

IDAHO ENTOMOLOGY GROUP NEWSLETTER

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30 May 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@cableone.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 -----

June 2 [Pig Butt Roast](#), p. 24
8-9 BioBlitz at Deer Flat Natl. Wildl. Refuge
July 7 OJS Museum Workday
8 4J Butterfly Count
Dec 9-13 ESA Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA

----- 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

Specifically IEG members could assist in the "Bug Tent" and lead groups of people into the field during the BioBlitz Festival from 10-3 to collect insects every 45 minutes. During the festival time there will also be hummingbird banding demos, live birds of prey and live fish on display, insect collecting, kids crafts, and many exhibits to visit

Amy Ulappa

Amy.Ulappa@fws.gov

----- NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK -----

In honor of National Pollinator Week, the Idaho Botanical Garden's Nature Detectives program will have Pollinators as its theme during the week of June 25. Preschool and daycare programs from the Treasure Valley will participate in a game, nature walk and a craft as they learn about the region's pollinators and the role they play in plant reproduction. Up to 250 children, aged 4-6 years, will attend.

Elizabeth Dickey

aldickey@earthlink.net

----- MEMBERS IN THE NEWS -----

Stuart Fullerton manages University of Central Florida's Collection of Arthropods. The collection was recently (30 April) showcased in the Orlando Sentinel. Since Stuart started with the collection in 1976 they have been working to document the arthropod species occurring on the University's land. To date they count about 7,000 species for UCF lands and the collection has grown to housing 350,000 specimens. If you are interested in reading the entire article go to:

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/features/lifestyle/orl-bugcloset3007apr30,0,3857770.story?coll=orl-living-headlines>.

The article will bring you up to date on the Bug Closet. Shawn the chap that was on the front page of the section with the caption 'beetle mania' is the current grad student working with the collection.

----- PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS -----

Westcott, Richard L. 2007. The exotic *Agrilus subrobustus* (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) is found in northern Georgia. The *Coleopterists Bulletin* 6(1):111-112.

----- KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN FOR ... -----

Its across the state line in WA, but Rick Westcott suggests a potential mission for tenacious collector:

"I was thinking to visit the area around Moses Lake, sweep in sedges along Crab Creek to see if I could find *Taphrocerus* sp. It is known in WA only by the single specimen that G. H. Nelson collected in 1949! I do not think anyone has looked since. This is the right time of year...so...if you happen to be in that area or in a similar habitat...give a few sweeps. ... they are tiny dark specks of chitin normally measuring around 3 mm. Hosts are in Cyperaceae, notably the genus *Carex*."

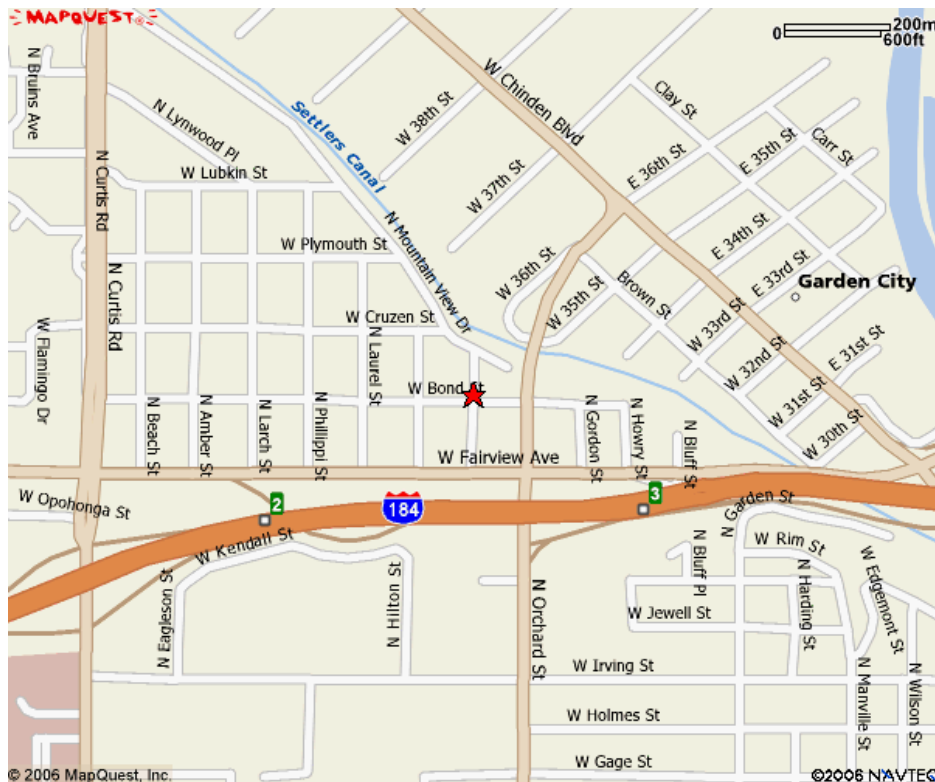
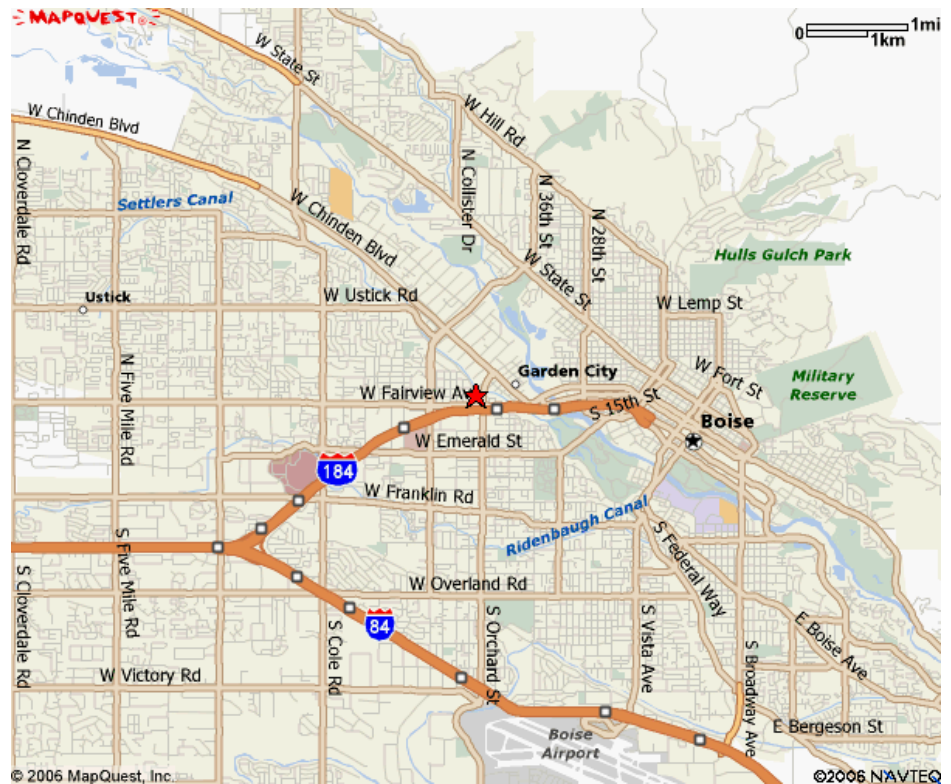
You can Google *Taphrocerus* and receive several links to images of this genus.

 PIG BUTT ROAST

Come One and All to the 1st Pig Butt Roast hosted by Pat and Alan Gillogly.

Festivities will begin at 6PM, Saturday, June 2, and we will provide the roast/smoked pork and light refreshments (like lemonade). Attendees are requested to bring a potluck-style dish of their choice, any drinks other than lemonade that suit their taste, and lawn chairs or other seating paraphernalia (we don't expect fire ants, so most anything should work on the lawn). Children are absolutely welcome, but not required.

We would very much appreciate RSVPs, so we can plan on the amount of pork to prepare (phone 208-377-3567; gillogly@cableone.net; no mail is delivered to the house - no mailbox). Our address is [1711 N. Fowler, Boise](http://www.mapquest.com) - about 2.5 short blocks NW of the intersection of Fairview and Orchard.



The 2 maps are intended to help you get **close** to the Gillogly Digs. **'Close'** because Alan says the Mapquest gets you within 50-75 m, then its up to you knock on each door until you get the right one!! For your GPS their home is located at N43° 37.260' W116° 14.693'.

If you prefer msn you can get an alternative map with this [URL](http://mappoint.msn.com/(nkqnfzwwqxopsgy1j2l4vabs)/map.aspx?L=USA&C=43.62036%2c-116.24470&A=7.16667&P=|43.62036%2c-116.24470|1711+Fowler+St%2c+Boise%2c+ID+83706-1729|L1):

----- A CONTEST ? -----

Ding Johnson and Russ Biggam supplied identification and comment on our mystery insect. See if you guessed correctly:



"The mystery insect in the IEG newsletter is a dealate hippoboscid fly. Many species, especially those that live on mammals, have a single dispersal flight then settle in on a host and break their wings off near the base, then burrow into the hair to reach the skin and begin to feed on blood.

However, it is not possible to determine the genus of the fly, and thus its host, from the pictures in the newsletter." Ding Johnson



"... it is a Hippoboscidae and guessing there are no sheep on the

island, I would say it is a deer ked, not a sheep ked. The tiny wings are either it's haltares or the vestiges of its forewings which break off or dehiss upon finding a host. I'm guessing since you found it on the ground, it somehow got dislodged from its host. The long claws, obviously, are for clinging to its host." Russ Biggam

Thanks to Ding and Russ for their input! Bill Clark

----- THE WAR ON MALARIA -----

A recent Medical News and Perspectives (Malaria Researchers Target Mosquitoes, JAMA 2007 297(20): 2187), reports that new approaches are being mounted the fight against Malaria which focus on the mosquito. 1) A transgenic mosquito has been developed which is resistant to malaria and appears to have better fitness than infected counterparts. Researchers are now looking for a way to rapidly move the resistance into the wild population. 2) In Tanzania researchers have shown that a fungal spray can selectively remove malaria-susceptible mosquitoes from the population. An attempt to shift the mosquito population toward individuals resistant to the protozoan. 3) Receptors for CO₂ have been located in the mosquito which is important in locating the vertebrate host. Now efforts are being made to find a substance which would block these receptors and essentially function as a repellent. O. David Johnson

----- BAIT STATIONS CONT'D -----

Remember Kent Fothergill's article and photos on baiting last issue? He sent along a couple more images from the night of 5 May.



--- IDAHO WATCHABLE WILDLIFE SITES -

12 sites received improvement grants this year, including Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge, Boise River WMA, World Center for Birds of Prey. For more information contact Sara Focht, State Program Coordinator, 208-287-2750, sfocht@idfg.idaho.gov.

----- 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 PARTICIPATES IN 49TH ANNUAL IDAHO
 ACADEMY OF SCIENCE MEETINGS**

William H. Clark, Director, Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History, recently represented the Museum at the 49th Annual Idaho Academy of Science (IAS) Meetings held in Idaho Falls, April 19-21, 2007. Clark presented a paper "Myrmecophiles in ants nests, Big Bend National Park, Texas" representing some of his research related to the Museum. He also presented a paper "Repeat sampling method for the Bliss Rapids snail, *Taylorconcha serpenticola*, a preliminary assessment" relating to his work at Idaho Power Company. Clark also sits on the IAS Executive Committee and presented his reports as Scholarship Chair, a function carried out through the Museum. Museum curator and research associate, Dr. Paul Blom, also participated in the meetings.

Other presentations relating to invertebrates included:
 - "A biological system that converts manure into an animal grade feedstuff." Sophie St-Hilaire, et al. ISU.
 - "Does the presence of a nonnative fish affect the abundance of a semiaquatic bird, the American dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus*)?" Gifford L. Gillette, et al. ISU
 - "New early Cretaceous dinosaurs and other fossils from eastern Idaho." L.J. Krumenacker, ISU.

The meetings were well attended, with over 200 scientists registering. A highlight for Bill and Paul was a tour Thursday afternoon, of some of the INL facilities. Lots of interesting information relating to energy was presented at the meetings. Always good to see old friends and network with colleagues.

****MUSEUM HOSTS JAPANESE RESEARCHER**

The Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History hosted Dr. Nisikawa Usio from the National Institute for Environmental Studies, Tsukuba, Japan, on its Monthly Museum Volunteer Workday, Saturday May 5th, according to Museum Director, William H. Clark.

Usio arrived at the Boise airport Saturday morning and made it to the Museum in time for Cinco de Mayo tacos. He spoke to the group briefly about his research on crayfish. One of the problem, invasive crayfish in Japan is a species that is common here in the Pacific Northwest. Usio is here collecting specimens for genetics studies to see if the point of origin of the invasive crayfish can be found. If that can be determined, he can search those places for native parasites, predators, diseases, etc., which might help control the pests in Japan. The Museum assisted Usio with field logistics, equipment and supplies and will receive voucher specimens of his work, which will help fill gaps in our collection. Usio will spend about 10 days in the Pacific NW collecting crayfish. He also spent much of Saturday helping us with our crayfish collection, mostly

by identifying specimens that we did not yet have names for. This is an excellent example of the types of collaboration with which the Museum can be involved.

**** 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**

June	2	Mary Clark – "Travels in Ireland, Part 2"
July	7	Dr. Paul Castrovillo – "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."

----- LINNAEUS TURNS 300 -----

The 23rd (some say 13th) of May 2007 is the 300th birthday of Carl von Linné, or as he is better known: Linnaeus. This man was the founder of the taxonomic and nomenclatural system that we all know and love. He was first and foremost a botanist and he had a bizarre sense of humor. One common species of fly sporting a red tip on the abdomen he named "*Musca haemorrhoidalis*". So, from that we can see that all of us who are taxonomically inclined come from a rich tradition of weirdness. From this we can take comfort in the fact that, as odd folks who like to put names on bugs, plants and such, we are respectably maintaining our three-century-old heritage.

D. Christopher Rogers, Ecoanalysts

----- ANOTHER BAJA TRIP! -----

As we began our most recent trip, we thought it auspicious, or at least appropriate, that we drove away from Boise on May 5th, the Cinco de Mayo. Believe it or not, that was accidental. Yes, there were some guilt feelings that this was a Museum Day and we weren't there to help, but Baja was calling! Retired entomologist and IEG member Al Gillogly, Val Ward, and I (Dave Ward) spent 2 glorious weeks on a trip to the deserts of Baja California and Baja California Sur this May.



Our first night was a very cool one in Bishop, CA where the mercury hit 38° F, too cold for this ectotherm! The next day took us to Ensenada where we met friends and colleagues Daniela Ramirez and Horacio de la Cueva at CICESE, a research facility and university in Ensenada. The following evening found us near Cataviña for our first night of camping in the Baja desert.



This is a site where we have camped and conducted projects since 1976. Bill Clark and Paul Blom will understand what I mean when I say that driving into our study area at Cataviña gives me a feeling that I've just arrived home after an extended trip. It always feels great to be back there!

It has been a DRY year in the deserts of Baja California. Ribs of cacti were very shrunken and there were few signs of Spring annuals having emerged this year. Our rain gauges showed about 0.6" of rain in the last 9 months! Still, we did find a reasonable amount of insect activity and even a modest number of plants in flower.

The next 10 days found us working our way south, often over rough Baja backroads. One of my main goals



for the trip was to see some new territory in Baja. For the past 31 years, most of my time has been spent at our main study area at Cataviña and a handful of secondary study sites. This trip was certainly a success when it came to seeing new territory. We ranged from sea level near Loreto and Santa Rosalia on the Gulf of California to nearly 1,200 m. in the Sierra San

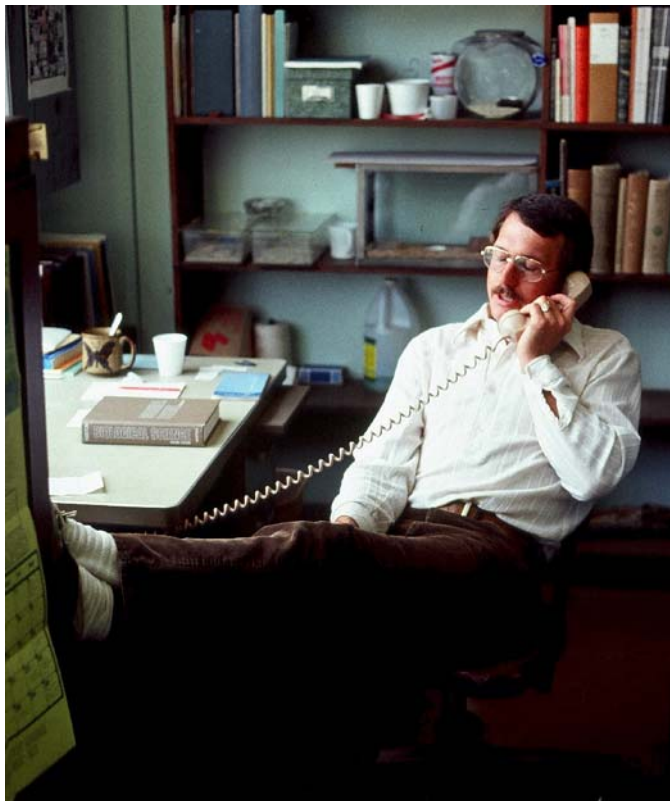
Francisco where we viewed cave paintings and Val found a *Moneilema* (Cerambycidae) for Paul to ID. Until the end of the trip, temperatures were very warm. The thermometer hit 113° F one afternoon. A couple of days prior to that, when it was a relatively cool 110° F, we suddenly found our truck being pelted by large numbers of Notonectids, Dryopids, and Dytiscids. Many hit the truck surface and died within seconds. We assumed they were searching for a new water source and the truck, dirty as it was, looked inviting. However, the hot surface and their dehydrated state killed them quickly. After collecting a series, we placed a tarp over part of the vehicle and slowed the slaughter considerably. We saw great mountain vistas, cave paintings, Missions in various stages of decay and/or restoration, way too many cows and goats, and lots of insects. Al led the insect collection efforts and I was thrilled to have someone with his entomological knowledge base along. He spent lots of time sweeping vegetation and sifting through the resultant debris, aspirator in mouth, chasing down a wide variety of specimens.



Our last night in the Baja desert found us once again at Cataviña where this time it was cool and damp with fog covering the nearby mesas. Quite a change from the 113° F a few days before! I guess that's one of the things that keeps us going back time and time again.

Dave Ward, Jr.

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



As you may have guessed by now, your Editor has been supplied with a moderate number of older images depicting historic IEG events or present and past members. I will continue to use these images as memory refreshers and for our enjoyment until they are all spent. Of course, if you have a fun IEG Stump-The-Group image to share please forward it on for appearance on this auspicious back page.

So for this month's contest: To the left is an image of a current members from a *few* years ago. Can you name him and anything else about the scene? Of course, the depicted member is not eligible to win the prize, though the first of any other responding member to correctly do so can.

Email is usually quickest and usually produces the winner (pblom@BioDataManagement.com) but you can also snail mail the Editor at the return address below.

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