

NEWSLETTER

MICHIGAN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume I, Number 1

March 1956



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A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE-SECRETARY

This issue of the Newsletter of the Michigan Entomological Society, the first and we hope the forerunner of many more to come, is being sent to all persons within the state who have either professed an interest or are known to have an interest in the study of insects. It is hoped that many of you contacted in this manner will become affiliated with one of the branch organizations in Ann Arbor, Detroit, or East Lansing. Likewise, it is also hoped that you will see fit to join the state organization.

The Constitution of the Michigan Entomological Society states that "it shall be the purpose of this Society to promote the science of entomology in all of its branches and by all feasible means, and to advance cooperation and good-fellowship." among persons interested in entomology." This has been construed to mean all persons having an interest in the study of insects, whether amateur or professional, beginner or old hand.

Present plans call for the Newsletter to be published at least four times a year, in March, June, October, and December. This will depend somewhat upon the availability of news items to include, so do not hesitate to send in news items for inclusion in the Newsletter. These may include items of interest concerning field trips, activities of the various members, and the wants or needs of various members for particular specimens.

It may be pointed out that the Constitution provides that only the members of the State organization are to receive the Newsletter and other publications of the Society, so it behoves you to send in the enclosed application blank for membership together with the required fees — \$1.00 for student members, \$2.00 for active members, or \$25.00 or more for sustaining members.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
MICHIGAN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

East Lansing, May 7, 1955

The first annual meeting of the Michigan Entomological Society was held in the Natural Science Building at Michigan State University on May 7, 1955.

At 10:00 AM George Steyskal, President pro tem., and the provisional regional chairmen, R. L. Fischer (East Lansing), T. H. Hubbell (Ann Arbor), and Dominic DeGiusti (Detroit) met to go over the proposed Constitution and By-laws, patterned after those of the Entomological Society of America. The possibility of publishing a Newsletter and eventually a scientific publication by the Michigan Entomological Society were discussed. The adoption of the Constitution and By-laws was recommended by the group.

At 11:00 AM an informal get-together was held in Room 244. Most of the group arrived at this time and a very pleasant half-hour was spent renewing old acquaintances and making new ones. The group then went over to the Union for lunch.

At 1:00 PM the regular meeting began in Room 401. The following persons were present:

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| Annumerman, F. E. | Houk, W. E. |
| Cantrall, I. J. | Hubbell, T. H. |
| DeGiusti, D. | Hutson, R. |
| Drew, W. A. | Johnston, D. H. |
| Fischer, R. L. | Johnston, G. E. |
| Gosling, D. C. L. | Leonard, F. A. |
| Gosling, M. A. | Leonard, J. W. |
| Goyer, R. W. | McAlpine, W. S. |
| Guyer, G. E. | McReynolds, M. |
| Hodges, R. W. | Nielsen, M. C. |
| | Rogers, J. S. |
| | Steyskal, G. C. |

The meeting opened with a few words of welcome by R. L. Fischer. Notes from several persons who expressed their regrets at not being able to attend the meeting were read. These included; J. M. Bonar, A. M. Chickering, L. L. Curry, K. L. Hays, W. F. Merofsky, A. L. Olson, and T. W. Porter. Mr. John Bonar invited the group to use a 40 acre plot of cut-over land near South Branch at any time for collecting, camping, etc.

The following papers were then presented:

Reflections on the History of Entomology in MichiganRay Hutson, Mich. St. Univ.

Cockroaches of Southern Florida.....
.....Irving J. Cantrall, E. S. George Reserve

The Place of the Amateur in Entomology
..... Geo. C. Steyskal, Grosse Ile

Demonstration of a Punch-Card System for Taxonomic Characters and Distribution
.....Theo. H. Hubbell, Univ. of Michigan

Interesting discussion followed each paper.

Geo. Steyskal then read the proposed Constitution and By-laws. Some discussion followed including the passage of a motion to amend a section pertaining to bonding the Executive-Secretary and auditing of accounts. Other minor changes in the Constitution and By-laws were also suggested by those present. The Constitution and By-laws were then adopted by those present, with the proviso that the amended changes be incorporated into the Constitution and By-laws by the Governing Board, to take effect immediately upon conclusion of the meeting.

Dues were set by unanimous vote of those attending at \$2.00 per year for active members and \$1.00 for student members.

T. H. Hubbell invited the Society, in line with the expressed intent of rotating the annual meetings between East Lansing, Ann Arbor and Detroit, to meet in Ann Arbor in 1956. A date earlier than May 7 was recommended by those present for the next annual meeting. W. F. Morofsky, director of the Kellogg Gull Lake Biological Station of Michigan State University, invited the Society to meet for some future annual meeting at the station. This would include the use of the facilities of the Station, with board and room at \$6.00 a day per person at any time when the station was not progress.

The following officers were nominated, and in the absence of additional nominations were elected:

President -- Geo. C. Steyskal, Grosse Ile
President-Elect -- Ray Hutson, Mich. St. Univ.
Executive-Secretary -- Roland L. Fischer,
Mich. St. Univ.

ANN ARBOR BRANCH NEWS NOTES

The organizational meeting of the Ann Arbor Branch of the Michigan Entomological Society was held December 2, 1955, in the University Museums Building at Ann Arbor. The wide publicity given to the proposed organization through the local newspaper, the University campus, the high schools, together with notices sent to persons known to be interested in insects, brought together a group of thirty-two people for the first meeting.

Mr. George Steyskal, president of the Michigan Entomological Society, was present and called the meeting to order. He explained the state organization, its aims and functions, and the role of the branch societies. The following slate of officers was then elected for the Ann Arbor branch:

T. H. Hubbell, Chairman; Marston Bates, Vice-chairman; Ada L. Olson, Secretary-treasurer. A program committee consisting of Robert Malcolm, Tim Newcomb, W. H. Wagner, Jr., and George Rinker was appointed to work with the chairman and vice-chairman to plan the programs for the year.

An interesting discussion followed on suitable programs and activities for the group. It was decided that the meetings be held once each month; that the programs be varied and include a sufficient range of levels of topics to maintain the interest of all members. Long and technical presentations were to be avoided. Subjects mentioned as of interest to the various members were: techniques of collecting, mounting and preserving of specimens; essential data; sources of supplies and equipment; literature; insect photography and illustration; local habitats; exhibitions of private collections and local species; special topics as adaptations, mimicry, etc. Field trips, cooperative preparation of Washtenaw county lists were other activities that were proposed.

The second meeting was held February 10, 1956, in the University Museums Building. The following program was presented: Phyllis Puffer, of Flint, told the interesting life history of a parasitic wasp which she had collected in Florida; W. H. Wagner discussed some rare butterflies in Michigan; Edward Kormondy told of his observations on the flight habits of some dragonflies; and T. H. Hubbell gave a demonstration and descriptions on the mounting of insects. About thirty members were present for this second meeting.

Ted Cohn, who came down with polio immediately upon his arrival in Ann Arbor last fall after a summer spent in Texas and Mexico collecting Orthoptera, is making a good recovery. He is now back at work on his graduate studies and serving as an assistant in the Insect Division of the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology.

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EAST LANSING BRANCH NEW NOTES

R. L. Fischer, W. A. Drew, and R. W. Hodges spent two weeks in mid-June this past summer collecting insects for the entomology museum of Michigan State University. Collections were made in the Black Hills and Badlands areas of South Dakota, eastern Wyoming and Colorado. Some 25,000 specimens were collected on the trip. Included in the collections were eight specimens of Megathymus, the giant skipper, and several specimens of Masaris, the only group of wasps which are known to provision their nests with pollen instead of the usual animal material.

While at Custer State Park in the Black Hills of South Dakota the above trio collected over 200 specimens of various species of butterflies. R. W. Hodges is currently working over this material and plans on publishing a check-list of the butterflies of the area.

The organizational meeting of the East Lansing branch will be held in the Natural Science Building at Michigan State University at 8:00 PM on April 12, 1956. All those within the area are cordially invited to attend.

Richard C. Fox, formerly with the Michigan Department of Conservation, is a recent addition to the staff. His work includes teaching and research associated with bark beetles which transmit the organism that causes Dutch Elm Disease.

G. Guyer, W. A. Drew, and O. Tabacada took a two week trip through the Upper Peninsula in July to collect aquatic insects for class and museum use. They also conducted surveys of both aquatic insect problems in the Upper Peninsula and the black fly infestation in the Keweenaw Peninsula.