Welcome to The BUZZZZZ...

Department of Entomology Newsletter
Vol. 5 No. 1 • May 2012

The Department of Entomology at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, welcomes you to our fifth newsletter!

We now plan to have a newsletter twice a year.

The 13th Annual Insect Festival

The Insect Festival will be on October 4, 2012 at the Pauline Whitaker Equine Center in Fayetteville. The festival will begin at 9 AM and end at 4 PM.

We will have educational exhibits, live butterfly display, Insect Zoo, Insect Theater with human-size bug costumes, Madagascar hissing cockroach races, games and many different displays of pinned insects.

This is a fun, educational experience for kids and adults. It is free and open to anyone with an interest in insects.

Outreach this summer

In April, Brandy Delzell, an 8th grader from Huntsville, AR, interested in Entomology, shadowed Carey Minteer and Ace Lynn-Miller for a full day. This young lady wanted to see for herself what entomologists do. She was shown various labs at the Experiment Station Farm and on campus.

Carey took Brandy to the field to see her research in biocontrol of invasive species. Ace took Brandy to Wedington Woods to see the research plots the Forest Entomology Lab has set up for trapping insects.

Brandy is interested in being a Forensic Entomologist, but was super excited to find out about all the different job possibilities for someone with a degree in Entomology.

Graduates

It is hard to say goodbye to the wonderful students we meet.

Kelly Carruthers received her M.S. and is teaching Biology in Humble, TX.

Danielle Keeler received her M.S. and is working at the Ozark Natural Science Center in Huntsville, AR.

Beven McWilliams received her M.S. and has joined the Army.

Congratulations! Stay in touch. We will miss you.
2012 Spring Seminars

Michael Reiskind, Oklahoma State University, “Mosquito ecology and disease transmission at various scales”

James Strange, USDA-ARS-PIRU, Logan, UT, “Molecular approaches to bumble bee conservation issues”

Claudio Gratton, University of Wisconsin, “Sustainable agricultural landscapes: can we balance our needs for biodiversity and production?”

Jeff Holland, Purdue University, “The flow of insect ecosystem services across landscapes”

Duane Mckenna, University of Memphis, “Molecular phylogenetics, genomics and evolution of beetles” – Student-invited speaker

James Harwood, University of Kentucky, “Disentangling the spider’s web”

Bob Coulson, Texas A&M University, “Entomology in a landscape ecology context”

Spring of 2012 is already here!

After four years of printing an annual newsletter, we finally were convinced to offer two issues per year. I hope this helps with information that is more timely and better highlights the accomplishments and news of our Department members.

As you will read in this issue, the Department’s faculty, staff and students were busy throughout the year. We have been notified that staff promoted this year will include Nichole Taillon (Program Technician, working with Gus Lorenz at Lonoke) and Barbara Lewis (Program Associate working with Donna Johnson in Fayetteville). Students were active in their profession, and won several awards for presentations of papers and posters. In addition, Amber Tripodi was selected as the Distinguished Doctorate Scholar for the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences – the third PhD student to be selected in the past seven years. We are honored by Amber’s presence and accomplishments.

The students are also continuing their strong outreach program, as you will read in the newsletter. Outreach is an important part of who we are as a Department, and the students take their responsibility seriously and represent us well in many venues. We have seen changes in the Administrative Support Supervisor in Little Rock. Tomeka Nolen moved to Texas to be near family, and she was replaced with Shanna Cunningham in that role. Several more changes will occur in the next few months, as we hope to welcome a new faculty member at the Rice Research and Extension Center, replacing John Bernhardt, who retired December 31. In addition, we just learned that Dr. Scott Akin, located at the Southeast Research and Extension Center, will be leaving to pursue a career with industry. We wish Scott the best in his new job. Scott will be stationed at Monticello in his new position, so we will continue to work with him in various roles.

Robert and Lesli Lincoln of Boulder, Colorado, visited the Department on Tuesday, May 29th. Robert is the son of Dr. Charles Lincoln, Entomology Department Head in the 1950’s and 60’s. Robert reminisced about his time here as a child. I hope you find the semi-annual newsletter to be of greater value to you. Please suggest news items for future issues to Susan Osredker at ostredker@uark.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!

Help Keep Our Alumni Database Current

Please let us know if you have moved. Include your current contact information such as address, phone, fax, and e-mail, as well as your University degree, year, and advisor. Mail your information to the Department of Entomology, AGRJ 319, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701; or fax to (479) 575-2452; or e-mail Susan Osredker at ostredker@uark.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!

The Isely-Baerg Entomology Club continues to manage the bee hives at the Experiment Station farm. We are expecting new honey again this year, hopefully sometime in July. Please check back with us on availability.

Outreach

In early October, Clinton Trammel, Beven McWilliams and Amber Tripodi met with children from Fayetteville elementary schools to teach them about common garden insects. They took the children on a walk to collect and identify their own insects.

On October 10th, Jessica Hartshorn and Adam Alford taught girls in the Fayetteville Girl Scout Troop about common Arkansas insects and took them on a hike through Happy Hollow trails to collect and identify insects and other arthropods.

On October 17th, Carey Minteer, Luis Orellana, Kevin Durden, Clinton Trammel, Daniele Keeler and Amber Tripodi explained the basic biology of insects to children at the Fayetteville Montessori School. The children had the opportunity to look through a microscope at pinned specimens.

Entomology Students at Farmers’ Market again this summer

The Entomology Graduate Students will again be at the Fayetteville Farmer’s Market the second and fourth Saturdays of summer. This has been a great venue to show off our insects displays, introduce children to microscopes and the wonderful world of insects. Students provide books on insect collecting, handouts on common insects along with advice on dealing with lawn and garden pests.

For information and photos about insects in Arkansas, check out the Entomology Museum photo gallery at: www.uark.edu/ua/arthmuse/gallery.html

Entomology Club Donates Books to Ozark Natural Science Center

The Isely-Baerg Entomology Club donated books on aquatic insects and ants to the Ozark Natural Science Center at Huntsville. The ONSC conducts day programs and over-night trips for schools and other groups, including the Entomology Club.

Pictured, from left, are Beven McWilliams, Jessica Hartshorn, Maggie Bailey, Rob Seal and Molly Waldron.
More Outreach

In early April, Carey Minteer gave four presentations to 5th grade students from Mr. Sanders’ science class at Holt Middle School in Fayetteville. Each presentation was 40 minutes, back to back, and each talk had at least 20 students attending. Carey talked about insect roles in food webs, preparing them for their required benchmark exams. The 5th graders enjoyed their presentations and were well informed about the topic.

On April 11th, 25, 2nd grade Fayetteville Brownie girl scouts toured the Entomology department with the help of Adam Alford, Outreach Coordinator. The scouts were focused on the homes of insects compared to the homes of humans as part of their badge requirement. The girls were thrilled to see the parts of the museum collection and asked questions about how insects live. The hissing cockroaches were a big hit. Adam finished the tour with a mini collection spree in which girls searched the garden behind the Agricul-

at Saturday afternoon, April 14th, Outreach members along with Dr. Don Johnson went to the T.G. Smith Ele-

mentary School outdoor nature area in Springdale. Jessica Hartshorn, Soo-Hoon Sam Kim, and Luis Orellana showed students and 25 teachers how to set up an insect collection and identify insects. They brought insect collection tools and a few insect boxes to show everyone examples. Participants talked about good and bad insects that would be commonly observed around the home and garden. Participants also identified insects that were previously collected.

April 18th, Dr. Fiona Goggin brought the University’s Infant Development Center daycare to the Entomology depart-

ent. Adam Alford, Jiamei Li and Bryan Petty helped the kids look at insects through dissecting microscopes and also helped them look at live specimens. The kids enjoyed being able to touch the Madagascar hissing roaches and other insects supplied by the department.

Monday, April 21st, Amber Tripodi and Clint Trammel talked about pollinators to a group of 50 adults and children at the Earth Day event at Eagle Watch Nature Trail on SWEP Co Lake in Gentry.

May 4th was Campus Day on the University campus. Natasha Wright and Amber Tripodi talked to hundreds of High School and Middle School kids from the area about predator defense in insects and careers in Entomology. Natasha delivered an impressive, interactive talk about insect defense and gave away beautiful pinned insect displays to kids who correctly answered questions on the topic. They learned quite a bit about insects while having fun with the contest.

Entomology student wins Dale Bumpers Distinguished Doctorate Scholar Award

The Dale Bumpers Distinguished Doctorate Scholar Award went to Amber Tripodi of Fayetteville, who is working toward a PhD degree in Entomology. Her research is on population dynamics of native bumble bees and carpenter bees. She is a teaching assistant in applied molecular genetics and principal investigator on a Sustainable Agriculture graduate student grant.

Gamma Sigma Delta First Place Winner

Jessica Hartshorn, MS student in Entomology, won first place in the undergraduate poster competition and 1st place in the Most Artistic category, Photo Salon. Amber Tripodi won Second place in the PhD poster competition. Bryan Petty won Second place in the PhD 10 minute paper competition.

Entomology student’s design chosen in logo competition

Natasha Wright, MS student with Dr. Steinkraus, submitted the winning entry for the competition to design the logo for the 2012 joint meeting of the Southeastern and Southwestern Branches of the Entomological Society of America, held in Little Rock. Natasha was awarded $200 and her registration to the meeting was waived.

“For the joint meeting between the SW and SE Branches, I chose two insect species which were morphologically similar but easily recognizable and region-

specific. I used the thistledown velvet ant (Dasymutilla gloriosa) to represent the southwest and the cow killer (Dasymutilla occidentalis) to represent the southeast. For visual appeal, I went with a symmetrical design and used a slate blue background color to complement the colors of both velvet ants. I went with a dorsal view of the ants for a full view of the insects, but the style is also reminis-

cent of a pinned insect or scientific illustration.”

Entomology students win awards at SEB

The 2012 joint meeting of the Southeastern and Southwestern Branches of the Entomological Society of America was held March 4-7 in Little Rock. The Department of Entomology was the host for the meeting, which was the first time two branches held a combined meeting. Nearly 400 people attended the meeting, which included 165 paper presentations and 107 posters. Our Department was well represented in the student competitions with the following awards presented by Norm Leppla, University of Florida, SEB President in 2011-2012: Carey Minteer received the Robert T. Gast Award for best PhD research paper. Clint Trammel won First place in the undergraduate poster competition and 1st place in the Most Artistic category, Photo Salon. Amber Tripodi won Second place in the PhD poster competition. Bryan Petty won Second place in the PhD 10 minute paper competition.
Keeping NWA Sweet: Beekeeping Classes continue for 10th Year

The Pauline Whitaker Equine Center was all abuzz during a beginner’s beekeeping class, which began on January 30th. The series of classes was hosted by the Northwest Arkansas Beekeepers Association and featured speakers Jon Zawislak of the UA Cooperative Extension Service and Program Associate of Apiculture, and Ed Levi, a queen bee breeder and former state bee inspector.

Over the course of three classes, prospective beekeepers learned about equipment, basic bee behavior, and setting up their first hives. These classes have been running for almost 10 years. Zawislak said it was important to him to inform the public about the gentle nature of honey bees.

“Honey bees are not dangerous, aggressive creatures,” Zawislak said. “While they may defend themselves if they feel threatened, they are more likely to ignore you and go about their business as long as you leave them alone.”

Among talk of honey, queen candy, and royal jelly, the classes provided the chance for new beekeepers to purchase equipment and order their first bee colonies. New bee hives must also be registered with the Arkansas State Plant Board. Ken Fielding, president of the Northwest Arkansas Beekeepers Association, said the bee population took a hit last year because of combinations of extreme weather, from an unusually cold winter to an unusually hot summer.

“Honey bees provide a vital role in our food chain,” Zawislak said. “Beyond the obvious fruits and vegetables, bees pollinate many types of nuts, herbs and spices, and important oilseed crops.”

“More beekeepers means more bees in our community,” he said, “which benefits all our area gardens as well as local wild-life that depends on wild berries and seeds to survive.”

— Adapted from an article in the Arkansas Traveler by Jani Ko

Arkansas State Beekeepers Meeting

The Arkansas State Beekeepers meeting was held in Little Rock, AR on March 2, 2012. Dr. Don Steinkraus was invited by President Richard Coy to present: “Effect of hive manipulations on productivity of honey bee colonies.” After his seminar he was presented with a plaque by committee members Soo-Hoon Kim and Carey Minteer. After the award was presented, the students arranged a banquet catered by The Cajun Gypsy.

Student-selected Speaker

Dr. Duane McKenna, from the University of Memphis, was the Student-selected Speaker this year. Dr. McKenna gave a presentation titled: “Molecular Phylogenetics, Genomics and Evolution of Beetles.” After his seminar he was presented with a plaque by committee members Soo-Hoon Kim and Carey Minteer. After the award was presented, the students arranged a banquet catered by The Cajun Gypsy.

Student Awards

Congratulations!
Two students were the recipients of the 2012 Dwight Isely Scholarship:
Jessica Hartshorn was the Outstanding Masters Entomology Student and Amber Tripodi was the Outstanding PhD Entomology Student.

Two students were the recipients of the Jake R. Phillips Scholarship:
Ace Lynn-Miller received the Master student award and Soo-Hoon Sam Kim received the PhD student award.
Carey Minteer received the John S. Heiss Fellowship for PhD students.

Linnaean Team competes in Reno

The Department’s team competed in the national Linnaean games competition, which is a college bowl-style competition on entomological facts, played between university-sponsored student teams. To obtain one of these 10 coveted spots in the national competition, each team must win or place second in their regional competition (11 states compete in the Southeastern Branch). Arkansas won the opening round of the competition and advanced to the semifinals, where the team lost to North Carolina State University.

Preparation for both the regional and national competition requires hours of study of entomological trivia and practice game sessions on a weekly basis throughout much of the year. This team thoroughly trounced a hapless faculty team as a warm-up to both regional and national competitions. These students successfully juggled their courses and research work in order to dedicate the time to succeed in these competitions, providing outstanding representation for the Department and the University.

Team members included Ray Fisher, Jessica Hartshorn, Soo-Hoon Sam Kim, Carey Minteer, and Bryan Petty with alternate Adam Alford. Dr. Ashley Dowling was the coach.

Student Debate Team defeats University of Georgia!!!

The Department of Entomology’s Student Debate team (Ace Lynn-Miller, Kevin Durden, Jessica Hartshorn, Bryan Petty and Amber Tripodi) defeated the University of Georgia at the national Entomological Society of America’s annual meeting in Reno, NV. The vote was by unanimous decision. They successfully supported their position that “Organic Agriculture Will Solve Projected Food and Water Limitations of the American Society.” This topic and the position they assumed (Pro) were randomly assigned. The debate required submission of written materials in addition to a formal debate held at the national meeting. Six teams from Universities across the country competed in head-to-head competitions.

Their performance and professional conduct provided outstanding representation of our university. Dr. Tim Kring coached the Debate Team for 2011. Congratulations and thanks to each of the team members!!!

Student Awards

Soo-Hoon Sam Kim was awarded second place for his PhD presentation: “Alternative monitoring and control tactics for rednecked cane borer, Aegius ruficolis, in blackberries” at the Arkansas Crop Protection Association in Fayetteville, in November 2011.

Carey Minteer won one of the President’s Prize for best presentation by a PhD student on Plant Insect Ecosystems at ESA in Reno. Her presentation was titled “Determining the efficacy of Larinus minutus (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) in reducing spotted knapweed populations in Arkansas.” Carey received one year free membership in ESA, $70 cash prize and a certificate of achievement.

Michael Skvarla won the “Outstanding Student Presentation Award” for the Acarology Society of America meeting held during the ESA meeting at Reno. He received a plaque and $250. The title of his talk was “A preliminary phylogeny of Cunaxidae (Acari: Bdellioidea).”

Get ready for the October 4, 2012 Insect Festival!!
Fall 2012 Entomology Seminars

All seminars will be held in AGRI 332, 11:30 AM, every Friday.
Please check the Entomology website for further information.

Calendar

October 4       Insect Festival!!!!!
October 4       Fish Fry for Arkansas Entomological Society meeting in the evening
October 5       Arkansas Entomological Society meeting, Fayetteville, AR