The Entomological Society of Manitoba

Newsletter

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About the ESM Newsletter

The Entomological Society of Manitoba Newsletter is published three times per year. It is a forum whereby information can be disseminated to Society members. As such, all members are encouraged to contribute often. The Newsletter is interested in opinions, short articles, news of research projects, meeting announcements, workshops, courses and other events, requests for materials or information, news of personnel or visiting scientists, literature reviews or announcements and anything that may be of interest to ESM members.

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Editors' Comments

Where has the summer gone?! After what seemed like an interminable cool, wet spring and early summer, the warm summer weather did finally arrive, and although short, hopefully it was fruitful entomologically for all of you.

The 70th Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of Manitoba is right around the corner – **31 October and 1 November**. This issue includes an outline of the Meeting, featuring Veterinary and Medical Entomology, and a call for papers. **Our President, Robbin Lindsay**, provides us with a few details of the guest speakers to temp you to attend – but I'm sure you already have the dates marked on your calendars.

Inside you'll also find an obituary for the **Criddle house**, which was destroyed by fire this summer, and **Todd Lawton** amazes us once again with how much entomological adventure he can cram into one summer.

Marjorie Smith & Jordan Bannerman

From the President

As the summer draws to a close, most entomologists start to wind down their field work at this time of year, and shift their focus to processing the specimens accumulated over the season. Thus for most, field work promptly turns into lab work, and we get to enjoy our arthropods of interest, safely and comfortably indoors. "Tick people" like Kateryn Rochon (and her students and staff) and I have the distinct pleasure of being able to extend our field seasons into October (and weather permitting) November. Because adult blacklegged ticks start host-seeking in mid-September and continue to be active until permanent snow cover or sub-zero temperatures prevail, we get to sample well after the leaves have turned colour and dropped to the ground. It makes for a long field season but drag sampling for ticks is an awesome way to spend a pleasant fall afternoon, as at that time, the woods have usually been abandoned by other humans and most, if not all, of the biting flies! Our entry into the autumn also means it's time for the annual Entomological Society meeting.

Drag sampling in Nova Scotia.

Checking the sample.

I am very excited about this year's meeting as the theme is Veterinary and Medical Entomology. It has been a number of years since we have focused our annual meeting on these important aspects of entomology and the scientific organizing committee has pulled together a very strong line-up of invited speakers. Fiona Hunter from Brock University in Ontario will be speaking on her excellent research program on biting flies, while Tim Lysyk from Agriculture Canada in Lethbridge will address advances in our understanding of the bizarre affliction of humans and domestic animals, tick paralysis. Steven Schofield from the Department of Defense will provide a glimpse into entomological challenges faced by the Canadian Forces, both at home and on deployments around the globe. Finally your president is also planning to present on emerging vector-borne disease threats in Canada. In addition, the meeting will provide an opportunity to honour yet another of the Department of Entomology's recent retirees. As all of you know, Terry Galloway has just stepped down from his faculty position after more than three decades in the Department of Entomology. Terry has always had a strong commitment to our society and the meeting organisers have plans to formally acknowledge and celebrate Terry's outstanding career, and his dedication to the Entomological Society of Manitoba and entomology in general. I look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting at the end of October; it promises to be an outstanding meeting so please plan on attending.

70th Annual Meeting
Entomological Society of Manitoba
31 October-1 November, 2014

Veterinary and Medical Entomology in Canada: Can History Predict the Future?

Count yourself in, and join us for the 70th annual meeting of the Entomological Society of Manitoba.

Friday, 31 October, 2014
Freshwater Institute, 501 University Crescent, Winnipeg (across from the Animal Science/Entomology)

Introductory Speaker
Rob Anderson, PhD, Associate Professor, Biology Department, University of Winnipeg
Why Veterinary and Medical Entomology?

Keynote Speaker

Fiona Hunter, PhD. Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Brock University, St. Catharines, ON.
Biting fly research

Submitted papers and posters

Friday Evening
Informal gathering at to be determined restaurant

Saturday Morning, 1 November, 2014: Veterinary and Medical Entomology in Canada: Can History Predict the Future?
Room 219; Animal Science/Entomology, University of Manitoba.

Kateryn Rochon, PhD, Department of Entomology, University of Manitoba.
A Tribute to Terry Galloway.

Steve Schofield, Ph.D.
Force Health Protection, Department of National Defence, Ottawa
Medical Entomology from a Canadian Military Perspective.

Tim Lysyk, PhD. Tim Lysyk, Lethbridge Research Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Lethbridge
Advances in Tick Paralysis

Robbin Lindsay, PhD, Public Health Agency of Canada, Winnipeg
Emerging arthropod-borne threats in Canada.

Saturday Afternoon
Catered Lunch and ESM Annual General Meeting

Saturday Evening, 8:00 PM
Mixer at Bob Lamb and Pat MacKay's, 291 Wildwood Park (Section I)

70th Annual Meeting of the
Entomological Society of Manitoba
31 October-1 November, 2014

Conferences Fees and Accommodations

Registration:

Regular member	$20.00
Student member	$5.00
Out-of-province students	$5.00
Non-members	$45.00*

*- If you are interested in becoming a member, contact Desiree Vanderwel at Department of Chemistry, University of Winnipeg, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3B 2E9 or d.vanderwel@uwinnipeg.ca. Annual dues are $10 for students and $25 for regular members.

As in the past, delegates will register at the meeting.

Recommended Hotel Accommodations

Queen Bee Hotel
2615 Pembina Highway
Telephone: 204-269-4666
Walking distance to University of Manitoba. Includes continental breakfast, microwave, mini-fridge, free local calls and high-speed internet in each room.

Comfort Inn
3109 Pembina Highway
Telephone: 204-269-7390
http://www.comfortinnwinnipeg.com/
gm.cn354@choicehotels.ca

Make sure to mention that you are attending a conference at the University of Manitoba to get the University conference rate ($89/night + taxes), otherwise you may pay more.

Includes high-speed internet access from room, free local calls, free parking, and continental breakfast.

Holiday Inn Winnipeg South
1330 Pembina Highway
Telephone: 204-452-4747; 1 877 660 8550
http://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/winnipeg/ywgso/hoteldetail

Make sure to mention that you are attending a conference at the University of Manitoba to get the University conference rate ($116/night + taxes), otherwise you may pay more.

All guest rooms have free high-speed internet, free local calls, free parking, free shuttle to and from the airport (from 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. on a daily basis). Shuttle must be booked ahead of time.

70th Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of Manitoba
31 October -1 November, 2014

CALL FOR PAPERS
Deadline for submissions: Friday, 3 October 2014

Submitted Paper/Poster Form

1) The abstract title, IN CAPITAL LETTERS.
2) The name(s) of all authors and their addresses.
3) Abstract, comprised of no more than 250 words.
4) Type of Presentation: 15-minute oral presentation: [ ]or Poster: [ ]
5) Student Paper Competition: Yes: [ ] or No: [ ]

Submission of your abstract via email greatly facilitates construction of the program.
Presentations will use PowerPoint. PowerPoint tips.

We intend to publish the abstracts online and in print in the Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Manitoba.

The following is an example of an abstract which is suitably prepared:

IMPLICATIONS OF INFESTATIONS OF A BRAZILIAN TOUCAN LOUSE AND ITS EFFECTS ON THE PRICE OF COFFEE.
I.N. Sects, and I.O.U. Flees, Department of Incredible Infestations, University of Parasites, Winterpeg, Manitoba, R2I 1D2. sects@gmail.com
The effects of *Myrsidea hirsuta* (Carriker) (Phthiraptera: Menoponidae) infesting the black-mandibled toucan, *Ramphsatos ambiguous* Swainson in the rainforest of the Amazon jungle were found to have previously unknown consequences for world-wide coffee prices...

Please submit to:

Rob Anderson
ESM 2014 Scientific Chair
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St. Albans — Obituary for a House

by Neil Holliday

Reproduced by permission of the Sipiweske Museum, Wawanesa

Suddenly, on 25 June 2014, at the age of 108, the home of Norman Criddle, Manitoba's first professional entomologist, was destroyed by fire. "St. Albans" was the second house of this name to be erected at the Criddle/Vane homestead, which is located about 30 km southeast of Brandon. The family, under the direction of Norman's father Percy, began homesteading at the site in August 1882, and lived in tents until late December of that year. The house into which they first moved was built by the family and their neighbours. It was constructed of logs from local woodlands and, as chinking between the logs tended to fall out, the house was perpetually cold and draughty. The early years of homesteading were far from profitable, and so it was not until 1905 that a replacement was contemplated, when Percy Criddle began to design "The Big House". The new house was a compromise between Percy's aspirations for grandeur and his lack of cash, and the final design was estimated to cost $1560. Unlike its predecessor, the house was professionally built and relatively draught-free. Although both houses in their turn were christened "St. Albans" by Percy, it is not known why this name was chosen.

Despite obscure references in Percy's diary to dissension and confusion during building, the house was more-or-less complete on moving day, which was 28 November 1906. On that day, the house was a simple two-storey square of about 12 m on each side. In addition to the usual rooms of a prairie farmhouse, there was a library, and a music room in which Percy installed his organ. Upstairs there were eight bedrooms, to accommodate Percy and his wife Alice, those of Percy's children who were still at home, and the occasional visitor.

At the time of moving to the new St. Albans, Norman Criddle was just beginning to expand his scientific horizons. He and his half-brother, Harry Vane, had invented Criddle mixture for grasshopper control in 1900. In 1905, Norman spent time in Ottawa visiting people in the federal Department of Agriculture, and in 1907 the Dominion Entomologist, Dr James Fletcher, was among the visitors to St. Albans. Norman Criddle's first entomological appointment with the Dominion Department of Agriculture was in 1913, and Manitoba's first Dominion Entomology Laboratory, located a little way down the hill from The Big House, was opened in May 1915. The house continued to be home base for Norman until his death in 1933, although his duties for the Department of Agriculture resulted in many absences. Following the deaths of Norman's parents in 1918, Norman's sister, Maida, became the lady of the house, and was frequently called upon to entertain Norman's visitors and to conduct tours of the laboratory, known locally as "The Bug House." Maida remained at St. Albans until 1960, when she and two of her brothers moved to Vancouver Island.

The photograph at the head of this article was taken on 17 November 1917. The single story structure on the left hand side of the house is an annex, built in 1916, to accommodate Norman's scientific visitors. These would have included the ecologist, Ralph Bird, and the beetle specialist, J.B. Wallis. It seems probable that the annex also housed Norman's research assistants, as the homestead was remote from any localities where other accommodation might be had. In the foreground of the photograph is a screen enclosure for meteorological instruments. Environment Canada's daily precipitation data for St. Albans begin on 1 January 1885, with temperature records beginning the following April. Originally, Percy collected the data, but this soon devolved to Norman, and eventually to Maida, whose final record was for 24 October 1960. This appears to be the second-longest run of daily weather records for anywhere in Manitoba. Also prominent in the photograph is the flagpole, which Percy had installed for the purposes of signaling, and for which he developed a three-flag coding system, and a St. Albans flag. Finally of note are the twin poles above the roof. These are lightning conductors and were transferred from the previous house, where they had safely diverted a lightning strike in 1891. Lightning struck both conductors of the new St. Albans in 1914, and instead of passing harmlessly to ground along the cables, made diversions through three bedrooms and the kitchen, causing minor damage to walls, windows and ceilings.

The Criddle/Vane homestead was acquired by the Province of Manitoba in 1970, and was designated a Provincial Park in 2004. In 1998, the Provincial Parks department held consultations with interested parties to plan the future of the property. At that time, the vacant buildings were already being vandalized, and it was recognized that their remote location and lack of occupants rendered them vulnerable. It was proposed that, unless some group would take responsibility for their maintenance, the buildings be dismantled, their foundations outlined with markers, and commemorative plaques installed. The Criddle/Vane Homestead Heritage Committee took on the challenge of renovating St. Albans and the entomological laboratories. Sadly, vandalism of St. Albans recurred, and now it is no more.

Additional information

Much of the information in this article is derived from *Criddle-de-diddle-ensis* by Alma Criddle (1973, privately published). A different perspective from that in Alma Criddle's book is to be found in *For Elise: unveiling the forgotten woman on the Criddle homestead* by Oriole Vane

Veldhuis (2012, privately published). Norman Criddle's life and scientific work were the subject of the 2004 Heritage Lecture of the Entomological Society of Canada (Holliday, N.J. 2005. Norman Criddle: pioneer entomologist of the Prairies. Bull. Entomol. Soc. Canada 37: 10–19). The Criddle/Vane story is the subject of exhibits at the Sipiweske Museum at Wawanesa, and much of this material is available through virtualmuseum.ca — go to the website http://www.museevirtuel-virtualmuseum.ca/index-eng.jsp and search for "Criddle". Manitoba Parks and Natural Areas also has information at http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/parks/popular_parks/western/criddle_info.html. Finally, a virtual tour of the house as it was in 2011 can be seen at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XJz1nCKHXDU , although the commentary for this is far from historically accurate.

What I Did on My Summer Vacation

By Todd Lawton

One muggy night during the summer of 2011 I set a black-light trap in a forest clearing on Florida's gulf coast. Within two hours the trap had brought in an amazing number of diverse *Coleoptera*, most of them minute, all of them interesting. I spent many hours preparing specimens from that sample during fall and winter. By the spring of 2012 I still had small beetles on my brain and I wasted no time getting into the field, sifting leaf debris in mid-March at several sites around Winnipeg. I tried various sieves until I settled on a sifting cat litter pan; this simple and readily available device became a fixture on my summer journeys to the Southeastern United States, (and yes, it does look odd carrying a cat litter box up mountain trails!)

It turns out that sifting leaf litter is an effective, yet labour intensive, way to capture small species of *Scaphinotus*, *Carabidae*, the object of my collecting obsession in recent years. I captured *Scaphinotus incompletus* (Kentucky), *S. schwarzi*, *S. hubbardi* and *S. debilis* (North Carolina), *S. unistriatus* (Georgia), and *S. imperfectus* (West Virginia), all in the *Maronetus* subgenus and about 10 mm in size. Of course there are bound to be surprises when bare hands are used to grab piles of leaves drifted up against rocks and logs. I scooped up black widow spiders, scorpions, snakes, lizards and salamanders but all without injury. I also captured many *Coleoptera* that I had seen only in Peterson's Field Guide to the Beetles of North America! There were Round Fungus Beetles, *Leiodidae*, which rolled into almost perfect spheres, Ant-Like Stone Beetles, *Scydmaenidae*, and Short-Winged Mold Beetles, *Pselaphidae*, (all of which became favorites), and many others. Some beetles were only one millimeter in size and had to be collected with a fine paint brush dampened with alcohol; it's fortunate that I'm near-sighted! It was a time of exciting discovery and I often tossed leaves well into the late evening by illuminating my sifting pan with a headlamp. Taking an interest in minute beetles was probably inevitable; I had made over 65 major collecting trips through the United States and Canada and my collections of *Cicindela* and *Scaphinotus* had become quite advanced. My maturation as a coleopterist was actually foretold by a fortune cookie I picked-up in California; the fortune read "It's time for a new collection or hobby."

Before reaching the southeastern states I spent a couple days along the Cumberland River in Kentucky's Daniel Boone National Forest. The precipitous sandstone cliffs that border the river are incised with numerous box canyons, their steep undercut banks have sheltered humans for thousands of years. Hidden waterfalls fill tranquil pools ringed by immense moss-covered boulders; I couldn't have asked for a more splendid place to spend a summer afternoon. Climbing into these canyons was often difficult and further complicated by regular Copperhead sightings. This probably explains why fire rings were scarce! For a few years my goal had been to capture *Scaphinotus andrewsi germari*, I had received a tip that a specimen had been found inside a log there. But capturing *S. incompletus* instead was a wonderful surprise; I was lucky enough to acquire 11 specimens! Schwarz described the species in 1895 and Barr commented in 2009 that only nine specimens (one being fragmentary), were known. Barr's habitat description was dead-on, "narrow, flat benches along otherwise steep, wooded ridges." Many of the previous specimens had been captured "under large, deeply embedded rocks or in a talus pile at the base of a sandstone cliff;" it was interesting how my experience differed. Extensive pitfall trapping at that site has not produced any additional *S. incompletus* but I finally captured a small number of *S. a. germari* by the Cumberland River during the 2013 and 2014 seasons.

Limestone flats above the White River, Arkansas; habitat of *Cicindela obsoleta vulturina*.

I also have an interest in *Anillinus*, minute (2mm), flightless and eyeless *Carabidae* of the American Midwest and East. I had hoped that I could catch a few during my summer travels. It was far too dry in Arkansas but as luck and chance would have it I ended up collecting near a few of the known localities in the Appalachians. At first I mistook them for Minute Brown Scavenger Beetles, *Lathridiidae*, which can be similar in size, shape and colour. I actually let a few get away until I took a closer look! Unlike most of the beetles in my tray the *Anillinus* didn't run frantically for the edges; they wandered erratically, colliding with debris, hinting at their blindness. I found them sparingly at five different localities, usually on moist mountain or ridge tops, from West Virginia to Georgia. By the end of my trip I was seeking them as much as *Scaphinotus*.

I collected through the Midwestern states along my route to the southeast. The 2011 drought deepened and intensified in 2012. Dry and withered corn stocks, left unharvested, stretched from Missouri to Indiana. Locals spoke of two months without rain, temperatures soaring to 110 degrees, the stuff of country music, (which I don't endure gracefully). I saw dozens of large dead oaks in the tinder-dry forests. Not surprisingly, moisture-loving *Scaphinotus* were nowhere to be

found but other insects, such as tiger beetles, *Cicindela* and *Tetracha*, *Carabidae*, seemed less affected. I captured a small series of *C. obsoleta*, the largest North American *Cicindela* species. In Missouri and Arkansas this species inhabits the sandy borders of limestone and sandstone flats. Adults are active in September and can be seen running on the flat rocks. In the Midwest they are relatively easy to catch, being large and not too agile. It's a much different situation in Arizona; during the summer heat *C. obsoleta* are highly active by 8:30 a.m. and their escape flights can be 100 meters! I also collected a series of *C. rufiventris rufiventris* x *C. r. cumalitus* on dirt forestry roads in western Arkansas; these, oddly enough, were often favouring the shaded road sections. They were a lovely dark blue with minor maculations.

Timber Rattlesnake, Somerset Co, Pennsylvania.

My fear of snakes was tested. I watched a small Cottonmouth glide up a woodland creek in southern Missouri, characteristically it held its head well out of the water. A Copperhead and I gazed warily at one another in Kentucky one night and I met a lovely, mild-tempered Timber Rattlesnake in the mountains of southern Pennsylvania. The latter was partially melanistic. Exposure to these hazardous snakes would make anyone nervous but even the little Ring-Necked Snakes make me jump!

I had a surprise in Iowa. After setting a pitfall trap near a back road I realized the thick brush was actually Christmas Tree-sized marijuana plants. Unfortunately that trap was washed out by rain; I had planned unique species-association tags for any insect specimens acquired in this "weedy" habitat.

Unlike previous years, I encountered mostly pleasant weather, losing only a few days to the tropical storms that shirted my study areas. I still managed a painful case of trench foot from hiking, and sleeping, in wet boots and almost lost a day in the field because of it. Once home, I can't say I was disappointed to be finally sleeping in a proper bed and practicing a style of hygiene which is more typical for our species. Like most years I had spent over 100 days in the field, getting out for all six weeks of my vacation and most weekends. So many beetles, so little time!

References:

Barr, Thomas C., Jr.. 2009. New and Rare Species of *Maronetus* (*Coleoptera*: *Carabidae*: *Cychrinii*) from the Appalachian Valley and Cumberland Plateau. A Lifetime of Contributions to Myriapodology and Natural History of Virginia: A Festschrift in Honor of Richard L. Hoffman's 80th Birthday. S.M. Roble and J.C. Mitchell (eds.).Virginia Museum of Natural History Special Publication No. 16, Martinsville, VA., Pp. 313-316.

Schwarz, E.A. 1895. Notes on *Nomaretus*, with descriptions of two new species, Entomology Society of Washington, 3:269-273.

White, Richard E. 1983. A Field Guide to the Beetles of North America.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS*

70th Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of Manitoba
Veterinary and Medical Entomology in Canada: Can History Predict the Future?
Winnipeg, Manitoba, 31 October and 1 November 2014

62nd Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America
Grand Challenges Beyond Our Horizons
Portland, Oregon, 16-19 November 2014

Fourth International Entomophagous Insects Conference (IEIC4)
Fundamental and applied topics related to arthropod natural enemies
Torre del Mar, Spain, 4-9 October 2015
Webpage: http://www.ihsm.uma-csic.es/IEIC4/index.html

63nd Annual Meeting of the Entomological Society of America
Synergy in Science: Partnering for Solutions
Minneapolis, Minnesota, 15-18 November 2015

XXV International Congress of Entomology
Entomology without Borders
Orlando, Florida, 25-30 September 2016

*If you have a meeting you would like listed in the next ESM Newsletter, contact Marj Smith with the details by 15 January 2015

ESM EXECUTIVE 2014

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