

IDAHO ENTOMOLOGY GROUP NEWSLETTER

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31 March 2007

The Idaho Entomology Group (IEG) is composed of professional and non-professional people interested in any facet of the study of insects. Participation is not restricted to Idaho. Membership dues are \$5 / year (non-domestic E-subscriptions only), used to cover costs of the bimonthly newsletter. Application can be made to any officer (see below) or the Idaho Entomology Group, c/o Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History, Albertson College of Idaho, Caldwell, ID 83605, USA. **Materials for publication** (e.g. important dates, summaries of meetings, references, publications of members and others, collection records, etc.) should be sent directly to the Editor. Deadline for submission is the 20th of every second month. Back issues are available at cost (contact: William H. Clark, OJS Museum of Natural History, Albertson College of Idaho, Caldwell, ID 83605). Advertisements are included in the *Newsletter* at the Editor's discretion when items are thought to be within the membership's interest. There is no cost for advertisement, deference in publication is given to members. The IEG is an affiliate of the Idaho Academy of Sciences.

2006 OFFICERS: **PRESIDENT**, James K. Ryan, 6614 Newman St., Boise, ID 83704; jameskryan@hotmail.com; **SEC./TREAS.**, Barbara Alexander, 2715 Snowflake Dr., Boise, ID 83706 ☎: 208-344-6017, 208-863-4024 (cell), bmerrill@cablone.net; **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**, Paul Blom, 1107 Grant Ave., Prosser, WA 99350-1115 ☎: 509-788-0181/786-9358, e-mail pblom@BioDataManagement.com.

----- C A L E N D A R -----

March 25-28 ESA Pacific Branch, Portland, OR
April 7 OJS Museum Workday
19-21 Idaho Academy of Science Meeting
23 Newsletter materials due to Editor
June 8-9 BioBlitz at Deer Flat Natl. Wildl. Refuge
Dec 9-13 ESA Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA

----- WORD FROM THE EDITOR -----

Two items of concern: 1) Yes, this really is the March issue though you are getting it in April. Sorry I'm a bit behind.

2) Please send newsy items to your editor so we can expand the pages to the 8 maximum possible per issue.

Paul Blom, Editor

----- IEG MEETINGS -----

Suggestions for speakers at future I.E.G. gatherings are needed and much appreciated. Please contact Jim Ryan

----- ESA PACIFIC BRANCH -----

Annual Meeting of the ESA's Pacific Branch was held in Portland, Oregon on March 25-28 at the Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront. The meeting was well attended.

----- 2007 IEG DUES -----

Never too late to get those IEG dues sent into Barb Alexander (address above)! Your label should indicate 2007 or greater if you are paid up.

----- IEG MARCH MEETING -----

Dr. James Barbous, of the University of Idaho at Parma extension site, presented his talk about *Prionus californicus* on 14 March. This was exciting science and a stimulating presentation. Female beetles were observed in calling posture releasing a pheromone (atomic weight <200) which activated male searching behavior. The power point movie of a resting male in an olfactory choice chamber stimulated to track a female's odor was very convincing. Summary table results

clinched the argument. It seems clear that as beetle population densities increase in hop yards, mate searching success will also increase, so crop damage increases. Chemical signaling disruption with man made pheromone could reduce damage to hop crops in Idaho, and wherever hop crops are being damaged by these beetles.

Bill Clark observed that the *P. californicus* photo that Dr. Barbour showed was on the cover of the most recent Annals of the Entomological Society of America (March 2007, Vol 100, 32). This illustrates to some extent recognition of the merits of this research.

Thanks to Rick Westcott for suggesting this speaker, and Ian Robertson for making Boise State University arrangements. Many thanks to Jim Barbour. Jim Ryan

----- THE COMING OF SPRING -----



photo by Linda McDougall

----- TREASURER'S REPORT -----

We have \$380.00 currently (18 March) in our account.

Barb Alexander

----- O.J. SMITH -----
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY NOTES
(ALBERTSON COLLEGE OF IDAHO)

Museum ☎: (208) 459-5507, bclark@albertson.edu.
<http://www.albertson.edu/campus/community/museum>

**** MUSEUM MAILING LIST**

To get on the Museum's mailing list contact Bill Clark at clarkfam1@mindspring.com

**** MUSEUM MONTHLY VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS**

For the Workday Schedule see the Museum Event Web Page:
<http://www.albertson.edu/campus/community/museum/event.htm>

The Museum is open all day on Workday Saturdays, 8 AM until late afternoon. Enter via west basement door. We have a variety of Museum tasks that need volunteer assistance. We currently need someone to construct wooden bases for displays. We have tasks for students and non-students alike. We need volunteers to assume a variety of Museum duties and responsibilities. We have the following needs: Plywood, particle board, Masonite, 1x2" stock lumber, electrical fixtures, bookshelves for journals and funds for specific Museum projects.

We supply coffee and hot water for drinks as well as a taco lunch for volunteers. We usually have a brief research seminar at noon. The Museum collects aluminum for recycle. Please leave in Museum or contact Bill Clark (208-375-8605), John Keebaugh (208-459-5507), or Dr. Eric Yensen (208-459-5331).

Bill Clark

**** COMING 2006 LUNCH SEMINARS**

April	7	Barbara Alexander – "Insect Art."
May	5	Mary Clark – "Travels in Ireland, Part 1"
June	2	Mary Clark – "Travels in Ireland, Part 2"
July	7	Dr. Paul Castroville – "Idaho's Most Distinctive Butterflies" and "Training for the Fourth of July Butterfly Count."
August	4	Elizabeth Dickey – "Bug Day Announcement" AND Gene M. Gray – "Vegetation and Sage Grouse in West Central Idaho."
September	8	Dr. James K. Ryan - "Ultrasonic Control of Pests."
October	6	Jan Summers Duffy - "Egyptian Archaeology."
November	3	Alan Gillogly - "Biology of Passalid Beetles."
December	1	Dr. David M. Ward, Jr. - "Baja California Travels and Entomology."

**** RESEARCHER FROM UTAH STUDIES FRESHWATER LEECHES IN MUSEUM COLLECTION**

Following are comments just received by the Museum, from Peter Hovingh, a freshwater leech researcher from Salt Lake City, Utah.

"The call to the Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History was to examine their Snake River leech collection. I did not know anything about Albertson College of Idaho or the museum when I entered the

basement door to the collections. Then a total amazement occurred. There was only one room with assorted collections of mammals, birds, insects, skulls, fossils, fish and odds and ends of natural history divided by files of collections and some tables for meetings, microscopes, and working personnel. This first appearance was impressive, as was each time I walked through the collections. It was natural history as it appears in nature- all together and in the open air, not hidden behind closed doors, compartmentalized in separate rooms, or behind glass shields. It seems that future museums might take a lesson from this organization to stimulate the curiosity of the visitors rather than trying to pack limited knowledge of extensive and segregated displays into an exhausted mind.

"Of course, it was the leeches that brought me to the museum. The collections were well organized, readily available for examination by visitors, and provided a unique collection from years of surveys of the Snake River. Future opportunities only await those who open all the jars of past aquatic surveys in streams throughout Idaho."

Peter has been a big help to the Museum invertebrate collection, by helping make sure that the leeches are identified to species, Museum Director, William H. Clark said. Clark noted that some of the fruits of Peter's work are being prepared into a scientific paper on the biogeography of the Snake River leeches that he, Hovingh, and Museum curator, John Keebaugh are coauthoring.

----- IDAHO ACADEMY OF SCIENCE -----

The IEG is an organizational member of the Idaho Academy of Science. The IAS holds its annual meeting, rotating among 10 hosting Idaho institutions. This year's meeting will be held in Idaho Falls, 19-21 April, with the theme "Energy for the Future - Human & Ecological Consideration". See <http://www.isu.edu/ias/> for more information and the Call for Papers.

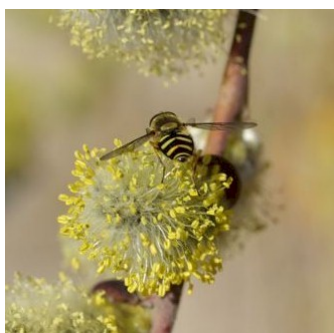
As an organizational member, the IEG is welcome to use the Academy's membership list for recruiting new IEG members and/or publicizing you programs and activities. Or, if you would like to have your activities announced in the Academy's newsletter The Retort, please send them to us at least two and preferably three months in advance. If you would like for us to share IEG info to our members via e-mail, please send it a couple of weeks in advance. [Phil Anderson, Exec. Director IAS]

----- DEER FLAT REFUGE NEWS -----

The spring issue of Shoreline, the Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge quarterly newsletter, is now available. Please forward it to others who might be interested - <http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/shoreline.htm>

----- SOME IMAGES -----

Was trying out the new macro & thought it interesting how many species were on this little tiny weeping pussy willow.



Barb Alexander

----- BIOBLITZ IN JUNE -----

8-9 June 2007, 24-hour intensive survey and celebration of biological diversity. Contact us at 208-467-9278, or deerflat@fws.gov if you have any questions or would like to volunteer during the BioBlitz. Volunteers can [help survey plants and animals](#), [help organize the festival](#), [have a booth at the festival](#), [do a presentation or lead a walk](#) sharing your expertise about the natural world, [photo-document the event](#), [pledge to donate](#) to refuge environmental education programs for each species documented, or participate in a variety of other ways. Contact us to find out how your skills and enthusiasm might help! www.fws.gov/deerflat/currevents.htm#bb

----- POLLINATOR WEEK -----

From an email forwarded to Elizabeth Dickey: "In case you haven't heard, this year we are celebrating the first ever national pollinator week during June [24-30]. The new pollinator stamps will be released by the Post Office that week and NAPPC - the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign - is hoping that everyone will be publicly celebrating pollinators that week. If you have any events, please post them on the pollinator.org website and cc me so that I can report those events to the NAPPC public land managers task force. If you could get the word out about pollinator week to all of your Field Offices and the organizations you work with at the State level that would also be helpful!

"If anyone has ideas for people in your state who could write a pollinator story for People, Land and Water please let me know. We are hoping to participate with the other Interior agencies in having relevant stories about our work for pollinators; and it would be good to have some talking points for BLM if we get the BLM and NAPPC MOU signed during one of the DC pollinator week events."
Carol Spurrier, BLM

----- ODONATA WORKSHOP -----

Two renowned experts on dragonflies and damselflies reserved time out of their busy lives (March 16-18, 2007) to meet at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. Their objective was to teach the workshop attendees more about the taxonomy, biology, identification, and natural history of the Odonata.

Dr. Ken Tennessen of the University of Florida has studied Odonata for 40 years. He received his Ph.D. in 1975 while studying under Dr. Minter J. Westfall. Dr. Tennessen presented the identification of odonates by examining the attributes of the larvae.

Dr. Dennis Paulson who recently retired from his position as Director of the Slater Museum of Natural History at the University of Puget Sound also has studied Odonata for many years. He has written numerous papers on the subject and has traveled the world collecting specimens. Dr. Paulson presented the characteristics of adult dragonfly and damselfly identification. The workshop was sponsored by :

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation
Aquatic Biology Associates, Inc.
EcoAnalysts
Rhithron Associates, Inc.
The Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History
Mindy Allen

Jerry Wood

----- WHO'S WHO CONTEST 3 -----

This time the first person to name all 4 people wins an exciting prize from the O.J. Smith Museum of Natural History Gift Shop. Extra gold star if you can identify this event in IEG history.



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