

# Entomological Society of Saskatchewan Inc.

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107 Science Place, Saskatoon, SK S7N 0X2

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## WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT Coreen Franke

Welcome to new ESS members Doug Baldwin, Dan Hupka, Mike Robinson, and Janice Tranberg. (Remember, Mike, new members get to bring the doughnuts to the spring meeting!) I would like to remind all members that 1994/95 membership fees are due if you have not yet renewed (\$10.00 regular membership, \$5.00 student membership). Please remit cheques to Julie Soroka, Treasurer - Entomological Society of Saskatchewan, 107 Science Place, Saskatoon, SK, S7N 0X2. For new members, please include your mailing address, phone number, and company affiliation, if applicable.

## ESS/ESA JOINT MEETING Coreen Franke

The joint ESS/ESA meeting held in Canmore, AB, October 27th-29th, 1994 was a huge success. Martin Erlandson, Coreen Franke, Lloyd Harris, Keith Moore, Owen Olfert, and Julie Soroka were among the approximately 50 people who attended. The theme of the meeting was "Human activities and biodiversity of arthropods". A paper by Nancy Melnychuk et al. entitled "Factors affecting biodiversity in agro-ecosystems" was included in the symposium, as well as four other papers presented by the ESS group. Four student papers competed for the "best student paper" prize of \$100.00 awarded by the ESS. Ms. Robin McQueen received the award for her paper on "Management of birch leaf miner in northern cities". Coreen Franke made the presentation on behalf of the ESS at the banquet on October 28th.

The drive out to Canmore for the joint meeting was a bit disconcerting for one ESS member because of a shortcut taken by the driver. Apparently, crossing Texas gates in the middle of Alberta after dark triggered a phobia of some sort. The trip back to Saskatoon was uneventful; after gorging on buffalo burgers, most travellers were content to let the scenery go by.

A.R. BROOKS MEMORIAL PRIZE  
Coreen Franke

The recipient of the A.R. Brooks Memorial Prize for 1994 was Dwayne Hegedus of the University of Saskatchewan. Dwayne is currently a PhD student under George Khachatourians in the Department of Applied Microbiology and Food Science at the University of Saskatchewan. His current research involves molecular and biochemical aspects of the mechanisms of pathogenesis of the entomopathogenic fungus *Beauveria bassiana*. Dwayne has also contributed to the field of entomology with work examining fungal disease processes in insects, studies of insect defense mechanisms, development of temperature-sensitive mycopesticides, and production of DNA probes for the tracking of microbial agents in both insects and the environment. It was my great pleasure, together with Dr. William Brooks (son of Arthur Brooks), to present the \$500.00 prize to Dwayne (photo below).



Full time students who have been registered for at least one academic year in the College of Graduate Studies (in the field of entomology) at either the University of Saskatchewan or the University of Regina are eligible to apply for the Arthur R. Brooks Memorial Prize. The prize is awarded each year by the Entomological Society of Saskatchewan to an outstanding student who has demonstrated ability in the area of entomological research and contributed to entomology in Saskatchewan. The deadline for applications is September 1st. For further information, contact Dr. Owen Olfert, Secretary - Entomological Society of Saskatchewan, 107 Science Place, Saskatoon, SK, S7N 0X2.

**JOHN NERLAND RETIRES**  
Julie Soroka

John Nerland has retired from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada after working for over 21 years with the Department. He started working with Jim Hunter's weed crew at Regina Research Station in 1973, and then transferred to the Forage Section at Saskatoon Research Station in 1977. John's entomological interests flourished when he joined Harvey Craig as a technician in forage entomology, and continued as he worked with Julie Soroka. John aided the program in controlling pest insects in forages, and he was in charge of maintaining the Station's leafcutting bee colony.

Over seventy of John's friends and colleagues attended a retirement luncheon held in his honour at the Parktown Hotel on January 17th, 1995 to wish him a pleasant and long retired life. With his wife Louise still in the work force, John has no plans to pull up stakes and leave Saskatoon in the near future. Best wishes, John.

**BUY "THE BOOK"**  
Julie Soroka

Copies of the Entomological Society of Canada and the Canadian Phytopathological Society's book, "Diseases and Pests of Vegetable Crops in Canada" are now available from the ESC head office. This book was over seven years in the making and is an excellent source of information on vegetable problems. Sales have been going well, but the societies are liable for publishing costs and a considerable number of copies need to be sold in order to break even. So buy a copy, get a great book, and help out the societies as well. Hard or soft covered copies can be obtained either from bookstores or directly from The Entomological Society of Canada, 393 Winston Avenue, Ottawa, ON, K2A 1Y8, tel (613) 725-2619, fax (613) 725-9349. A French edition will be available shortly.

**ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA - ANNUAL MEETINGS**  
Julie Soroka

The joint annual meeting of the Entomological Society of Canada and the Entomological Society of Manitoba took place in Winnipeg on October 15th-19th, 1994. The Plenary Symposium addressed insect movement, with M. Rankin, Steve Vogel, Bernie Roitberg, and Jeremy McNeill as guest speakers. Workshop and symposia subjects included silviculture approaches to IPM, employment opportunities in entomology, insect biodiversity, insect-host interactions and IPM, advances in forest and urban tree pest management, biological control of purple loosestrife, and semiochemicals. Sam Loschiavo gave the Heritage Lecture, entitled "Manitoba Six-Legged Pests and Two-Legged Pioneers". Tom Royama won the Gold Medal Award for excellence in Science, and Dan Quiring won the Hewitt Award.

Over 200 people attended the meeting. The 1995 joint annual meeting of the Entomological Societies of Canada and British Columbia will be held at the Victoria Conference Centre, Victoria, BC, October 15th-18th, 1995. Symposia topics include social insects, aspects of biodiversity, and IPM in British Columbia. More information can be obtained from Terry Shore at (204) 363-0600.

#### RETIREMENT (AND URBAN ANTS)

Larry Burgess

Retirement continues to be great! For the first time since starting school in Grade 1, one can set one's own priorities and schedules. We spend a lot of time enjoying our family and our grandchildren, who are a new and truly delightful experience. We do a modest amount of travelling and have had some excellent trips to the Rockies, British Columbia, and the northwestern United States. This spring we plan to visit our youngest daughter and her husband, and our newest grandchild, in Vancouver. I continue to do a lot of reading and cycling, and belong to the Pioneer Threshermen's Club at the Western Development Museum. My particular interest is steam engines, and at present we are restoring a large steam-driven tracked log hauler called a "Centipede", which was used in the northern forests of Manitoba and Saskatchewan in the early days of this century.

I still maintain an interest in insects, birds, and natural history. While I was employed by Agriculture Canada, I spent much effort trying to establish laboratory colonies of various insects, sometimes with little success. However, now, with no effort on my part, we have a thriving colony of a largish species of red ant living under the foundation of our house. This colony first came to our attention a number of years ago, when in late summer a swarm of winged queens and males appeared from behind a timber brace in our basement. My first thought was to get rid of the colony, as while a few foraging ants were not unwelcome, a swarm of males and large females ready to take flight certainly was. After disposing of the swarm with a pyrethrin spray, I purchased numerous ant traps; supposedly the ants would enter these and carry back poisonous morsels to the main colony. However, although we often saw ants, I never saw an ant enter a trap, and the colony continued to thrive, with production of new males and queens again the following summer. Subsequently, it took two years of effort and several tubes of caulking compound to finally and effectively plug the crack in the stub cement wall behind the brace through which the ants gained access to the basement. So now we live in harmony, the ant colony still thrives, with a yearly production of new queens and males outside by the back step, while inside we no longer have to cope with swarms of winged ants, nor the nonwinged forms running up the walls or trying to swim in the bathtub.

YOUNG ENTOMOLOGIST'S SOCIETY  
Martin Erlandson

Several members of the ESS have expressed an interest in the Young Entomologist's Society (YES). The society has a nominal annual membership fee of US \$7.00 and several society periodical subscriptions are available at an additional cost. As is obvious from the name, the society is aimed at providing information for children and students interested in entomology. YES has a variety of educational packages available that should be of interest to those involved in amateur encouragement and in educational programs. The society also has publications that would be of interest to entomologists and collectors whether young or old. For example, YES has a manual entitled "Caring for insect livestock: An insect rearing manual" which includes rearing information on 60 different arthropod species. I will be receiving some pamphlets and information on the society if anyone is interested. The society's address is: The Young Entomologist's Society, 1915 Peggy Place, Lansing, MI 48910-2553. Phone (517) 887-0499.

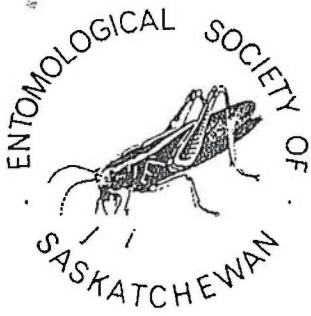
NEWS FROM AGRICULTURE CANADA RESEARCH CENTRE - SASKATOON  
Martin Erlandson

As of December, 1994 our group moved into a newly renovated laboratory on the third floor of the Research Centre. The move went reasonably smoothly and we have settled into our new quarters. We suffered through several very cold arctic weather fronts alternating with hot, humid tropical air masses, and even a warm monsoon rain, during our first several weeks of occupancy but the weather now seems to be dominated by a moderately stable air mass. As of August we have a new member in the lab. Doug Baldwin has joined us on an 18 month term and is working on a Green Plan-funded study of the interaction between virus infection and *Microplitis mediator* parasitism in bertha armyworm. As part of this project, we are also doing some small scale field-cage trials of virus applications on canola for control of bertha armyworm. This summer's trials, run in collaboration with Bob Elliott at the Research Centre, showed some encouraging results with good initiation of virus infection in bertha armyworm larvae.

The graduate students in our lab, Sheping Li and David Moody, are looking towards finishing up their research in the near future. Mr. Li is now mapping some interesting genetic differences among plaque purified isolates of the bertha armyworm virus. David is in the midst of sequencing a bertha armyworm virus cloned DNA fragment which hopefully contains the polyhedrin gene.

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF REGINA  
William Chapco

Entomological work currently underway in my laboratory includes ongoing research on the phylogenetic relationships among grasshoppers within the major subfamilies using molecular methods. PhD graduate student Wanda Kuperus is involved in the project, which includes trying to ascertain phylogenetic relationships among orthopteroid insects... e.g. grasshoppers, crickets, mantids, walking-sticks, cockroaches, etc. Wanda holds an NSERC (PGSB) scholarship. As well, research is continuing with R. Kelln, Dept. of Chemistry, on an ADF-funded project entitled "Genetically Engineered Biopesticides for Control of Insect Infestations".



Entomological Society of Saskatchewan Inc.

15 January 1995

Agriculture Canada  
Saskatoon Research Centre  
107 Science Place  
Saskatoon, Sask.  
S7N 0X2

REMINDER: 1995 membership dues

Dear ESS Member;

This is a reminder that the 1995 membership dues of the Entomological Society of Saskatchewan are due NOW. These dues help fund activities of the Society for the entire year.

For those of you who have not done so, please take a moment to drop your cheque in the mail or drop it in my mail slot at the Research Centre.

Thank you for your support.

Your dues are:	_____ Student member	(\$5.00)
	_____ Regular member	(\$10.00)
	_____ Life member	(\$200.00)
	Total:	\$_____

Yours sincerely,

Julie Soroka  
Treasurer, ESS