



NEWSLETTER of the Wisconsin Entomological Society

Volume 4 Number 1

James W. Mertins, Editor

January, 1976

EDITOR'S NOTES

I hesitate to mention it, but at the risk of overkill, this is the first issue of our WES NEWSLETTER bicentennial volume. That announcement aside, we will dispense with any further special emphasis of our nation's 200th anniversary.

Probably of more immediate and direct interest to the membership is another event to be held in the U. S. this year - that is the 15th International Congress of Entomology to be convened in Washington, D. C. in August. This important worldwide convention of entomologists occurs only once every 4 years, and we are indeed fortunate to host it this year. This brings me to a notice from the North Carolina Entomological Society which recently crossed my desk, and which I quote below.

"We think your mail will be bugged in '76.

A hot issue? You bet it is.

What we're talking about is a U. S. commemorative postage stamp to mark this year's 15th International Congress of Entomology at Washington, D. C. Your help is vital to convince the U. S. Postal Service that 1-4 insect stamps should be issued when the meeting convenes in August, 1976.

DID YOU KNOW THAT:

1. Over 100 countries and dependencies from every corner of the world except North America have issued stamps portraying insects? Believe it or not, the list includes a place as remote and forbidding as France's "Southern and Antarctic Territories."
2. The United States has issued stamps depicting birds, fish, mammals, and dinosaurs, but not the first insect?
3. Previously, many countries issued stamps publicizing International Congresses that incorporate insects in their designs?
4. Only 1 of 14 International Congresses of Entomology held since 1910 were honored by a stamp from the host country? That was in 1968 when the Congress was held in the USSR. (Although Australia used a special postmarker for the Congress in Sydney in 1972.)

Aptly termed, "A Nation's Calling Card", stamps acquaint the rest of the world with important facets of its cultural, scientific, and political life. No better opportunity will come along to focus attention on American entomology than in 1976. Here's what you can do to make the possibility of an insect stamp a reality: write 1 or all of the following urging 1-4 commemoratives be released in conjunction with this year's entomological congress.

1. Your congressman.
2. Your senators.
3. The Postmaster General, Washington, D. C. 20260.

The NEWSLETTER of the Wisconsin Entomological Society is published two to four times yearly at irregular intervals. Please send all news, notes, contributions and other items for the NEWSLETTER to the Editor, Department of Entomology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706.

EDITOR'S NOTES (cont.)

It is exactly this procedure that contributed successfully to the release in 1969 of 4 commemoratives to highlight the 11th International Botanical Congress held that year at Seattle, Washington."

So there you go philatelists and entomologists. This is a worthy undertaking and I hope that all of our members will take out a few minutes and write in support of issuing a series of insect stamps to commemorate the Congress.

NOTICES

Wanted. 1975 Lepidoptera field summary from all North Central states and adjacent Ontario (including Wisconsin) for Annual Summary of "The Lepidopterist's" Society. Send data (new records, range extensions, changes in populations, etc.) to M. C. Nielson, 3415 Overlea Dr., Lansing, MI 48917.

Wanted. Uropodid mites associated with ant and termite nests in North America. Please contact William Phillipsen, Dept. of Entomology, University of Wisconsin, Madison 53706.

Wanted. Records for all Wisconsin Aegeriidae (clear-winged moths) with information on county, host-plant, etc. if possible. Will accept any specimens you don't want, or have some lesser peach tree borers (male and female), Synanthedon pictipes, for trade. Clyde S. Gorsuch, Dept. of Entomology, Univ. of Wis., Madison, WI 53706.

For sale. Very large selection of foreign exotic insects, especially butterflies, moths, and beetles. Many large showy species. I have taken over the business of the late Mr. George Schirmer and will welcome any inquiries or correspondence. I will also consider trades for certain species. Please contact Dan Capps, 231 Powers Ave., Madison, WI 53714 (tel. 249-7271 evenings).

Wanted to trade. Native or exotic foreign beetles; have numerous perfect mounted Catocala moths (mostly duplicates) for exchange. John Hempel, 1516 Sherman, Janesville, Wis. 53545.

Wanted. Cockroaches, any species, but especially non-domestic ones; live or preserved in alcohol. If possible, location and habitat data on specimens would be greatly appreciated. Ralph Howard, Wood Products Insect Lab., P. O. Box 2008, Evergreen Station, Gulfport, Miss. 39501.

Wanted. Records by county for all Wisconsin Rhopalocera, Sphingidae, Saturniidae, and Catocala. For more details write Roger Kuehn, 5042 N. 61 St., Milwaukee, Wis. 53218.

Wanted. Confirmable reports or specimens from termite infestations within Wisconsin. Please contact Glenn Esenther, U.S. Forest Products Laboratory, Madison, with any information you may have.

ODE TO A BUG

(or: How low can you go?)

Twinkle, twinkle little bug,
How'd you like a great big slug?
It may seem strange to slug a bug...
But at least I'd never bug a slug!

(From the comic strip: Funky Winkerbean 1/11/76)

NEWS OF MEMBERS

(Please submit items of interest about yourself or other members for this column.)

Dr. Ralph Howard, immediate past-president of WES, accepted the position of chemical ecologist with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, at the Southern Forest Experiment Station in Gulfport, Mississippi. Ralph began his new job on November 24, 1975, and recently reported that he and the family are settled in for a warmer winter than they had here in Wisconsin. In fact, he says some insects are available for collection even at present.

Prof. Gene DeFoliart recently stepped down as Chairman of the U. W. Department of Entomology. The second week in January he packed up his family (in part) and laboratory technician, and took off for a 12 week sojourn in Hawaii, where he will work on improving his course in medical entomology.

Assistant to the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Walter Scott, retired since our last NEWSLETTER after 39 years service with the DNR.

Kenneth MacArthur, president of WES, recently wrote a fine article for the National Wildlife Federation on the monarch butterfly. The well-illustrated article, entitled "Monarch Reigns Supreme", appeared in the Federation's magazine, National Wildlife, for Dec.-Jan., 1976 (vol. 14(1): 43-45).

Dr. Allen Young has moved to the position of Curator of Invertebrate Zoology at the Milwaukee Public Museum, taking over from the retiring Ken MacArthur. Allen began his new duties in September, 1975.

New Members

Ken Luckey Route 2, Clinton, WI 53525

Changes of Address

Bob Borth 1129 Jackson St. #501C, Milwaukee, WI 53202

Wills Flowers Laboratory of Aquatic Entomology, PO Box 111
Florida A. & M. University, Tallahassee, FL 32307

John Hempel 1516 Sherman, Janesville, WI 53545

Ralph Howard Wood Products Insect Laboratory, PO Box 2008
Evergreen Station, Gulfport, MS 39501

Kenneth MacArthur 15900 W. Monterey Dr., New Berlin, WI 53151

James Parkinson 10846 Sequoia Dr., Sun City, AZ 85351

Joe Sloup Route 2, 5805 Tall Oaks Rd., Madison, WI 53711

Allen Young Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 W. Wells St., Milwaukee, WI 53233

NEWS OF MEMBERS (cont.)

Member Résumés

New member, Ken Luckey, is a nurseryman who is also interested in Lepidoptera. He runs the Evergreen Nursery and Greenhouse in Clinton, WI.

Allen Young has been a member of WES since shortly after his appointment as Assistant Professor of zoology at Lawrence University in Appleton. After 5 years in that position he has taken on the responsibilities of Curator of Invertebrate Zoology at the Milwaukee Public Museum. Dr. Young earned the Ph.D. at the University of Chicago, and has been working for 3½ years on and off in Costa Rica under a grant from the National Science Foundation. The major subject of his studies there has been a group of 6 species of cicadas, individuals of which he blasts from perches in the tall tropical trees with a shotgun loaded with flour. Captures thus made aid him in his studies of cicada populations, behavioral ecology, and evolutionary biology. Some of his other tropical undertakings include studies of evolution in tropical butterflies, and part ownership in a venture in making wines from passion fruit.

HISTORY OF WISCONSIN ENTOMOLOGY - VIII

The second chairman of the U. W. Department of Entomology was Professor H. F. Wilson, who succeeded J. G. Sanders in that position on September 1, 1915. Wilson had previously been head of the Department of Entomology at the Oregon Agricultural College in Corvallis (now Oregon State University), and was brought to Wisconsin on the recommendation of Dean Russell. Born in Colorado, he majored in entomology and horticulture at Colorado State College and received a B.S. in 1907. After about one year of graduate work at the University of Illinois, he withdrew to take a position as Special Agent with the USDA Bureau of Entomology in Washington, D. C., and in 1910 accepted an appointment as Research Assistant in entomology at Oregon Agricultural College. He received his MS there, and in 1913 became Professor of entomology and Entomologist at the Oregon State Agricultural Experiment Station. Wilson shortly became head of the Department of Economic Entomology and had been on the Oregon staff for nearly six years when he came to Wisconsin.

Over the period of Wilson's tenure as chairman (1915-1942) a number of new courses were developed and added to the four original courses taught in the department. Some of these courses came and went according to the availability of qualified staff with suitable research background to handle the teaching chores. Wilson's specialization was apiculture, and so, of course, the beekeeping course begun in 1912 was continued under his tutelage.

In 1915-1916 courses were added in truck crop insects, thesis, and farm insects. Later, in 1921, came larval taxonomy, in 1923, seminar, and in 1926-1929, came insect morphology and taxonomy, insect transmission of plant diseases, and a methods course. Insect ecology was first taught by Professors Sears and Fluke in 1930, and principles of insect control was a new course by Professor Allen in 1936.

Professor Wilson's interest in beekeeping at Wisconsin brought many distinguished apiculturists to the Department to study, some of whom made this field their future endeavor. Of particular note were C. L. Farrar and W. C. Roberts. Many other budding entomologists attended Wisconsin during this period as graduate students and went on to make entomology their profession. A few of these men were T. C. Allen, R. J. Bushnell, T. L. Carpenter, J.A. Callenbach, R. J. Dicke, C. L. Fluke, S. B. Fracker, M. H. Doner, J. H. Lilly, P. O. Ritcher, C. W. Schaefer, E. M. Searls, Alfred Weed, and C. E. Woodworth. A total of 20 students earned doctorates under Wilson's direction.

HISTORY OF WISCONSIN ENTOMOLOGY - VIII (cont.)

At the time of Prof. Wilson's retirement the full-time staff included: H. F. Wilson-Chairman and Professor, C. L. Fluke-Professor, C. L. Farrar-Assoc. Professor and USDA, E. M. Searls-Assist. Professor, T. C. Allen-Assist. Professor, J. H. Lilly-Instructor, J. A. Callenbach-Instructor and USDA, and C. W. Schaefer-Instructor and USDA. There were 5 part-time graduate Research Assistants, and 10 other part-time graduate and undergraduate students enrolled in the department.

During his tenure as chairman, Prof. Wilson's cooperation with USDA was notable. In 1915 truck crop insect research was located on the Madison campus with a number of permanent and part-time assistants, many of whom were also enrolled as part-time graduate students. In 1935 USDA established research studies on cereal and forage crop insects on campus with the assistance of J. A. Callenbach, who was also on the academic staff. And, in 1938, came the establishment of the North Central States Bee Culture Laboratory, with C. L. Farrar, Division of Apiculture, in charge of the Federal Project. With an appointment on the college staff, Prof. Farrar also taught subjects on bee culture in the Department of Entomology, in addition to directing research.

WISCONSIN INSECT NOTES

There have been several developments in the gypsy moth situation in Wisconsin since the last NEWSLETTER. In addition to the 3 moths trapped at Appleton (reported last time), a single male moth was taken in a sex pheromone trap September 2, 1975, on oak at Elkhart Lake in Sheboygan County. A third trapping encounter with 1 male was also reported October 14, 1975, in Manitowoc County. The big news, though, was a supposed find of a gypsy moth larva near Clam Lake in Ashland County. The incident received wide press coverage around the State. The significance of this find is that the single males taken previously were likely to have been simply "hitchhikers" carried into the state on vehicles from infested areas in the Northeast, and did not necessarily indicate an established population. If, in fact, the new larva is a gypsy moth and it did come from the woods of Ashland County, then an infestation is much more likely to be present. The caterpillar was turned in as part of a class project at U. W. - Stevens Point by a senior forestry student from Syracuse, NY. His professor in the class recognized the larva and sent it to the USDA laboratory in Beltsville, MD for positive identification. Various officials of Wisconsin and Federal agencies have been predicting and expecting the inevitable establishment of the gypsy moth in the State for some time, and are currently working to establish several beneficial parasitic insects here on alternate hosts, in hopes of increasing the environmental resistance of our forest land to the "scourge of the Northeast".

Another lepidopterous pest, the armyworm, was without doubt present in outbreak proportions this past summer in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Statistical Reporting Service said that the cost of insecticide treatment and crop loss to farmers in 29 northern counties was more than \$8 million during 1975. Seventy-eight percent of the loss occurred on oats, but corn was also heavily damaged. Marathon County was the hardest hit with \$1.4 million in losses.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Shortly after the last NEWSLETTER was published the forecast book, Butterflies of North America, appeared in local bookstores. It is indeed a treasured addition to any entomologist's library, and a magnificent tribute to the artistic skills of the coordinating editor and illustrator, William H. Howe. In 97 color plates he has illustrated 2093 specimens in full color paintings covering all 50 states and Canada. The 633 pages of text are rich in descriptive material on all life stages and habits, food plants (with a separate index), distribution, techniques, and equipment.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST (cont.)

It seems 1975 was a banner year for new insect books, and especially those on Lepidoptera. The Editor has also acquired copies of the following.

Watson, Allan, and Paul E. S. Whalley. 1975. The dictionary of butterflies and moths in color. McGraw-Hill Book Co. \$29.95 until June, 1976 (\$39.95 thereafter). Worldwide coverage; contains 144 pages of color plates illustrating 1000 species in beautiful photographs; followed by 150 pages of text in dictionary style with over 2000 entries, from Abantiades to zymna.

Tyler, Hamilton A. 1975. The swallowtail butterflies of North America. Naturegraph Publishers Inc. Healdsburg, Calif. 95448. \$5.95. A must for "papilio-people" with nice color plates including all known species, subspecies and forms (103) found from the Yucatan to Alaska. The line drawings are less impressive, but otherwise, a very useful book.

Dirig, Robert. (no date). Growing moths. 4-H member's guide from NY State College of Agriculture at Cornell University (available from Entomological Reprint Specialists, Los Angeles, 90007). \$1.50. Highly recommended, especially for beginners, but something new for almost everyone. Contains 39 pages chock-full of fine black and white photos, very good drawings, and useful practical information on about everything you need to know to raise your own beautiful specimens. One of the best I've seen.

Sargent, Theodore D. 1975. Legion of night: The underwing moths. University of Massachusetts Press. \$15.00. I haven't seen it yet, but it's on order. Contains 224 pages, 8 color plates, tables, graphs, and appendices. A modern study of the noctuid genus Catocala.

Also available from Entomological Reprint Specialists, a complementary series to the monumental Moths of North America; The moths and butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland. Eleven volumes proposed, covering all families, plus larvae. Volume 1 available December, 1975; \$45.00.

The Biological Research Institute of America, P. O. Box 108, Rensselaerville, NY 12147 (publishers of Insect World Digest) has available the 1975 "yellow version" of a Checklist of the beetles of Canada, United States, Mexico, Central America, and the West Indies, complete in 8 parts, 2500 pages, indexed. \$200.00. Members only.

Dalton, Stephen. 1975. Borne on the wind. Reader's Digest Press. 160 pages. A beautiful book with fantastic photos (many in color) that must be seen to be believed. A definitive and unparalleled study of insects in flight.

Webb, Donald W., Norman D. Penny, and John C. Marlin. 1975. The Mecoptera, or scorpionflies, of Illinois. Illinois Natural History Survey Bulletin 31(#7); 66 pages. Single copies free on request. Great for anyone interested in scorpionflies in Wisconsin because coverage is broad enough to include the whole Midwest. The senior author (Webb) recently described a new species of Panorpa, P. setifera, from specimens taken, so far, only at Parfrey's Glen in Sauk County (Entomol. News 85(5 & 6): 171-173(1974)).

PROGRAM NOTES

As per the tradition of WES, there was no meeting during the month of January, and in preview of the Meeting Notes from the December meeting, which will be sent out before next month, we announce here the results of the election of officers. The nomina-

PROGRAM NOTES (cont.)

ted slate of officers went unopposed, and was elected by unanimous vote, as follows: President - Kenneth MacArthur, Vice-President - Herb Grimek, Secretary - David DeSwarte, Treasurer - William Hilsenhoff, Councilman(1975-77) - Robert Topczewski. Congratulations to all.

The Milwaukee Entomological Society did hold a meeting in January. The following report is from Bill Phillipsen.

Those WES members who attended the January 12th Milwaukee Entomological Society meeting heard an interesting talk given by Dr. Ernest S. Del Fosse. The topic was "Biological Control of Water Hyacinth versus Alternate Methods". Dr. Del Fosse recently received the Ph.D. in entomology at the University of Florida at Gainesville, where he worked on 2 biological control agents of the water hyacinth; the water hyacinth mite and the water hyacinth weevil.

Water hyacinth was introduced into the U. S. in 1884 and through prolific growth soon became a pest problem in the Southeast. These free-floating plants reproduce mainly by vegetative growth associated with stolons. Seeds that require scarification to germinate are produced by white, blue, or violet flowers. The plant can double its biomass in 12.5 days. Excessive growth impedes boating and other recreational pursuits, and interferes with the activities of gambusia mosquito fish in controlling mosquito larvae.

Dr. Del Fosse emphasized that biocontrol is the only cheap and effective control method, with cultural, mechanical, and chemical methods being expensive and impermanent. The adult water hyacinth weevils feed on the shiny leaves, while the larvae cause much damage by burrowing down through the plants and pupating on the air-filled roots. The water hyacinth mite makes galleries in the leaves which cause dehydration. The weevil and mite also often are associated with a fungus, Cephalosporium zonatum, which causes plant necrosis.

Dr. Del Fosse closed his presentation with a riddle; "What do you call a weevil on a motorcycle?" The answer, of course, "Weevil Kneival"!

TREASURER'S REPORT - 1975

Balance in checking account January 1, 1975		<u>\$322.56</u>
<u>Disbursements</u>		
Jan. 2 - Rubber Stamp	\$9.88	
Jan. 16 - Insty Prints	26.21	
May 16 - Insty Prints	39.27	
June 20 - DeSwarte for postage and printing	81.13	
July 24 - Mertins for postage	14.80	
Sept. 23 - Insty Prints	<u>43.63</u>	
Total	- \$214.92	
<u>Dues deposited in checking account</u>	+ \$118.00	
<u>Dues received but not deposited</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	
Balance in checking account December 31, 1975		<u>\$225.64</u>
<u>Membership of Society as of December 31, 1975</u>		
Dues paid through 1974	14 members	
Dues paid through 1975	67 members	
Dues paid through 1976	11 members	
Dues paid through 1979	2 members	
Total Membership	<u>94 + 1 library subscription</u>	

William Hilsenhoff, Treasurer

DUES

The WES fiscal year runs concurrent with the calendar year. Members who have not already paid their dues for 1976 will find enclosed in this issue a preaddressed envelope for paying what they owe. A few members will find that they have not yet paid their 1975 dues. Because of inflation and the diminishing treasury, we cannot carry these delinquent members. If their payment is not received soon they will be dropped from the rolls.

WISCONSIN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please Print:

Last Name First Name

Address: Street City State Zip

Organization represented (if any)

Title or Occupation Phone: (include area code)

Individual membership (\$2.00 per year)

Organization membership (\$10.00 per year)

Sustaining membership (\$25.00 or more per year)

General Interest Area

- ____ Aquatic Insects _____ Collecting and/or Taxonomy
- ____ 4-H or Scout Member _____ Insect Photography
- ____ Extension Worker _____ Physiology
- ____ Life History, Biology, & Behavior _____ Apiculture
- ____ Other _____ Specify _____ Pest Control

Specific Interests (Order, Family, Genus) _____

If you are an authority for certain insect taxa, would you be willing to identify Wisconsin specimens for members? Yes _____ No _____

Make checks payable to Wisconsin Entomological Society and mail to the Treasurer, William Hilsenhoff, Dept. of Entomology, 237 Russell Labs., U. Wisc., Madison, Wisc. 53706 .

Wisconsin Entomological Society
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Address correction requested