

# IDAHO ENTOMOLOGY GROUP NEWSLETTER

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March 2009

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, used to cover costs of the bimonthly newsletter. The Newsletter is distributed in an electronic (pdf) form. If necessary a printed form can be provided for membership dues of \$10 / year. The print option is NOT available for non-domestic membership. 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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. **2009 OFFICERS:** **PRESIDENT**, James K. Ryan, 6614 Newman St., Boise, ID 83704; [jameskryan@hotmail.com](mailto:jameskryan@hotmail.com); **SEC./TREAS.**, Barbara Alexander, 2715 Snowflake Dr., Boise, ID 83706 ☎: 208-344-6017, 208-863-4024 (cell), [bmerrill@cableone.net](mailto:bmerrill@cableone.net); **NEWSLETTER EDITOR**, Paul Blom, 1107 Grant Ave., Prosser, WA 99350-1115 ☎: 509-788-0181/786-9358, e-mail [pblom@BioDataManagement.com](mailto:pblom@BioDataManagement.com).

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My favorite butterfly of the [Florida] trip, Gulf Fritillary, *Agraulis vanillae*. see Florida in February, p. 16 DWJr.

## ----- CALENDAR -----

- April
  - 4 OJS Museum Volunteer Workday
- May
  - 2 OJS Museum Volunteer Workday
  - 2 Woodland Park Zoo's Penguin Party
- July
  - 12-15 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Society of Nematologists

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

We begin this announcement with a brief quote from John Steinbeck's *The Log from the Sea of Cortez*: "Strangers came to the pier and stared at us and small boys dropped on our deck like monkeys. Those quiet men who always stand on piers asked where we were going and when we said, "To the Gulf of California," their eyes melted with longing, they wanted to go so badly. .... One man on the pier who wanted to participate made sure he would be allowed to cast us off, and he waited at the bow line for a long time. Finally he got the call and he cast off the bow line and ran back and cast off the stern line; then he stood and watched us pull away and he wanted very badly to go." continued, p. 15

## ----- PHOTO THANKS -----

We must thank Dennis Schotzko and Dave Ward for sharing photographs to adorn the pages of this issue. Remember your Editor just loves to weave images of potential interest into our Newsletter. Of course, it is important to know if an image is the public domain or not, or if we have or can be granted permission to publish the image(s). Please include that information.

Of course, more images, stories and news items are needed for the April issue and beyond.

## ----- RELATED MEETINGS -----

Announcing the **Forty-eighth Annual Meeting of the Society of Nematologists** and the Twelfth Biennial Meeting of the Soil Ecology Society, July 12-15, 2009, The Davis Center, University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont. Abstracts Due April 1, 2009. Instructions for submitting abstracts and additional information about the meeting can be accessed from the meeting website at: <http://www.uvm.edu/conferences/sonsesconference/>

Entomology job opportunities page:  
<http://www.entsoc.org/employment/jobs.htm>

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

MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY NOTES  
(THE COLLEGE OF IDAHO)

Museum ☎: (208) 459-5507,  
email [bclark@collegeofidaho.edu](mailto: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 2009 LUNCH SEMINARS**

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| Apr 4  | Howard Emry - "Geology and Vertebrate Paleontology of Pleistocene Deposits at American Falls Reservoir, Idaho."      |
| May 2  | Jan Summers Duffy - "Idaho Archaeology Month."   |
| Jun 6  | Dr. Paul Castrovillo - "Idaho's Most Distinctive Butterflies" and "Training for the Fourth of July Butterfly Count." |
| Jul 11 | Kathy Hamlett - "Mayan site of Copan."   |
| Aug 1  | Dr. Don Mansfield - "Owyhee Flora Project."  |
| Sep 5  | Gwen-Alyn Hoheisel - "Walnut Twig Beetle/1000 Canker Disease."   |
| Oct 3  | Dr. Barbara Ertter - "American Iranian Botanical Program."   |
| Nov 7  | Amy Truksa - "Water on Mars, Past and Present."  |
| Dec 5  | Richard Salisbury - "Idaho land shells, Fresh water snails and a few Marine cousins."                                |

----- THE LSU CONNECTION -----

At the request of the LSU Arthropod Museum, in Baton Rouge, Museum Invertebrate Curator and Research Associate, John Keebaugh, visited for a week in late February to implement their museum collection database. Since LSU is using the same database as the Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History, "Specify", John was able to conduct a workshop including a flow chart of the current curation practices as LSAM and was able to use the completed and formalized flow chart as the template for customizing data entry screens in

Specify. Workflow continued to be the topic of discussion and focused on structuring information in ways that facilitate data entry and minimize errors, all the way from a field book entry to labels for a pinned insect. The final day was concentrated on verifying everyone's data entry skills in Specify and fine-tuning the entry screens. LSU paid for John's time and travel, which helps the Museum's bottom line. The effort was coordinated by discussions of Museum Staff members, William H. Clark, David M. Ward, Jr., and Dr. Paul E. Blom with LSU staff at recent national entomology meetings.

----- IDACORP VIP -----

William H. Clark, Director of the Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History, received an announcement on March 2, 2009, that the Orma J. Smith Museum of Natural History will receive a \$100 award from IDACORP for his volunteer efforts at the Museum during 2008. Clark is employed by Idaho Power Company as a Macroinvertebrate Biologist conducting research on Threatened and Endangered Species Act listed snails in the Middle Snake River. IDACORP makes annual VIP (Volunteer Involvement Program) awards to non-profit organizations in the names of employees who have volunteered during the year. Clark was cited for his volunteer efforts in most aspects of the Museum's operations including volunteer coordination, collections curation and management, fund raising, and research. While the actual award is small, Clark says that the news reaches thousands of IDACORP employees as well as others and as such is great PR for the Museum. The funds will help defray Museum expenses.

- LITERATURE OF POTENTIAL INTEREST

Hershler, Robert and Liu, Hsiu-Ping. 2009. New species and records of *Pyrgulopsis* (Gastropoda: Hydrobiidae) from the Snake River basin, southeastern Oregon: further delineation of a highly imperiled fauna. *Zootaxa* 2006:1-22.

"The first author is grateful for the field assistance and logistical support provided by William H. Clark, Shaney Rockefeller and Cynthia Tait."

Makarov, S. E. & Dimitrijevic, R. N. (Eds.) 2008. *Advances in Arachnology and Developmental Biology. Papers Dedicated to Professor Bozidar P. M. Curcic.* Institute of Zoology, Faculty of Biology, University of Belgrade; Committee for Karst and Speleology, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Belgrade; Institute of Zoology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences; Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Vienna in Vienna; and UNESCO MAB Committee Serbia in Belgrade, Belgrade-Vienna-Sofia.

517 pages; color and black & white photos, figures, and tables; smooth paper; hard cover; color slip cover; with protective cardboard packing. In English. PRICE: 60 EUR + post charge.  
[srecko.curcic@yahoo.com](mailto:srecko.curcic@yahoo.com)

## ----- NEW NETWORKS -----

The Entomological Society of America has recently added 3 new networks of special interest to their web site:

**Molecular Entomology and Integrated Genomics.**

<http://www.entsoc.org/networks/Interest/Molecular.htm>

This Network is designed for everyone from the molecular entomology community or anyone else who loves to play with bugs and invisible molecules in the laboratory.

**Insect - Amphibian Interactions.**

<http://www.entsoc.org/networks/Interest/IntAmplInteractions.htm>. Insects are important components in the diets of many amphibians in nature and in culture (in academic and government labs, zoological parks, etc.). This Network will highlight recent advances and problems.

**Military Entomologists Network.**

<http://www.entsoc.org/networks/Occupation/Military.htm>

A new communication tool for the Department of Defense entomologists (civilian and military) to enhance their communication and exchange of informal military entomological ideas and information of current news and events.

Visit this link to see the Networks system available with the ESA: <http://www.entsoc.org/networks/index.htm>



© Dennis J. Schotzko  
Stinkbug nymph feeding on spittlebug adult with spittle in the background

## ----- WORLD OF INSECTS CALENDAR -----

The Entomological Society of America is looking for the best insect photos to grace the 2010 World of Insects Calendar. Photos should show insects in their natural environments and be of the highest aesthetic and technical quality. They will be selected by the Calendar Committee, chaired by Bob Peterson. For review purposes, photos must be in JPG format (at least 800 pixels wide) and be e-mailed to [pubs@entsoc.org](mailto:pubs@entsoc.org) by May 15, 2009. All photos must be horizontal and rectangular in layout (vertical and square photos will not be accepted). Please include the common and/or scientific name of the insect(s) in the file name with each photo, and where the photo was taken, if known.

## ----- FREE ACCESS TO SCIENCE -----

The Entomological Society of America is a member of the Washington DC Principles Coalition for Free Access to Science, which is a coalition of not-for-profit publishers that supports providing free public access to published research findings in their journals. The coalition is opposed to government mandated requirements of when and where journal access must be provided, such as the current NIH mandate to have all accepted NIH-funded manuscripts posted on PubMed Central. There is a petition on the DC Principles Coalition website for people to sign to express support for scientific society publishers. As we move into 2009 and the new Congress, DC Principles member organizations want to draw attention to the petition and to encourage their own society members to sign on to it. At some point in time during the coming year, the coalition will point to the

number of people who support its mission. Please take a minute to read this short petition and add your name in support of ESA and the DC Principles coalition. [http://www.dcprinciples.org/DCPS\\_PETITION/DCPS\\_PETITION/Petition.aspx](http://www.dcprinciples.org/DCPS_PETITION/DCPS_PETITION/Petition.aspx)

## ----- B.U.G.S.S. -----

WSU-UI Bi-University Guest Speaker Series (B.U.G.S.S.)

"Integrated Pest Management approaches for the prevention of tick-borne diseases". Speaker: Dr. Joe Piesman Department of Entomology, Colorado State University. April 3, 2009, 3:30 PM, Agricultural Sciences Building Room 104, University of Idaho, Moscow.



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Parasite about to parasitize adult alfalfa weevil

#### ----- HIPPOS ON GUARD -----

From WSU Today Online, 4 March 2009  
HIPPOs on guard

A novel strategy with the potential to improve pest management for a variety of crops worldwide is being developed by WSU associate professor of entomology David James. He has coined the acronym HIPPOs (Herbivore-Induced Plant Protection Odors) to indicate his research focus.

James and his team are working on multiple field experiments with hops and grapes for improving the control of mites and insects.

Previous studies have shown that plants, when attacked by insects and mites, respond by emitting distress signals. These signals take the form of a bouquet of volatile chemicals, the signaling "language" plants use to warn neighboring plants that they also may be attacked and should defend themselves.

"What's interesting is that predatory and parasitic insects and mites also are fluent in plant language, and the plants know this," James explained.

Predators that prey on parasites harmful to the plant know there will be food and hosts available.

"The chemical dialogue plants produce when attacked benefits not only the plants, but the 'bodyguards' they recruit for protection," James said.

Although scientists have been studying plant-to-plant and plant-to-insect conversations for more than 20 years, there are many questions that James' team is hoping to answer. For instance, can the conversations plants have with each other and with beneficial insects be faster and louder? Can these improved conversations improve pest management efforts?

"There is no universal plant language," James said. "Different plant species seem to have their own unique languages. Grape talk is different from, say, bean talk.

"However, there are some 'words' that appear to be fairly common among plant languages, so they are understood whether emitted by grapes or beans," he said.

More research is required in regard to deployment rates and methods before HIPPOs can be used optimally in practical crop pest management. However, dispensers containing HIPPOs are available commercially, and some growers are using them with good results.

#### ----- USEFUL STUFF -----

**BioQuip Product Special March 2009.** Extendable Net Handle (3 to 12 Foot Reach).

[http://www.bioquip.com/specials/product\\_special.asp](http://www.bioquip.com/specials/product_special.asp).

**BioQuip Book Special March 2009.** Six-Legged Soldiers: Using Insects as Weapons of War. by Jeffrey A. Lockwood.

[http://www.bioquip.com/specials/book\\_special.asp](http://www.bioquip.com/specials/book_special.asp)

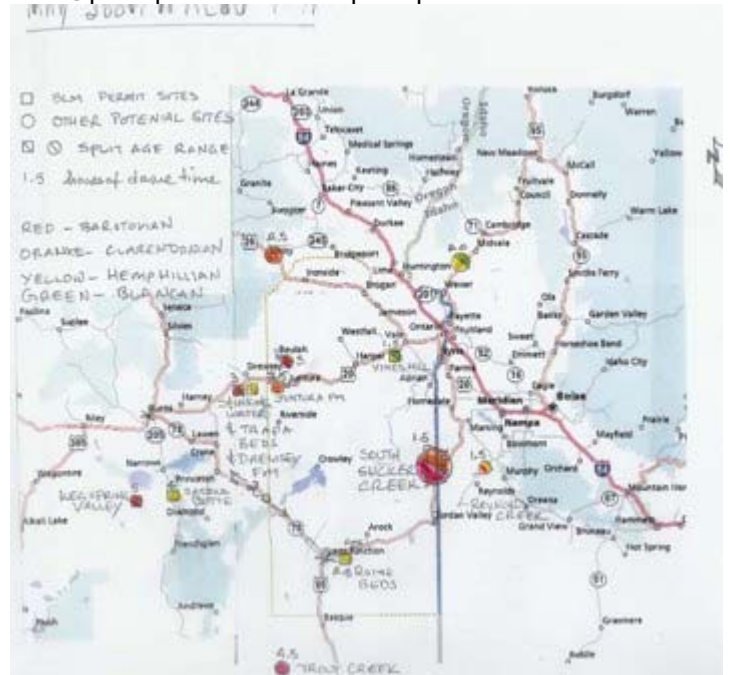
**ESA on facebook:**

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=53312233790>

#### ----- OF POSSIBLE INTEREST -----

**Paleo Fieldtrip.** Feel free to send the attached field trip map to the [museum] volunteers letting them know we will be in the field during the week of the 24th and that they are welcome to join us for a 1/2 day or longer if they wish. We are focusing on fish fossils but will have the opportunity to collect mollusca and plant fossils from location for which the museum's holdings are sparse or non-existent. Again, they can contact me directly to coordinate.

Nathan E. Carpenter, PaleoPublications, 385 Pebble Beach Way, Eagle, ID 83616. 208-939-4214. [nate@paleopubs.com](mailto:nate@paleopubs.com) [www.paleopubs.com](http://www.paleopubs.com)



**Ant Seminar.** On Monday, 16 March Josh White, Department of Biological Sciences, Boise State University, presented his Defense Seminar entitled: "Seed Predation on Slickspot Peppergrass by the Owyhee Harvester Ant".

## ----- ASIAN INSECT RESOURCES -----

Li Jingke (lijingkebeetles@yahoo.com.cn) offers books and insect specimens for sale from Asia:

**Books:** 1. "The Records of Tussah varieties in

Chrysomelidae, Curculionidae and about 10-20 unknown families mixed 3000exs=1500\$.

[Note: Some IEG members have purchased from Jingke with mixed opinion. The above is offered for your information and is not an endorsement.]



Lacewing adult with pea aphids on peas

China"; P1-P.274, there are 336 color plates. the price is \$100/1copy

2. "The Carabinae of China", P.1-P.65. \$20/1copy

3. "The Coleoptera Fauna of Northeast China", P.1-P.205. \$30/1copy

4. "Studies on Fauna And Ecogeography of Soil Animal", P.1-P.263. \$30/1copy

**Specimens:** Data: Mt. Huisaek Peak, Ryanggang Province, North Korea. September 1-16, 2008. *Callipogon relictus*. Cost per male ranges from \$ 300-700 (remember your Editor's birthday is coming soon!).

Data: Mt. Solhan Ridge(alt.1433m), South Hamgyong Province, North Korea, June 2-30, 2008.

Amphizoidae, Meloidae, Cicindelidae, Carabidae, Carabinae, Scaritidae, Broscidae, Harpalidae, Brachinidae, Dytiscidae, Gyrinidae, Hydrophilidae, Histeridae, Silphidae, Staphilinidae, Helotidae, Geotrupidae, Scarabaeidae, Aphodiidae, Melolonthidae, Rutelidae, Cetonidae, Trichiidae, Glaphyridae, Lucanidae, Dynastidae, Dyrhidae, Heteroceridae, Buprestidae, Elateridae, Lampyridae, Lycidae, Catharidae, Dermestidae, Bostrychidae, Cleridae, Nitidulidae, Cucujidae, Erotylidae, Languridae, Endomychidae, Coccinellidae, Oedemeridae, Meloidae, Lagriidae, Alleculidae, Tenebrionidae, Cerambycidae,

**MEMBER NEWS, CONTINUED FROM P. 11**

Bill and Mary Clark both retired 27 March 2009. This was Bill's 2nd retirement, but we think his last. For their first act of leisure they plan a month in Baja with their daughters. Congratulation to Bill and Mary, and we hope that though they leave us behind during April that they will return with stories to increase our yearning for the adventures of the Golden Years!



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----- FLORIDA IN FEBRUARY? -----

"Florida in February? And I get to collect insects? Of course, I want to go!!" That was



Spiny orb-weaver  
*Gasteracantha cancriformis.*

my response when asked to accompany Drs. Chris Walser and Mark Gunderson, Biology professors at The College of Idaho on a Winter Session field trip with 17 students. The focus of the trip was Marine and Estuarine Ecology but I was fortunate enough to obtain insect collecting permits from the State of Florida and Fish & Wildlife Services. I planned to conduct some mini-projects using ground and arboreal traps and sweep nets to collect on Cayo Costa, one of the barrier islands along the west coast of Florida, and on Summerland Key, about 150 air miles to the south in the Florida Keys. The plan was to involve the students in the collection and curation process and "balance" their marine ecology experience with some terrestrial entomology work.

It turned out to be the coldest winter in some 20 or 30 years for parts of Florida. We had early AM temperatures around 39°F early in the trip and daytime highs only in the 50's with wind and stormy skies. Not ideal for insect activity. In fact, it got cold enough for a long enough time that it almost caused fish and manatee kills. I had to abandon plans to collect any significant number of specimens on the barrier islands, a bit of a disappointment.

Still, it was warmer than Idaho so we didn't complain!

As we worked our way south through the Everglades and into the Florida Keys, the weather

did warm a bit but still stayed unseasonable cool. We spent our last week on Summerland Key at Mote Marine Laboratory, where we had use of their research facilities and excellent staff.

Although much of our time was spent on marine activities (snorkeling on local reefs, sea kayaking, measuring water conditions in tide pools, etc.) we did spend some time setting up pitfall traps for insects and even managed to photograph and/or collect a few specimens in spite of the unseasonably cold weather. We were also fortunate enough to see some Key Deer, an endangered species.



Everglades wildlife! We had to walk around these guys sunning themselves on the trail



Taking tide pool measurements

Although the trip was not an entomological success, it was a success in every other sense. We had a great group of students who worked very hard, a couple of excellent profs, and great hosts at Mote Marine Lab. Everyone learned a lot and had a great time. Everyone loved the Keys and I can see why folks want to retire there. Other than the

outrageously high real estate cost, it's beautiful. The weather even warmed a bit the last day or two. Just as the high temperatures reached the mid 70s, we headed back to Idaho where we woke the next morning to about an inch of snow!

report & photos by  
Dave Ward, Jr.



I believe this is *Strymon martialis*, the Martial Scrub hairstreak. They rub their wings together so the tails look like antennae to deceive predators.

Key Deer.

