter 10, "Vectors and Pests", Balcombe rightly presents the mosquito as a vector of many of humankind's greatest killers and maimers. Although not the only carrier of deadly diseases, the *Aedes* and *Anopheles* mosquitoes have by far received most of the attention since the war with insecticides began. Saturation campaigns of DDT, although initially effective, gave rise to resistant varieties. Enter the newer array of pesticides both effective and toxic, aided by newer sciences involving CRISPR (gene editing) and SMT (sterile male technique, or mass rearing and releasing of sterile males) as methods to control or wipe out pest species.

The subsection titled Farm Wars deals with agricultural insect pests. The use of SMS (used successfully against both the Mediterranean fruit fly and the Screwworm fly) with IPM (Integrated Pest Management, where control of a pest employs multiple strategies such as trapping lures, exclusion netting, parasitoids, fungi, and others) are becoming the preferred methods, rather than saturation spraying with newer toxic sprays that clearly harm many nontarget species.

Chapter 11, "Detectives and Doctors", deals with the use of flies and their life cycles to convict, exonerate, or help heal humans. The presence of various species of Diptera and many other insect decomposers on or in a body are used to determine time of death, duration of decomposition, and sometimes location of death, in a well-established science commonly called Forensic entomology. The use of maggots for medical reasons has been employed for centuries, and is still used today to treat gangrenous, infected wounds that otherwise resist healing and threaten the patient's life.

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"Superfly" (cont.)

In his final chapter, "Caring about Flies," Balcombe summarizes his previous chapters, pointing out the vital importance of flies on this planet, as both a food source for the many creatures that consume them in their diet, and for the many plants that lure them to their flowers to feed and pollinate. The "Bugpocalypse" section touches upon the growing mound of evidence that there's something frighteningly wrong with Eden - that insect populations all over this planet are crashing, not by a little, but by massive numbers. Man and his ever-growing numbers, along with his technology, are now not only having an impact on the coinhabitants of this unique planet, but also threatening them with extinction.

He cites a six-week study in central Illinois, tallying butterfly roadkill. In the study area some 1,800 butterflies died by vehicles, which when extrapolated to all of Illinois would suggest a death toll of 20 million, and for the entire U.S. over 1 billion. The automobile may be more destructive to insects than we dare admit. As a young bug collector I used to like collecting insects off the grills of many out-of-state cars and semis. I wonder what story the same grills today would tell us.

In his conclusion of Chapter 12, "Fly Friends", Balcombe reminds the reader that aversion to insects, and flies especially, is taught. It is not for the most part innate. We are told to swat, step on, crush, or spray the dreaded insect, that these six-legged life forms merit our fear and hatred. They represent filth and disease (some do!). They have no value. But when all is said and done, the fly will probably survive to see the very extinction of the one creature that didn't read the writing on the wall. That very creature was too intelligent and comfortable to take the time to appreciate what surrounded it.

As he concludes, Balcombe states "Like it or not, our fate is bound to theirs."

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M.E.S. Member & Author on TV

M.E.S. member Margie Patlak was featured on January 5th on Maine's TV program "207", which featured her powerful new book, *More than Meets the Eye: Exploring Nature and Loss on the Coast of Maine*. In the interview, she explained how exploring the secrets of living creatures and the environment of the Maine coast, to satisfy her own curiosity, also helped her to come to terms with deep personal loss while gaining an appreciation for the ever-changing environment around her. The interview also featured a number of her stunning photographs. Members may remember Margie from her article on sweat bees in the November newsletter.

The program aired on Channel 2 (WLBZ) and Channel 6 (WCSH). Those who missed the segment can see it at <https://tinyurl.com/yux5h9ty>.

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Two More M.E.S. Members Interviewed On-Air

M.E.S. members Allison Kanoti, State Entomologist, and Tom Schmeelk, forest entomologist with the Maine Forest Service, were featured in the January 27th edition of *Maine Calling* on Maine Public Radio. The focus of the program was browntail moths and other exotic pests. Those who'd like to hear the nearly hour-long program can catch it at tinyurl.com/2p9xkhrb.

Annual Meeting Moved to October 8!

The 2022 M.E.S. Annual Meeting, scheduled for October 1st, is being moved one week later, to Saturday, October 8th. Hopefully, this won't cause problems for any members.

Merope Story Correction

Dave Bourque was the first person in Maine to find an earwigfly, *Merope tuber*. He found the male referenced in the November newsletter article in the Penobscot Experimental Forest (PEF) material. Dave has spent thousands, if not tens of thousands, of hours over the years processing samples from the PEF and other locations sampled by a University of Maine researcher. He definitely deserves credit for the first specimen found, as this is the kind of find that keeps him going – looking for the unusual amidst the common.

- Charlene Donahue

COMING M.E.S. EVENTS in 2021-2022

(See the MES web site at <https://www.maineentsociety.org/events> for additional information on any event, especially upcoming webinars - which will be posted as soon as information is available.)

- February 10:** Webinar - Brandon Woo on Maine Grasshoppers
- March 10:** Webinar - Dave Courtemanch on the Maine Aquatic Biodiversity Project
- March 26:** Maple Syrup and Insects Field Day, Whitefield (see p. 3)
- April:** **Pinning Workshop has been COVID CANCELLED.**
- 14 April:** Webinar - TBA
- May 21st:** Field Day - Maine Boghaunter at Waterboro Barrens (Pete Darling)
- June 4th:** **25th M.E.S. Birthday Celebration - Viles Arboretum, Augusta**
- June 18:** Field Day, Sousa Preserve, Burnham (Bob Nelson)
- July 9:** Field Day, Coastal Land Trust (Kathy Murray)
- July 23:** Field Day, Kennebec Land Trust, Webber Pond (Vassalboro) (Dana Michaud)
- August 13:** Field Day, site TBS (Pete Darling)
- September 10:** Field Day, Brunswick area (Kathy Claerr)
- October 8:** Annual Meeting, Clinton (Bob Nelson)

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