ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD DECEMBER 4 IN MADISON

The next meeting of the Wisconsin Entomological Society will be held on Saturday, December 4, beginning at 1:30 PM at Russell Labs on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. Russell Labs is located at the corner of Babcock and Linden Drives (see map on back page) and parking is available in lots adjacent to the building. The program will feature our annual photo salon. Any members having slides of entomological subjects are encouraged to participate. Each entrant may submit up to five slides, labelled with the subject and name of photographer. The slides will be evaluated by the audience, which will vote to select the winning entries. The winner's name will be added to the William E. Sieker Memorial Plaque, and a print of the first place slide is added to the display in the Entomology Department office, and is also awarded to the photographer. In addition, one or two short talks are tentatively scheduled, and the U. W. Insect Museum will be open for viewing or specimen identification. Ample time is available for anyone else wishing to make a presentation.

Also on the agenda is the election of officers for 1994. The current officers are: Susan Borkin, President; Phil Pellitteri, Vice President; Carol Ferge, Secretary; and Bob Borth, Treasurer. While all may be persuaded to serve another term, other nominations or volunteers would be most welcome. These may be offered at the meeting, or discussed in advance with Su Borkin. Contact Su at the Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 W. Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53233, or phone (414) 278-2758.

1994 DUES NOTICE

Enclosed in this Newsletter is your dues envelope for 1994. Your prompt attention will be most appreciated. Please note that dues are to be sent directly to the Treasurer, Bob Borth, 6926 N. Belmont Lane, Fox Point, WI 53217. A significant portion of the membership is not currently paid up. To determine your status, please check the address label on this Newsletter. Appearing after your name will be the year dues are paid for and your membership category. Members with an "[NP]" notation will be dropped if payment is not received by January 30, 1994. Also be sure to notify us of any address changes or corrections when you send in your dues.
DRAGONFLY PROPOSED FOR ENDANGERED LIST

William A. Smith


Federal listing will mean increased protection for this species in Wisconsin through changes in land management practices on public (Mud Lake Wildlife Area) and private lands, possibly through acquisition or easement projects, through consideration of this species in regulatory actions, and through protection from taking. The number of parties affected would be minimal because of the very small range of this species in Wisconsin. This species occurs in Door County, on two private nature preserves, one state wildlife area, and on two privately owned properties. Including adjacent owners there are about two dozen property owners/managers potentially impacted. There are between 85 and 100 owners/managers in the watersheds harboring this species. Federal protection has implications for changes in issuance of Federal and State environmental permits, DNR land management activities, and actions resulting in incidental take. The department has already supported the Federal listing of this species and now plans to develop a management plan prior to the effective date of listing.

The Bureau of Endangered Resources has been actively involved with this species. We discovered the Hine’s emerald dragonfly in Wisconsin in 1987; we applied for and received money from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for status determination, life history and habitat work in 1990 and 1991. We recommended Federal listing in our report on these studies and were contracted to draft the Federal listing proposal. We have identified the two Mud Lake Wildlife Area sites and the Three Springs Creek site as BER Preservation Priority areas. We worked closely with Lake Michigan District staff in reviewing two permit proposals which would potentially impact Hine’s emerald dragonfly, and we have indicated to several people that this species will be added to the state endangered list in our next revision. We assisted the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Green Bay Field Office in an initiative to make key landowners aware of the presence of this species.

Hine’s emerald dragonfly is known from six sites in Wisconsin, all within a small portion of northern Door County. It is also known from seven sites in northeastern Illinois, again very close to each other. Previously known populations from Ohio and Indiana have been destroyed. It was recently determined that this species occurred in Alabama, but this site was also destroyed. Hine’s emerald dragonfly is listed as endangered in Illinois and by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

A public hearing can be requested on this proposal by November 18, 1993. Comments are due by December 3, 1993. Comments should be sent to the Division of Endangered Species, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building, One Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111-4056.
SUMMER FIELD TRIP REPORT

Su Borkin

Despite less than ideal weather, Wisconsin Entomological Society members who gathered in Waupaca on July 31 for the 1993 summer field trip were rewarded with the chance to see Karner Blue butterflies and to learn more about efforts currently underway to improve the butterfly's chances for survival. Mr. Robert Welch (photo, center), biology teacher and private landowner with a population of Karners, and Cathy Bleser, (2nd from the left), Karner Blue Coordinator with the Bureau of Endangered Resources, shared their considerable expertise with the group. Questions, musings, and discussion covered a broad gamut that included habitat restoration and land management techniques, overview of Cynthia Lane's study on survivorship of Karner immatures at the site, caterpillar/ant relationships (photo), laboratory rearing techniques, and synopsis of the educational program to involve local teachers and high school students in Karner research projects. the one BIG question that still remains unsolved is "how did Bob Welch train that Karner Blue to fly right to his sandal and sit and pose for the group?" Other entomological delights included the appearance of an adult antlion just as members were taking note of a large ant colony and the "super highway" that was almost underfoot. Our thanks to Bob and Cathy for an informative and enjoyable day.

If you have a suggestion for, or would like to host a field trip, please drop a note to our editor or any of the officers. It could be to your favorite locality or to one that focuses on a special topic.
NEWS FROM THE DIAGNOSTIC LAB

Phil Pellitteri

Incredible rainfalls affect everything in life. I am happy to say the Diagnostic Lab, which is located in the basement, didn't flood out, but the summer monsoons did greatly alter the insect world in 1993.

Listed among the insects that had a poor year would be the European corn borer (Ostrinia nubialis), the alfalfa weevil (Hypera postica), and many other field crop pests. It was surprising how many people realized there were lower populations of butterflies this summer. Most of the ground-nesting wasp and yellowjacket populations were way down, which made it difficult for Dr. Jeanne and his students to have a reasonable field season. It was nice to be able to eat outdoors in late summer without the nuisance of those little black and yellow scavengers.

The summer of 1993 was a banner year for the European earwig (Forficula auricularia), the imported longhorn (Calomycterus setarius) and strawberry root weevil (Otiorrhyncus ovatus). With the flooding and the poor performance of the German yellowjacket, it was a surprise to receive a large number of bumblebee (Bombus sp.) complaints. Many gall-forming insects thrived, but the various Eriophyid mites on maples were as intense as I have ever seen. Trees were defoliating in June with leaves that were over 90% affected. The moisture produced large numbers of Psocids. Lathridiids and foreign grain beetle (Ahasverus advena) invaded during August and September. I am blaming the mild winter for all the ant problems, with various carpenter ants and the range-extending pavement ant heading the list. The mysterious Ponerine ant that is continuing to infest a hospital and two cheese plants in Wisconsin was identified as Hypopnera punctatissima. We are hearing of a similar infestation in a nursing home in the northeast.

There were two waves of almost statewide blackfly complaints. In many cases, the sites were far removed from moving water and had no history of problems. Upon hearing the story, Dr. DeFoliart suspected Simulium meridionale, a large, river-breeding, bird-feeding species. He and his students have documented occasional host switches to large mammals, which for some strange reason only happen every 8-12 years.

The unexplained sample of the year comes from a new home that is overrun with pseudoscorpions. There is no insect prey to speak of, and the home has been treated five times with various residual insecticides, yet the homeowners are finding up to three or four pseudoscorpions a day.

June brought an invasion of Noctuid moths that interrupted a Brewers game at Milwaukee County Stadium (and a wedding I was at). July had its earwigs contaminating the water supply myth, and August had swarming cornfield ants, but all in all it was rather quite a year in the office.
LEPIDOPTERA SEASON SUMMARY CONTRIBUTIONS WANTED

1993 Wisconsin Lepidoptera records are wanted for inclusion in the season summary which is to appear in the next W. E. S. Newsletter. Things to report include rare or unusual species occurring in your area, unusually early or late occurrences, unusual abundance or scarcity, rearing or host plant data, flowers utilized by adults, or any other observations of interest. Please indicate locality, county and date of capture or observation, and also note if records are sight only, or documented by voucher specimens or photos. Specimens whose identities are uncertain may be brought to the December meeting for verification, or arrangements to view specimens or photos at another time may be made individually. Please send reports by January 5 to: Les Ferge, 7119 Hubbard Avenue, Middleton, WI 53562.

RESEARCH REQUEST

I would appreciate hearing about any Wisconsin localities for the swamp metalmark butterfly, Calephelis mutica, including historical sites where the populations may have died out. Please contact Susan Borkin, Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 W. Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53233.

PRAIRIE INVERTEBRATE MEETING TO BE HELD

The third Prairie Invertebrate Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 7 at the Riveredge Nature Center. The one day meeting offers the opportunity to focus attention on the invertebrate component of the prairie, by seeking to stimulate interest and encourage the exchange of information through formal presentations and open discussions. All contributions are welcome. For information on registration, contact Andy Larsen, Riveredge Nature Center, 4458 W. Hawthorne Drive, P. O. Box 26, Newburg, WI 53060.

DR. LEON ZUKROW DIES

Wisconsin Entomological Society member Dr. Leon Zukrow of Milwaukee died unexpectedly on October 29, 1993 of a heart attack. Leon was a dentist by profession, but enjoyed a wide array of interests including the study of insects. He volunteered in the Invertebrate Zoology Section at the Milwaukee Public Museum, working on the butterfly collection, micro moths and dragonflies. He did not keep a personal collection, but collected locally and on travels elsewhere for the museum's collection. Leon took great pleasure in being able to add a new species to the reference collection or to fill some gap in knowledge, but above all he valued the friendships and comradery of others who had the same enthusiasm for nature.

BOOK CATALOG AVAILABLE

It's that time of year again. Looking for holiday gift items? Y. E. S. has just published a new 69 page "Buggy Bookstore" catalog featuring hundreds of books, educational materials, kits and gifts for insect enthusiasts. Contact Young Entomologists' Society, Inc., 1915 Peggy Place, Lansing, MI 48910-2553, phone (517) 887-0499.