

IDAHO ENTOMOLOGY GROUP NEWSLETTER

Volume 35, Number 1, page 1

January 2008

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, The 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, The 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.

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----- CALENDAR -----

Feb 21 Pahove/IEG/Audubon meeting
Mar 27-29 Idaho Academy of Science Annual Meeting, Boise
May 25-30 NABS Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City.

----- IEG MEETING -----

I would like to announce the upcoming joint Pahove/IEG/Audubon meeting on 21 February at the MK Nature Center. Below are excerpts from Ann deBolt's recent letter. Also, she needs help with set up and I'm out of town - just getting back late that afternoon - so if IEG folks could volunteer Ann would appreciate. Anyone available could contact me at bmerrill@cableone.net or Ann deBolt at rosebolt@clearwire.net.

We had our native plant society board meeting and here is what we are proposing:

1. The date and location would still be Thursday February 21 at the MK Nature Center.

2. Social time would be from 5:30 to 7 pm. This is when we hope that members of the 3 groups (Audubon, IEG, Native Plant Society) will have a chance to "cross-pollinate", renew friendships, make new acquaintances, be inspired by future collaborative possibilities, have a good time, etc.

3. Del Wien's presentation would begin at 7 pm and probably last for an hour or so, going a little longer for Q&A. The title is: *The Birds, the Bees, and the Rats: Rodent Pollination of Protea in South Africa*.

4. This is what Del gave me for his bio: "Research on all the continents except the Antarctic, but 17 years in and out of Africa was the most fun! The Galapagos in 1968 was a close second, but everyone does it now". Since that might not be sufficient for your advertising I came up

with the following.

5. Dr. Del Wiens retired in 1997 from the Univ. of Utah where he was a professor of botany for more than 25 years. He earned his PhD in 1961 at Claremont Graduate School (now Claremont Graduate University). Dr. Wiens has studied mistletoe all over the world, research he began in the late 1950's. He has published extensively on this topic and others, and is currently investigating processes of extinction in plants. When Del and his wife Carol retired, they sailed around the world for 7 years before they set up camp in Boise 3 years ago. They continue to canoe, hike, and travel the globe whenever possible.

6. For the social 1.5 hours, we would like to have a variety of finger foods, beer, wine, and NA beverages. Susan said the room can hold up to about 90, and we anticipate we could come close to this with the 3 groups participating.

7. Please send food item ideas and any other thoughts you have; and ideas on how you want to split up the tasks, etc. I will ask my friends with a Costco card to take me shopping before the event to get some of the foods together!

Barb Alexander

----- IEG MEETING 2 -----

Late breaking modification: Del Wiens had emergency quadruple bypass surgery the other day and so we are canceling his talk on 21 February. We don't yet know what Plan B will be, but please let your folks (Idaho Entomology Group, Audubon) know accordingly. INPS will still have a speaker, but we won't make such a big deal of it and don't know yet who/what that will be.

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

Lamp, W.O., Berberet, R.C., Higley, L.G. and **Baird, Craig R.**, Eds. 2007. Handbook of Forage and Rangeland Insects. ISBN 0-9776209-0-5. www.shopapress.org

Frankie, G.W., Thorp, R.W., Schindler, M., Hernandez, J., **Ertter, Barbara** and Rizzardi, M. 2005. Ecological patterns of bees and their host ornamental flowers in two northern California cities. *Journal of the Kansas Entomological Society* 78.3:227-246.

----- O.J. SMITH -----

MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY NOTES
(THE COLLEGE OF IDAHO)

Museum ☎: (208) 459-5507,
email bclark@collegeofidaho.edu.

<http://www.collegeofidaho.edu/campus/community/museum/>

**** MUSEUM MONTHLY VOLUNTEER WORKDAYS**

For the Workday Schedule see the Museum's NEW Event Web Page:
<http://www.collegeofidaho.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 2007 LUNCH SEMINARS**

- | | | |
|-----------|----|---|
| February | 2 | Alan Stanford – "The Rapid Spread of the Eurasian Collared Dove, <i>Streptopalia decaocto</i> , Throughout Southern Idaho and adjacent Oregon and Montana." |
| March | 1 | Gene M. Gray – "Vegetation and Sage Grouse in West Central Idaho." |
| April | 5 | Howard Emry - "Succor Creek Fossil plants." |
| May | 3 | David Blew - "Hair of the Hare." |
| June | 7 | Dr. Paul Castrovillo – "Idaho's Most Distinctive Butterflies" and "Training for the Fourth of July Butterfly Count." |
| July | 12 | Richard Salisbury - "MIDWAY ISLAND - Wildlife Paradise." |
| August | 2 | Elizabeth Dickey – "Bug Day Report and Announcement", and
Kathy Hamlett - "Adventures with the Idaho Archaeological Society." |
| September | 6 | Jan Summers Duffy - "Egyptian Archaeology." |
| October | 4 | Barbara Alexander – "Kauai and Hawaii." |
| November | 1 | Dr. Eric Yensen - "Current Research Topic Dealing with Mammal Ecology" |
| December | 6 | Dr. Chris Walser - "The ecology of redband trout" |

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

At year's end we had \$ 421.50 in the account with no outstanding debts. Barb Alexander

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

I am pleased to announce the 50th Anniversary Meeting of the Idaho Academy of Science. It is to be held in Boise March 27-29. The theme is "Championing Science in Idaho". We will celebrate science in Idaho.

Please see the following website for more information about submission of papers and registration. Also, please share this information with your colleagues as well. Meeting link:

<http://chemistry.boisestate.edu/people/henrycharlier/ias.htm>

You will find all pertinent meeting information at this site, including hotel information, tentative schedule, etc. Please scroll down to the bottom to see all of the information.

Henry Charlier, Jr.

President, Idaho Academy of Science

----- LACEWING DIGITAL LIBRARY -----

The Lacewing Digital Library project team is pleased to announce the availability of a new web resource - the Lacewing Digital Library (<http://lacewing.tamu.edu/index.html>) - dedicated to content about lacewings, antlions, fishflies, snakeflies and related insects belonging to the superorder Neuropterida (orders Neuroptera, Megaloptera and Raphidioptera). A major goal of the Lacewing Digital Library (LDL) project is to provide a common and convenient point of access to the growing number of on-line resources featuring information about neuropterid insects. The initial release of the LDL site announced here contains two new resources that may be of general interest to the entomological systematics and collections communities: (1) version 2.00 of the on-line catalogue "Neuropterida Species of the World", and (2) version 1.00 of the dataset "Neuropterida Species of the World: a dataset for collection curators".

The "Neuropterida Species of the World" is a searchable on-line catalogue of the neuropterid species-group names of the world. Information on both extant and fossil taxa are included. The site contains catalogue record pages for ca. 6900 valid names, 2300 invalid names, and 300 unavailable names, which are made accessible from a "Simple Search" page that searches a pool of more than 16,400 distinct combinations of genus- and species-group names. An "Advanced Search" page permits searching by a variety of non-name criteria.

The new "Neuropterida Species of the World: a dataset for collection curators" is a downloadable dataset that has been designed to provide curators and collection managers with taxonomic and nomenclatural information on the world Neuropterida, and to be suitable for uploading into local collection databases. The dataset is designed to facilitate activities such as resolving taxonomic and nomenclatural issues, printing header cards, generating working species checklists and similar collection curation matters. The dataset is available in Access, Excel, and Word formats.

----- BOREIDS AND GLOBAL WARMING ---

In the winter of 1975-1976 I took my two kids down to Shoshone Falls, Twin Falls to teach them how to ski on the gentle sloping snow covered roads. Per usual I started snooping around for critters on the snow and picked up what thought might be a Boreidae. After I confirmed it to be *Boreus*, it struck me strange this mecopteran would be found in the Snake River Canyon, since the Boreidae are considered arboreal inhabitants. Boreidae as larvae feed on the roots of mosses, and pupate after two years. As adults they appear during the

Female *Boreus*

winter to disperse, mate, and oviposit eggs for the next generation. I went on collecting blitz and found them in all southern Idaho counties, in desert habitats as well. I collected for three consecutive winters, all of which were abnormally dry with below normal snow fall and mild

temps. Stanley Basin in mid January with only an inch or two of snow in the flats, Boulder Mountain Sun Valley with not a crystal of snow on the south slope. Living in Idaho my entire life with exception of stint in the Army, this seem unprecedented, so I considered Global Warming may be effecting the nature of the upper air jet streams.

I found a scientific paper of a fellow who had been monitoring CO₂ levels in the atmosphere since the early 50's. His name escapes, but might have been Al Gore's major professor in retrospect. His graph showed a increasing rise of atmospheric CO₂, where the amounts were showing a increasing trend through time. So I became convinced that Global Warming was a fact, and the most likely cause was human commerce. I began to espouse this view to people I knew, but they dismissed me, outright laughed at him, branding me an alarmist, and other code words for an environmentalist wako. Since that time Idaho temps have increased and droughts seem to appear now on a regular basis, where the more normal years become less and less. Everyone kept asking me where is my proof, but citing the above paper, made no impact on disquieting disbelievers. So in the late 80's I went back to there marginal desert habitats, e.g. near weigh-station southeast of Boise just off I-84; Lizard Butte, Marsing; the little rock cliff near Nampa off I-84 first exit going West; hills near Boise east of the Veterans Hospital; South East of Mt. Home; near Ontario OR, and after two years running these little mecopterans have disappeared, and will not repopulate these habitats from higher elevation refugia because of the barriers from

Roads, canals, agriculture,

Male *Boreus*

and etc. My conclusion was the droughts and increase temps for just a decade have destroyed the boreid populations in these marginal habitats. Well that also seemed to make little impact on my social interactions. Boreidae also occur on the lava flows of southeastern Idaho where mosses have established, but were rare or not at all on the more recent lava flows, which go back 35,000 years. In some moss habitats on the margins of these lava flows where *Boreus* were collected in the mid 70's populations seem to have vanished, though I did eventually make scattered findings. Thus, all of this information seemed to only convince me that these droughts/temp increases are unprecedented for at least 35,000 years ago and more likely closer to 45 - 50,000. At the time I suspected that by the year 2050 this would be a different planet, but now will have to modify that to much sooner.

To my mind man-caused Global Warming has been a no brainer for 30 years, yet many (Rush Linbaugh, Savage Nation, Hannity, and all the other brain stemers, in addition our good ole boy President) seem to lack the capacity and or are too timid to acknowledge the best available evidence. The current literature is replete with sound studies indicating the major cause of Global Warming. It may already be too late to turn this tide, with China putting a coal fired plant on line every week or two, and USA continuing to hedge on the issue. Most Idahoans are clueless, and follow the conservative talking points on this issue. Invent a devise that scrubs CO₂ from the atmosphere with low energy impacts and you will get rich, as well as earn the respect of re-expanding boreid populations!

Al Allen

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

http://groups.ucanr.org/pbesa/Formal_Meeting_Notice/

"This is your official invitation to the 92nd Annual Meeting of the Pacific Branch of the Entomological Society of America, which will be held March 30-April 2, 2008, at the Embassy Suites Napa Valley in Napa, CA, the California wine country.

"This year's theme, "Entomology – Intertwines Us", acknowledges the key industry and commodity in the Napa Valley and California Wine County which of course is wine. The intertwining, tangled grape vines represent the unifying entity that brings us all together as entomologists, that being the fascination with insects and related arthropods. No matter what our subdiscipline is within the field of entomology, those "jointed foot" organisms keep the work interesting and exciting. I welcome you to this conference to hear the results of these studies and to continue our fascination with Entomology. The relaxed "air" of the Napa area should set the tone for excellent discussions both in the conference rooms and "hallways". ... "

----- WHO IS THAT ! -----

This photo was taken in 1965, during one of the 'Spring Break' collecting expeditions we used to take to the SW. We also took such a trip during June, 1966. [Here] we were camped somewhere near Wickenburg, Arizona

(which has changed a lot since that time!). Bill Barr and Art Gittins were our 'Fearless Leaders'. The people are 1) Art Gittins, 2) Lyn Hawkins and 3) Don Horning. Lyn is retired from CDFA, lives in Elk Grove, CA. Don is long retired from the Macleay Museum, Sydney, and lives on

a ranch in N. New South Wales - although I am no longer sure he's alive, as he had not replied to me in ages. Doc once told him he'd live to about 70 (had seal tuberculosis!) - and he would be about that now....alas!
Rick Westcott



BioQuip's February Specials: Insect Mounting Kit and World Butterflies by Bernard d'Abrera.
http://www.bioquip.com/specials/product_special.asp

Rtn: Paul Blom, Editor
Idaho Entomology Group Newsletter
1107 Grant Ave.
Prosser, WA 99350-1115