



The glowworm



Volume XIX No. 4

November, 2012

An Extension Newsletter of the Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Entomology and Plant Pathology Dept.

A Casual Prediction is one ESA Conference Closer to Reality

Several years ago Dr. David Held and I were counting the Bug Campers we knew that were in masters or doctoral programs in entomology when I commented it would be interesting to be a fly on the wall at an Entomology Society of America conference in a few years when a group of young entomologists were sitting around and realized many of them had attended Mississippi State University's Bug Camp. David replied that would be a very dangerous place for us to be!

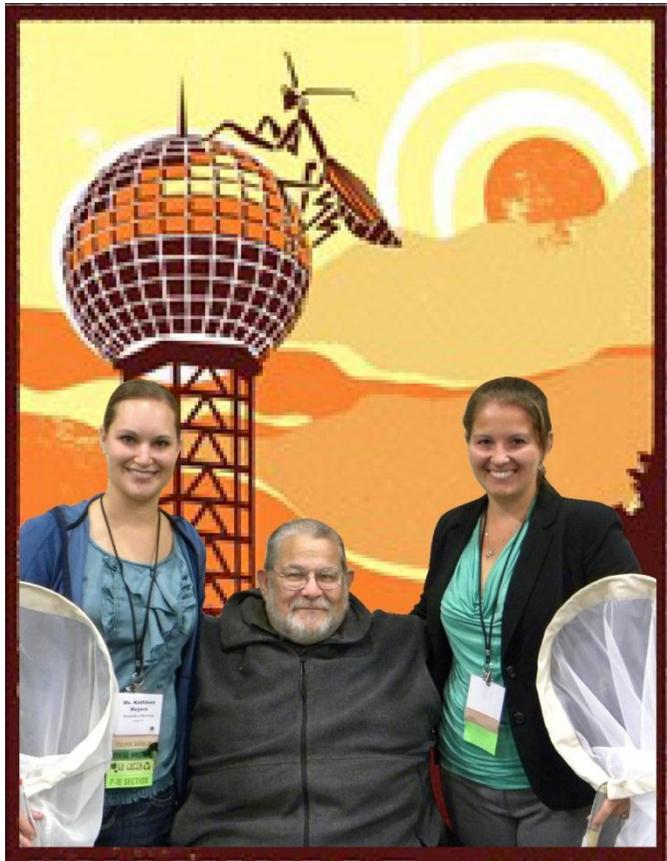
This year camper Stephanie Larrick Hill, whose Entomology Camp we featured in the June edition, and I enjoyed our first Entomology Society of America meeting. And we enjoyed the discussion after our presentation on Bug Camps at the foundation symposium.

Stephanie's mother, Paula, camped with us for many years and I was delighted she could join us for our presentation.

I was surprised when I heard my named called in the exhibit hall and turned around to see Kathleen Myers, a camper from Wyoming who Dr. Mike Williams and I had recently discussed and wondered if she had pursued entomology, as she indicated she wanted to during camps. Well, she did and was at ESA doing a poster session on her Masters Research!

What is interesting is that Stephanie and Kathleen may not have overlapped during each of their many years at Bug Camp, and did not remember each other from bug camp. In the picture Kathleen is to my right and Stephanie is on my left. BioQuip loaned us the nets for the photo that is digitally layered on top of the commemorative 2012 ESA Knoxville poster with a praying mantis on the Sun Sphere (constructed for the 1982 World's Fair). I only regret Mike was not with us to see our Bug Campers rising in the entomological ranks.

So, the day is growing closer to the realization of our prediction. I think I counted 6 campers including 3 parents and 9 Bug Camp staff at this conference. And if that mantid had been real it would have been in one of these entomologists' collections!



BugFest at the MSU Crosby Arboretum was a Huge Success

There are a lot of ways to evaluate things and our outreach programs are no exception. Before you evaluate something you need to define what you hope to accomplish. With BugFest it was clearly apparent the participants, or visitors, had a great time. The smiles on their faces were great indicators and their questions and follow-up questions spoke volumes as to the effectiveness of what we were doing. Seeing many of the same families year after year is enjoyable and another indicator. Watching so many children collect and handle insects and spiders is a powerful indicator that the realization that all insects are not bad is growing. And then, there are other things. We use BugFest as a training/ motivational venue for our bug and plant campers. Watching the campers grow from year to year and share their knowledge with BugFest visitors is absolutely enjoyable and is a powerful measure of the success of BugFest.



That said I would like to introduce you to a few campers. Breanna Lyle has been camping with us for a number of years and is a valuable BugFest staff member. She is now a junior at MSU. Breanna's specialty is spiders and she carries live specimens with her or collects them on site for use in her hands-on programs. Breanna knows many spiders and is interested in their personality differences, and that is why she has begun offering a Spider Day at the arboretum!



Matthew Thorn has also been with us for a number of years as well and he is developing an ecological awareness of insects and their role in the environment. He has also found a mosquito that is new to Mississippi and with Dr. Jerome Goddard produced an article on it. He also spoke to a mosquito board at the request of Mississippi Department of Health Entomologist Wendy Varnado.



Edward Entsminger is my graduate student and there is no job too big, too small or too different for him. He jumps right in and goes to work – there is nothing he cannot do. Edward is never idle and quite good at making things happen. His most recent job is bug chef!



Deanna Lyle heard the other drummer at Bug and Plant Camp and is becoming quite the horticulturalist! She has been a great help to Dr. Lelia Kelly on the plant side of camp and since we are in a large carnivorous plant mecca at BugFest she leads tours of the pitcher plant bogs introducing visitors to pitcher plants, sundews and bladderwort!



Andrew and Dr. Bill Sanford have been assisting with BugFest for a few years and have even assisted with Bugs Night Out at the Noxubee National Wildlife Refuge. They became very good friends of bug camp their first year by making their farm available for us to collect on when our campsite proved to be insect-free!

Cole Smith and Zandyn Tolar are new BugFest staff and are coming along fine. The lead hikes, answer questions along the trails and help visitors learn to use their nets. We have great expectations for these young entomologists!

Daniel Fleming is new to bug camp but it did not take him long to realize he had found a new twist to his career. Daniel, a doctoral student in Entomology at MSU, is a natural and where-ever he goes he will find outreach easy. Daniel is always thinking and looking for a job left undone. He is quite perceptive and after his first BugFest made some suggestions that will improve the flow of visitors through the activity center.

Terri Borne is a bug and plant camper as well as a teacher. She has discovered that children love bugs and she keeps her collections at school and reports they generate a considerable amount of excitement. It is always exciting to have Terri at BugFest because she is multitalented and can walk from the midway to pinning table without missing a step and she is equally apt at assisting visitors collecting on the trails. She is also a great asset at Bug Camp.

Bee Essay Contest – 2013

Campers, this should be easy money for you! It is early, so get started now with your essay and go over it again during the Christmas holiday. I think Mississippi has had one second place winner at the national level and several follow-ups. -- Dr. John

Topic for 2013: *Reducing the Usage of Bee-Killing Pesticides in my Community*

Length: 750 to 1000 words (This does not include references and Biographical sketch.)

Format: Submit as Microsoft Word compatible document, double spaced in 12-pt Times

Due Date: **January 10, 2013, before 5:00 PM**

Contest is open to active 4-H Club Members only.

Submit Mississippi essays to the e-mail address shown below. Do not send to the national Foundation office. (The first place essay for Mississippi will be submitted for national competition.)

Submit Essays Electronically to:

Sherry McMullin: smcmullin@entomology.msstate.edu, write “4-H Beekeeping Essay” in the subject line. Be sure to include your biographical sketch.

State Level Prizes:

First Place: \$100
Second Place: \$75
Third Place: \$50

National Level Prizes:

First Place: \$750
Second Place: \$500
Third Place: \$250



Rules, Requirements, and Judging Criteria

1. Contest is open to active 4-H Club members only.
4-H'ers who have previously placed first, second, or third at the national level are not eligible; but other state winners are eligible to re-enter.
2. Requirements (failure to meet any one requirement disqualifies the essay)
 - Write on the designated subject only.
 - All factual statements must be referenced with bibliographical-style endnotes.
 - A brief biographical sketch of the essayist, including date of birth, gender, complete mailing address, and telephone number, must accompany the essay.
 - Length – the essay proper: 750 to 1000 words.
 - The word count does not include the endnotes, the bibliography or references, nor the essayist's biographical sketch – which should be on a separate page.
 - Preparation for National Judging: ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS ONLY.
Prepare your essays double-spaced, 12-pt. Times or similar type style, following standard manuscript format. Submit as a Microsoft Word compatible document.
3. Essays will be judged on (a) scope of research - 40%; (b) accuracy - 30%; (c)creativity – 10%; (d) conciseness - 10%; and (e) logical development of the topic - 10%.
4. **Submit Essays Electronically to:** Sherry McMullin: smcmullin@entomology.msstate.edu, write “4-H Beekeeping Essay” in the subject line. Be sure to include your biographical sketch.

Sponsors: Sponsored by the American Beekeeping Federation, the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees, Inc. and the Mississippi Beekeepers Association

Dr. John Guyton, Editor
jguyton@ext.msstate.edu
662-325-3482



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