Newsletter of the Great Lakes Entomological Society

-formerly the Michigan Entomological Society-

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Recap of the 71st Annual Meeting of the Great Lakes Entomological Society

October 25, 2025, 1 to 5 pm, via Zoom.

Over twenty members attended the meeting. Participants had the opportunity to see several fine presentations and there was ample time for important discussion during the business meeting that followed.

Our featured speaker was Dr. Hannah Burrack, the Professor & Chair of the Department of Entomology at Michigan State University. Her presentation, "Department achievements and challenges in a time of difficult funding", provided an excellent overview of the department, its ties with other university entities, and current funding challenges.

Dr. Burrack also discussed graduate and undergraduate student enrollment trends, proudly noting that the department welcomed its largest incoming class ever. Fifteen new majors and twelve minors joined "Team Emerald Ash Borer, bringing the department to 48 undergraduate majors. Numbers have nearly doubled over the past three years, reflecting growing interest in entomology and the department's expanding academic opportunities.

Presentation Abstracts and more

Investigating the Effect of Urban Habitat Fragmentation on Parasitoid Wasp Diversity in Two Michigan Wetlands

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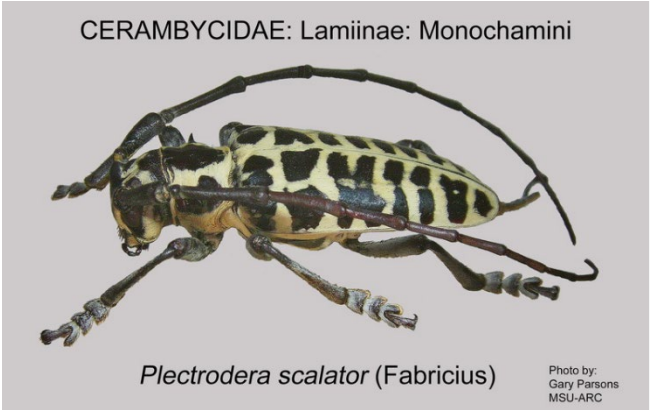
Wetlands are some of the most ecologically significant ecosystems in the world and are often very biodiverse, containing many unique species. Terrestrial insects make up most of this diversity. Parasitoid wasps occur in most ecosystems and serve critical ecological roles like host population management, pest control, and pollination. Considering their diversity in most ecosystems, they likely make up a significant component of the terrestrial

insect diversity in wetlands as well. However, few studies have investigated parasitoid wasp populations in wetlands and how they change in response to environmental disturbances.

In 2024 I collected parasitoid wasps with yellow pan traps in two wetland habitats, one within a residential area in Rochester, Michigan and the other within Bald Mountain State Recreation Area in Oakland County, Michigan, and compared diversity between the sites using the Shannon-Weiner diversity index. The wetland at Bald Mountain is a relatively undeveloped southern wet meadow bordering West Graham Lake, while the residential site is a heavily fragmented scrub wetland on the campus of Stoney Creek High School, where I attended. In total, 115 unique hymenopteran morphospecies were collected from late August to late October. The undeveloped wetland was more species rich than the urbanized wetland but had significantly lower species evenness. The Shannon-Wiener diversity index for Bald Mountain was calculated to be 2.58. The Shannon-Wiener diversity index for the urban site was calculated to be 4.13. Bald Mountain had higher species richness, but showed lower species evenness, with 22 specimens of a single species of an entire catch from that site. This could have been due to that species emerging later in the season than other species or a large population of its host could have been present at the site.

While the diversity index suggests that the urbanized wetland was the more diverse site, repeated surveys of wetlands are needed to make any significant conclusions about the relationship between parasitoid wasp diversity and urbanization in wetlands. Ideally, future studies should use a greater variety of trapping methods and sample more sites over a longer period. An interesting direction this research could be taken in is to investigate the effectiveness of parasitoid wasps as indicators of insect diversity or habitat health.

Photo by Duke Elsner



Michigan Coleoptera List Project
Bill Ruesink[1], Robert Haack[2] & Gary Parsons[3],

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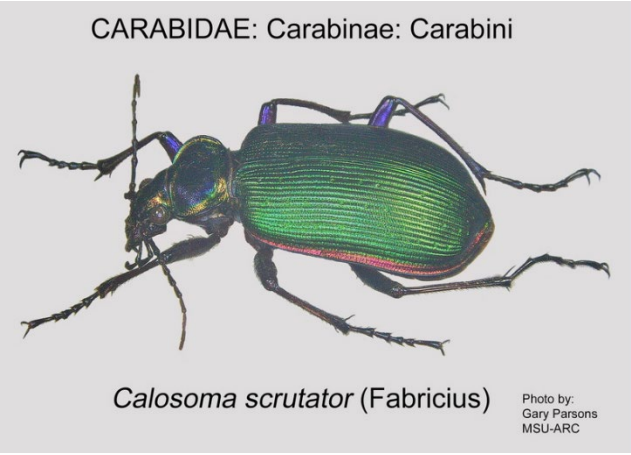
[3]Department of Entomology, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824 (Emeritus) (parsonsg@msu.edu)

The Beetles of Michigan project started in 2019 when Bob and I were writing up the results of a beetle survey at Grass River Natural Area that we had done the two previous years (Haack and Ruesink 2020). We wanted to say if anything we found there was a new state record for Michigan, and we discovered that the most recent list of Michigan beetles was published in 1878 (Hubbard and Schwarz 1878). So, we decided to update their list and asked Gary Parsons to join us as a third investigator.

Our goal was to produce what is called a checklist, that is, a list of every beetle species presumed to occur in Michigan. Our list differs from a standard or basic checklist because ours includes up to six sources for each record, and it is annotated as to whether we think the record is accepted, probably correct, doubtful or definitely erroneous.

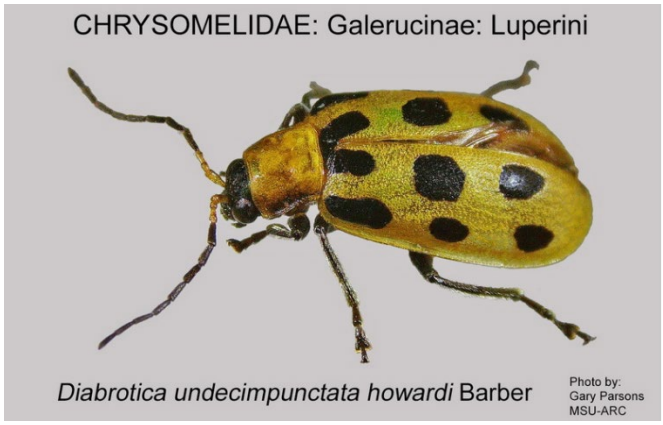
Because it is only a checklist it does not contain information on seasonality or life histories. Nor does it say where in Michigan it has been found. Nor does it include identification keys. In 1910, W. S. Blatchley published a book called the Coleoptera of Indiana that did include all of these last four topics (Blatchley 1910). So maybe calling our list the "Beetles of Michigan" is an overstatement.

The first and most time consuming task was to find what species have been reported since 1878. We began by looking at the tables of contents for every issue of the Michigan Entomologist and its successor The Great Lakes Entomologist. For each title that sounded like it might have new Michigan records, we read the article and recorded what species were found. Next, we did the same for every issue of the Coleopterists Bulletin, and most issues of Insecta Mundi, ZooKeys and Zootaxa. We also looked is several recents books on specific beetle families. After that we downloaded records from SCAN (Symbiota Collections of Arthropods Network), BugGuide, and iNaturalist, as well as searched Google Scholar using the search terms “Michigan” and then every beetle family.



Gary Parsons had a list of every Michigan species in the MSU-ARC insect collection, although it was about 15 years out of date. We found several hundred names on his list that were not found in any of the literature that we had searched. For each of those species, we looked at the specimen(s) and confirmed or rejected the identification to the best of our ability. This added nearly 300 names to our list.

The next task was to ensure we were using the currently accepted scientific name for each species. We relied mostly on BugGuide and GBIF (Global Biodiversity Information Facility) for this. They usually agreed, but when they didn’t, we had to evaluate their reasons and pick one or the other.



Then we had to assign a "record quality" opinion on each species. That is, did we believe that species really does occur in Michigan. We used four categories: accepted, probably correct, doubtful or definitely erroneous. In most cases what appears in our list is entirely just my (WGR) personal opinion, but that was influenced heavily by where else it occurs in the US or Canada and by the credentials of the author of the publication reporting the record.

The biggest challenge was keeping accurate records of where we had looked and of what we found in all those places.

We used two main spreadsheets: (1) every published and unpublished source we looked at, tagging the ones that had useful Michigan data, and (2) a master list of every species reported in each source we used. When the second one was sorted by species, we discovered that some species had been found in more than 20 sources.

The final challenge was deciding how best to move information from our spreadsheets to the website, especially how much could be automated to minimize unnecessary duplication and rekeying.

Our website (https://beetlesofmichigan.org/) has been fully functional for a little over 2 years now, and most pages have not been updated since the last family was posted in 2023. We have additional data on hand that has not been posted yet. Some of the new information is simply additional sources (e.g., adding UMMZ holdings) or changes in the tribal assignment of some genera. Two years ago the list had 4389 accepted and probably correct species, but if we updated the site today that number would be closer to 4500.

A few tasks remain: (1) publish a final report of new Michigan state record for species found in the MSU-ARC or UMMZ collection in the GLES Newsletter, (2) update several web pages, especially those of families with additional species, (3) add species to the photo gallery as time permits, (4) arrange for long-term maintenance of the website, and (5) continue discussions on whether a hard-copy printed version would be worthwhile.

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How far does the caddis fly? Modeling Trichoptera dispersal from a first-order Michigan stream

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While adult caddisflies are highly useful biotic indicators of lakes and streams, it is not clear how far specimens disperse from their natal stream. The purpose of this study, therefore, was to measure dispersal of adult caddisflies from a small stream in northern Michigan and use both morphological and environmental data to produce models of expected dispersal distance for common taxa.

Eleven passive malaise traps were set out 1–199 meters from the stream and checked weekly from April to August 2025. Seven ultraviolet blacklight traps were set in the same area monthly from May to August 2025.

Blacklight traps were more effective at sampling caddisflies than malaise traps. Larger species tended to disperse farther than smaller ones, and all common species dispersed farther as the flight season progressed. Unsurprisingly, nearly all species demonstrated an exponential decline in specimen abundance as distance from the stream increased. Continued sampling over subsequent years will produce the replicates needed to begin modeling predicted flight distance.

How ground beetles (Coleoptera: Carabidae) respond to various silvicultural treatments in the northern hardwoods and pine plantations of the Great Lakes Region

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Silvicultural practices in forestry include activities such as site preparation, tree planting, thinning, and tree harvesting. Sometimes single trees are removed while in other cases large tracts of forest are clearcut. Logging activities bring about many environmental changes in light, temperature, soil moisture and vegetation structure, and thus can influence local plant and animal communities. Ground beetles (Carabidae) are good bioindicators of environmental change because they are (1) highly sensitive to habitat alterations, (2) diverse, (3) abundant, and (4) well known taxonomically. There are about 2,500 described species of Carabidae in North America. Most carabids are carnivorous predators that mostly hunt at night. Many other carabids are herbivores feeding primarily on seeds. After trees within an area of forest have been harvested, grasses and sedges often quickly colonize the newly opened sites that now lack forest canopy trees. These newly cleared sites attract many carabids known as open-habitat specialists, which are also predominantly seed feeders.

We were involved in four studies in the Lake States in the 1990s and early 2000s that monitored changes in the carabid community because of various forestry practices. Details of each of these studies have recently been published (Haack et al. 2024a, 2024b, 2025a) or soon will be (Haack et al. 2025b). In all four studies, we used similar barrier pitfall traps to collect carabids. A summary of each study is given here with a few highlights.

The first study to be published took place on the Huron-Manistee National Forest in Newaygo County, Michigan. This project involved removal of mature red pine stands that had been planted on former dry sand prairie sites. We sampled in 3 different years (1996, 1997, 1999) both before and after logging the red pine stands, as well as in nearby oak-pine barrens and prairie sites. Overall, 16,259 carabids were collected, representing 92 species. We collected 27 species in the uncut red pine stands, 28 in the oak-pine barrens, 41 in the natural prairie, and 77 in the clearcuts. The carabid assemblages in the two forested sites (uncut red pine stands and the oak-pine barrens) were very similar, with many forest specialists present. However, the mix of carabid species in the prairie and clearcut sites were different, with many more open-habitat species present. The top five most frequently collected species based on all specimens collected were: *Harpalus pensylvanicus* (25.2% of 16,259), *Carabus goryi* (24.0%), *Synuchus impunctatus*

(10.3%), *Pterostichus pensylvanicus* (7.7%) and *Harpalus lewisii* (6.3%).

The second published study examined changes in the carabid communities in aspen sites on the Huron-Manistee National Forest in Oscoda County, Michigan, where three levels of soil compaction and three levels of biomass removal were tested. We sampled in 1995, the second growing season after the trees had been cut and the treatments imposed. Overall, we collected 3690 carabids that represented 46 species. We found little impact of soil compaction on the carabid communities. However, with respect to biomass removal, we found similar assemblages in the "stem-only harvested" and "whole-tree harvested" plots, but a different mix in the plots subjected to both whole-tree harvesting and removal of the upper litter layer (e.g. more species that preferred open habitats and recent site disturbance were present). Again there was a shift from forest specialists in the uncut aspen stands to more open-habitat species in the clearcut aspen plots. The top five species were: *Cyclotrachelus sodalis* (17.3% of 3690), *Myas cyanescens* (14.6%), *S. impunctatus* (12.8%), *Pterostichus mut*us (10.6%), and *Carabus nemoralis* (10.4%).

The third study took place on the Nicolet National Forest in Forest County, Wisconsin. Several forest gaps of five different sizes (diameters of 18, 33, 66, 100, and 150 feet and a no-cut control) were cut in a mature northern hardwood forest dominated by sugar maple. Smaller gaps favor regeneration by shade-tolerant tree species like sugar maple, whereas larger gaps favor tree species of intermediate shade tolerance, like yellow birch. We sampled the year before logging in 1994, and then two years after the gaps were cut in 1997. Overall, we collected 27,111 carabids that represented 60 species. The carabid communities in the smaller 18- and 33-foot diameter gaps were similar to the species mix in uncut forests. However, the carabid mix was very different in the 100- and 150-foot-diameter gaps, with many more open-habitat species found and fewer forest specialists. The top five species were: *S. impunctatus* (35.6% of 27,111), *Calosoma frigidum* (13.3%), *Pterostichus coracinus* (9.6%), *Calathus ingratus* (5.1%), and *Pterostichus melanarius* (3.7%).

Calosoma frigidum adult male

(Photo by Frank Guarnieri)

It is noteworthy that only 16 *Calosoma frigidum* adults were collected in 1994, compared with 3595 in 1997. This carabid is commonly called the "Cold-Country Caterpillar Hunter." We suspect that populations of this beetle were increasing dramatically in response to building populations of the Bruce spanworm, *Operophtera bruceata* (Lepidoptera: Geometridae), which is a maple defoliator that reached outbreak levels in the area in 1998.

The fourth study is currently in review and deals with changes in the carabid assemblages near and upland from seasonal ponds (= vernal pools) in primarily mature aspen forests in Minnesota where various levels of tree harvesting occurred in the winter of 2000-2001. Minnesota

requires that a 50-foot-wide buffer of trees be left uncut around seasonal ponds during logging operations, which usually occur during winter. We wanted to examine if the carabid species mix was similar both near and upland from seasonal ponds before any logging, and how the species mix changed once the upland forest was clearcut and the buffer areas were treated in various ways.

There were four treatments: (1) control sites where no logging occurred in the 50-foot-wide pond buffers as well as in the adjacent upland forest, (2) uncut 50-foot-wide buffers were left around ponds but with the upland forest clearcut, (3) partially cut buffers (50% reduction) were left around ponds with the upland forest clearcut, and (4) the buffers were clearcut to the pond edge as well as the upland forest but with a few residual uncut patches of trees left in the uplands. We sampled before (2000) and after logging (2002).

Overall, we collected 15,857 carabid specimens that represented 99 species. We found similar carabid communities near and upland from the seasonal ponds in 2000, the year before any logging. However, after logging, the clearcut uplands had the most distinct assemblages, with many open-habitat species colonizing the cut sites along with reductions in forest specialists. The carabid mix in the uncut buffers was most similar to the (uncut) control plots (with many forest specialists present), while the mix in the clearcut buffers was most like the clearcut uplands (with many open-habitat species present). When the uplands were clearcut the uncut buffers and residual forest patches served as refugia for many forest specialists and flightless carabids. The top five species were: *Platynus decentis* (34.7% of 15,857), *Pterostichus pensylvanicus* (12.2%), *Synuchus impunctatus* (6.8%), *Agonum retractum* (6.2%), and *Agonum cupripenne* (5,9%).

Overall, 170 carabid species were collected in all four studies combined. Of these, 17 species were collected in all four studies; 21 were collected in three studies; 34 were collected in two studies; and 98 were collected in just one study. The 17 species collected in all four studies were: *Agonum cupripenne, Agonum placidum, Agonum retractum, Bembidion quadrimaculatum oppositum, Calosoma frigidum, Cymindis cribricollis, Harpalus laticeps, Harpalus providens, Harpalus somnulentus, Myas cyanescens, Poecilus lucublandus, Pterostichus melanarius, Pterostichus mutus, Pterostichus pensylvanicus, Pterostichus tristis, Sphaeroderus stenostomus leconte*i, and *Syntomus americanus*. Three new state records were reported in these studies: *Dicaelus furvus furvus* Dejean and *Hartonymus hoodi* Casey for Michigan (Haack et al. 2024a) and *Badister reflexus* LeConte for Minnesota (Haack et al. 2025b)

Currently, 528 carabid species (including tiger beetles) have been reported in Michigan (Ruesink et al. 2023), 460 in Minnesota (Dawson and Horn 1928, Tinerella and Rider 2000, Gandhi et al. 2005), and 499 in Wisconsin (Messer 2009, 2014). Therefore, assuming there are about 500–600 carabid species in this 3-state region, then our 170 species from four locations in the northern hardwoods and pine plantations of the Great Lakes Region represent about 28–34% of all carabid species present.

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A review of three notable moth species in Michigan

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The author is in his second summer of moth photography at his Hamlin Township residence in Mason County, Michigan. Of approximately 256 species photographed thus far, three species are notable: *Nemapogon auropulvella* (0263)[Tineidae], *Athrips mouffetella* (1852)[Gelechiidae], and *Zanclognatha litturalis* (8340)[Erebidae].

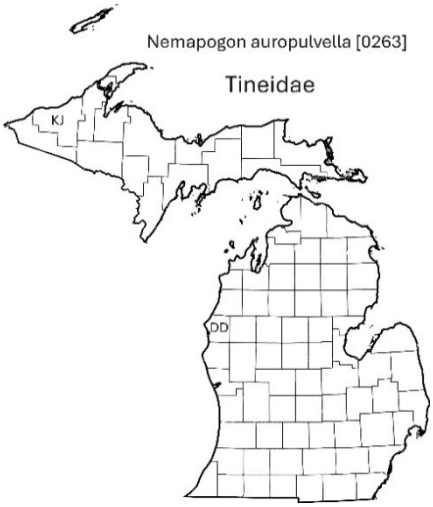
In reviewing the photo files of the Moth Photographers Group and Butterflies & Moths of North America on their respective websites, none of the above taxa were represented. In reviewing the UMMZ Lepidoptera database, none of the above taxa were found. A review of the MSU Lepidoptera database was not possible as the database is off-line until January 2026.

Additionally, the author contacted two field researchers conducting moth studies in Michigan: Kyle Johnson and Brian Scholtens. Email correspondence occurred with these individuals between July 20, 2025, and August 3, 2025, regarding the abovementioned taxa. The comments

received and the author's photo vouchers are summarized below.

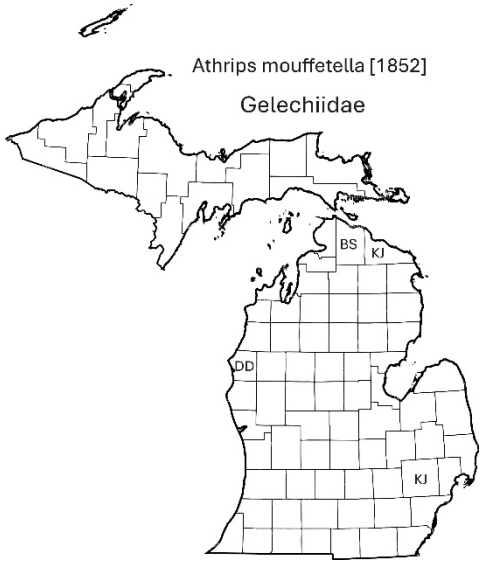
Nemapogon auropulvella (0263):

The author photographed this moth taxon July 13, 2025, and a specimen was collected August 6, 2025. Kyle Johnson stated he had collected some in the Porcupine Mountains of Ontonagon County in 2022 using sesiid pheromone lures. Brian Scholtens has not taken this taxon.



Athrips mouffetella (1852):

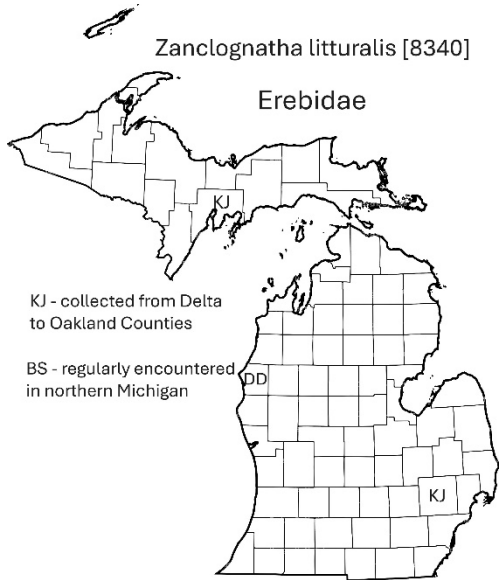
The author photographed this taxon July 27, 2025. Kyle Johnson stated he collected this taxon from Oakland to Presque Isle Counties. Brian Scholtens stated he has collected this taxon at the UMBS in Cheboygan County and also reared one from Lonicera in 2022 (both reported in his recent Gelechiidae paper).



Zanclognatha litturalis (8340):

The author photographed this taxon July 11, 2025. Kyle Johnson stated that this taxon has a broad range across Michigan though is rather uncommon and that he has collected it from Delta to Oakland Counties. Brian Scholtens stated he has encountered this taxon regularly in northern Michigan.

In summation, it appears that of these three taxa, *Nemopogon auropulvella* is the least reported by field observers as well as moth photographers.



Election Process and Results

John Douglass, Past President

According to our organization's Bylaws (Article VI, Section 4), in election years in which we lack multiple contenders for particular offices, it is permitted to accept a particular year's slate of candidates by a simple vote of the Board, without having to hold a formal election. Such was the case for this year's elections.

By an electronic vote of the Board conducted from November 10 to 17, the following officers were elected:

President-Elect: Dave Houghton

Members at Large:
Dwayne Badgero
Dave Dister
Darrin O'Brien
John Wallace

Their terms begin January 1, 2026.

Ralph Gorton and Bob Haack will be leaving the Board at the end of 2025. We thank them for their service to the Society.

New Webmaster Appointed

John Douglass, Past President

We are very fortunate that Amos Ziegler of MSU has kindly offered to serve as a volunteer Webmaster for MES-GLES !! Amos is an Academic Specialist in the Michigan State University Department of Entomology. His email address is ziegler2@msu.edu.

Amos will begin to make targeted, intermittent improvements to the site, and to begin this, he and I recently discussed the need for our Board to begin making a 'wish list' of desired changes.

Our sincere collective thanks are extended to Gwen Pearson and to Julie Craves, for their very capable work in the interim.

GLES Historical Notes for 2025

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2000 – 25 years ago. In early 2000, when GLES was MES, Ron Priest was President; George Balogh was President-Elect; Leah Bauer was immediate Past-President; Mo Nielsen was Treasurer, Bob Kriegel was Secretary; Owen Perkins, Dave Cuthrell,

and Chip Franke were the three Members-at-Large; Randy Cooper was Journal Editor; Bob Haack and Therese Poland were the Newsletter Editors; and Mark O'Brien was Webmaster.

The 46th MES Annual Meeting was held at the Kellogg Biological Station at Hickory Corners during 1–3 June. There were 3 talks related to the theme of the Annual Meeting: "insect photography." David Ahrenholz gave a "Beginner's Tips" talk on insect photography, followed by Eric Metzler talking on photographing insect specimens for publications, and Mark O'Brien talking about using digital cameras. There were several contributed talks on topics such as Homoptera in dry sand prairies; sex determination in solitary wasps, cherry fruit flies, egg production in boxelder bugs, aquatic insects as bioindicators, the Asian longhorned beetle, and mosquito ovipositional stimulants. There were also two posters, one on carabids, and the other on the Michigan Lepidoptera Survey.

In addition, for the first time for MES, there was a student presentation competition and a photo salon at the annual meeting. Some of the stories contributed by members that appeared in the 2000 MES Newsletters dealt with MSU's entomology outreach programs for youth, a Michigan tagged monarch being recovered in Mexico, purple loosestrife biocontrol efforts in Michigan, beech bark disease being found in Michigan, an update on control efforts for the Asian longhorned beetle in New York and Chicago, the recent West Nile virus outbreak, and a bark beetle outbreak in Belize.

MES also hosted a summer field collection day at Barry State Game Area in August. At the beginning of 2000, MES had 354 members and 199 institutional journal subscriptions. MES annual dues were $15 per year for active members, $5 for students, and $35 for libraries. Journal page charges were $35 per page.

1975– 50 years ago. In early 1975, again when GLES was MES, Robert Husband was President; David Gosling was President-Elect; Richard Fleming was immediate Past-President; Mo Nielsen was Executive-Secretary, Irving Cantrall was the Journal Editor, and Louie Wilson was the MES Newsletter Editor.

The 21st annual MES meeting was held at Glen Oaks Community College on 16 May. The invited speaker was Dr. Vincent Dethier of Princeton University who spoke on "How insects choose their diet." Eight other talks were presented on topics such as is Psithyrus (Bombus) variabilis in Michigan, cricket chromosomes, Hispinae of Michigan, nymphalid hybrids, insects associated with Michigan bumblebees, pyraloid moth pheromones, major forest insect pests in Michigan, and etymology of insect names.

Some of the items discussed in the 1975 MES Newsletters included exotic insects in the USA, listing of endangered Lepidoptera, beekeeping in Michigan, preserving dragonfly wings for use in identification, and collections of some boreal Lepidoptera in southern Michigan. The 7th MES Entomology Notes was published in 1975 on "Sugaring for Moths" by Mo Nielsen (https://michiganentsoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/EntNoteno7.pdf).

Annual dues in 1975 were $4 per year for active members $2 for students, and $6 for library subscriptions. As of early 1975, MES had 405 active members and an additional 190 library subscriptions for the journal. Page charges to publish in The Great Lakes Entomologist were $18 per page.

GLES 2026-2027 Governing Board Members

President - Duke Elsner
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