



THE BUG'S BUZZ

Friday, September 8, proved to be a great kick-off to this semester's **Bugs n' Suds**. Five new graduate students were welcomed into the Department with an informal pizza gathering (Thanks to Jim for ordering the pizza!). The celebration continued into the Bugs n' Suds portion of the afternoon with an overflowing turnout. Great conversation, more refreshments and great fun!
Same time, same place, every Friday, 4pm - everyone welcome!

Be sure to check the Entomology web page for upcoming **departmental seminars**. There was good attendance reported for the Wellnitz opening seminar. Seminars are scheduled on Fridays throughout most of the semester in Room 150 Russell Labs, 12 Noon. Refreshments and conversation follow in the Entomology Conference Room when out-of-town guest speakers are scheduled. **Mark your calendars** for Friday, October 27, for the 3rd Charles Chesley Doane Lecture Series with this year's scheduled speaker Dr. George Kennedy, WNR Professor, North Carolina State University.

In appreciation for **Dave Hogg** serving as Interim Dean, a lecture series has been set up by Dean Molly Jahn devoted to issues in sustainable pest management. Stay tuned for more details! Way to go, Dave!

Did You Know--The **Department of Entomology** has 15 undergraduate declared majors. Additionally, there are a total of 336 students enrolled in Entomology courses this Fall Semester with several courses having wait lists. Could we be outgrowing Russell Laboratories?!?

Reminder--The October 11, 2006, early bird registration deadline is fast approaching for the 2006 Entomological Society of America Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN.

In late July, **Dan Young** and **Walt Goodman** were involved in *Grandparents University*, conducting a two-day workshop in Entomology. This program is offered each summer and provides children and their grandparents an opportunity to learn together and from each other. There were a total of 37 participants.

Insect Ambassadors is expanding its horizons out-of-state. Dave Coyle included a trip to Block Island, RI, while attending the EPA STAR Conference in Washington, DC, in late September. While in Boston this summer at a wedding, Dave was talking with the sister of the groom. He learned that she taught Biology on the island and was interested in having Dave come speak to her students in grades 5-7 (all of whom have had some entomology training in the classroom). After several emails and phone calls, Dave's trip to Block Island was set and he spent September 28 ferrying to and from the island, with a full day of Ambassador activities sandwiched between the boat rides.

Congratulations to **Grandpa Stuart Baker!** Noah Lennox Baker entered this world September 12, 2006, weighing in at 9 lbs. 2 oz. and was 20 inches long. This is the first child for Stuart's son and daughter-in-law.

Nichole Broderick, a graduate student in entomology and microbiology (Raffa Lab), recently made the news regarding her research on *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), a widely used organic insecticide. Her research has shown that Bt kills gypsy moths and other insects only when other native bacteria are already present in the insects' gut tract - that Bt requires the presence of other bacteria to exert its lethal influence. This is contrary to previous beliefs of how Bt functions and has implications for agriculture, forestry and medicine.

News from the Jeanne Lab--Overall, this fall has been a mild one for yellow jackets. The cold and wetness seems to have driven numbers down this year. In fact, out of all the nests we have excavated, only one has contained new queens that will overwinter and start their own nests next spring. In addition, less than 20% of the nests investigated this summer were of the invasive German yellow jacket, the majority being the native Eastern yellow jacket. Our research is finding that yellow jackets do not stray far from a food source if it is highly concentrated, but will increase the amount of searching if there is a drop in concentration. Also, it appears that foragers entering the nest with a highly concentrated carbohydrate resource have less trouble dropping off their load to receiver yellow jackets compared to those with carbohydrate resources of lower concentration.

James Rabek is a new Postdoc in Que Lan's lab. Welcome to the Department of Entomology, Jim!

Ag Hall Coffee Hours have been established to afford CALS faculty and staff an opportunity to visit with Dean Molly Jahn and to strengthen the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences community. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Coffee hours are from 8:30-9:30am in Room 140 Ag Hall on the following dates:

September 20	-	December 20
October 18	-	January 17
November 15	-	February 21
	-	March 21

Lab Notes by Phil Pellitteri --Fall is always a time I see lots of spider samples. About half are "suspected" Brown Recluse spiders. A recent medical journal article has shed some light on all of the incorrectly diagnosed spider bites in the U.S. Many of the problems are with methicillin resistant Staphylococcus bacteria (MSRA) and are not associated with spiders. My prediction for the fall multicolored Asian Lady Beetle plague is for less than last year. I also made my woolly bear winter prediction - unlike the *Farmer's Almanac*, I predict a warm winter (I always do - people get very angry if you don't).

September Birthdays

Krista Lambrecht (Young)	-	September 15
Paul Flanery (German)	-	September 17
Stuart Baker (Computer)	-	September 19
Melissa Yanek (Raffa)	-	September 20

October Birthdays

Jeff Lorch (Goodman)	-	October 1
Scott Chapman (Wyman)	-	October 3
Dan Mahr (Faculty)	-	October 4
Claudio Gratton (Faculty)	-	October 8
Que Lan (Faculty)	-	October 9
Adam Gusse (Lindroth)	-	October 16
Susan Paskewitz (Faculty)	-	October 22
Irina Vyazunova (Lan)	-	October 23
Jun Wang (Goodman)	-	October 25
Rachel Arango (Young)	-	October 31

November Birthdays

Michael Hillstrom (Lindroth)	-	November 1
Michael Madritch (Lindroth)	-	November 1
Daniel Marschalek (Young)	-	November 3
Helen Thompson (Office)	-	November 3
Tim Meehan (Lindroth)	-	November 5
Bryan Jensen (Extension)	-	November 6
Stuart Wooley (Lindroth)	-	November 9
Ashley Bennett (Gratton)	-	November 11
Jack Donaldson (Gratton)	-	November 18
Ken Howard (Jeanne)	-	November 22
Patrick Irwin (Paskewitz)	-	November 22
Ken Raffa (Faculty)	-	November 23

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!

(Please notify someone in the office if a birthday is inadvertently missed. Thank you.)