

Friends of the Entomology Research Museum



Newsletter



FERM Annual Meeting

Saturday, 26 February 2000, 7:00 PM

UCR Entomology Research Museum Classroom

Special Presentation: "A Thai Trek, or Leeches In Your Boots"

by Dr. Rosser Garrison

Dr. Garrison is Senior Biologist/Entomologist for Los Angeles County, and is a world expert on the systematics and ecology of dragonflies and damselflies. He has published 41 papers on systematics, biology, and population dynamics of dragonflies and pest insects. His publications include three book chapters and four monographs/synopses. Rosser is an excellent speaker and photographer, and we are certain that his presentation will be very colorful and of great interest to all members in attendance. He also promises to bring exciting "show-and-tell" specimens from his travels in Thailand and other parts of the world.

The Annual Meeting also will feature FERM status reports and a brief review of FERM accomplishments and activities in 1999, and a discussion of future endeavors, goals, and events. Refreshments will be served. In addition, the following FERM officer nominees will be announced for the 2000/2001 term (nominations will also be accepted from the floor during the meeting.) The nominating committee consisted of: Gary Platner (Chair), John Pinto, Hannah Gould, and Rick Vetter.

Nominations for 2000/2001 FERM Officers

President	Doug Yanega
Vice President	Marcella Waggoner
Secretary	Jeremiah George
Treasurer	Dave Hawks



The FERM Newsletter is published quarterly and contains articles written by FERM members. If you would like to submit an article, please send it as a Word/Wordperfect article in one of the following two methods: (1) an attachment via email to the editors (see below) or (2) a hard copy version and on disk. Submissions will be published in the order they are received in accordance with space availability and relevancy to the FERM general readership. For further questions please contact FERM editors:

*Connell Dunning (ConnellD@citrus.ucr.edu)
Rick Vetter (vetter@citrus.ucr.edu)*

Ted Fisher's FERM Commitment

by Dave Hawks

The Entomology Research Museum is lucky indeed to have a Friend like Dr. Theodore Fisher. So is UCR in general. Not only has Ted dedicated several decades to the UCR Entomology Department as an Entomologist and Specialist involved primarily in the biocontrol of snails, but, since his retirement in 1991, he has maintained an active interest in the welfare of the Museum, the Department, and the UCR Botanic Gardens. Actually, Ted's association with UCR is much more than an "active interest," as he will be assisting in the maintenance of both the Entomology Research Museum and the Botanic Gardens for years to come through the dedication of 20% of his living trust to these entities (10% to each).

This demonstration of Ted's dedication and

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philanthropy is not the whole story by any means. The Entomology Museum is fortunate to possess one of the world's largest (and most beautifully curated) collections of the snail parasitic and predatory "Marsh Flies" (family Sciomyzidae), thanks to Ted Fisher and his (also now retired) Staff Research Associate, Robert Orth. (Bob Orth is also a charter member of FERM.) Their exhaustive sciomyzid literature collection, which was given to the Museum, nearly fills an entire file cabinet. Ted also has been donating portions of his book collection and, so far, the Entomology Museum has benefited from his contribution of over 30 titles (some of these were duplicates already present in the Museum library, and have benefited the Museum nonetheless thanks to FERM book sales and auctions).

When I interviewed Ted a few months ago, he strongly emphasized Bob Orth's important role in their research projects. When contacted recently, Bob told me that he "feels extremely fortunate for having had the opportunity to work with Ted for a period of 30 years." And that "under Ted's supervision and leadership, project design, field research and data analysis were made both rewarding and satisfying". Bob went on to say that he regards Ted as "a learned scientist and most of all as a good friend." I got the impression from speaking with both Ted and Bob that they really had great times in the field and the lab, and that their related careers clearly represent "mutual success stories" thanks to each other!

Ted Fisher is 78, and lives in a really neat geodesic dome house in the hills south of Hemet. His first interest in insects dates back to high school days when he collected general insects with his friend, Paul Arnaud (now Curator Emeritus of Entomology at the California Academy of Sciences). His entomological endeavors continued through his undergraduate years at San Jose State University. He recalled for me that the entomologists at SJSU had their own song entitled "The Hexapod Hunters of San Jose State" (maybe FERM needs its own song?!). Ted took a break from entomology during World War II, and served as a Howitzer 155 Canoneer in the 3rd Army under General Patton, and fought in the Battle of the Bulge. Interestingly, right after the War, Ted taught botany to Gil's

(who earned college credit while waiting to go home) at Weihenstephen Agriculture Technical College in Freising, Germany. His fondest memories of that brief six months is that the college had the oldest operating brewery in Germany, and had excellent beer! Soon after returning home to Redwood City, California, he met his wife, Beth, while mixing concrete (don't ask me, I'm just the reporter!). Ted and Beth had one son, Peter, and were married 51 years. Beth passed away in October 1997.

In 1946, Ted attended Berkeley to work on his doctorate with A. E. Michelbacher. In 1948, while still a student finishing coursework, he was hired by Prof. Harry Smith at the (then) U. C. Citrus Experiment Station (now U. C. Riverside). Ted worked as a technician with Paul DeBach, and completed his Ph.D. here at UCR under the guidance of Stan Flanders. By 1954, Ted was the full-time campus Quarantine Officer, and, in 1962, at the encouragement of (then Department Chair) Don Chant, wrote his own snail biocontrol project and was granted the title of Specialist. As an offshoot from his research on snails, Ted's cooperators produced "zillions" of snail eggs, some of which were actually sold for awhile (\$600 per gallon) as snail caviar, even to fancy eateries like Gerard's French Restaurant. Ted has authored over 60 publications, many with Bob Orth. A large number deal with sciomyzid fly systematics and ecology, including their comprehensive treatment entitled "The Marsh Flies of California" in the Bulletin of the California Insect Survey (published by the University of California). Most recently, Ted served as editor along with Tom Bellows (of the UCR Entomology Department) of the recently published Handbook of Biological Control which involved the collaboration of about 60 authors and is over 1000 pages long.



Thanks, Ted, for your meaningful years of dedication to the University, the Department of Entomology, and to the Entomology Research Museum. And FERM salutes your FERM commitment!

Urban Legend?

by Rick Vetter

We have all heard those amazing and unbelievable stories. Ones that sound as if they could be true but they get told so often that eventually it appears to be more the product of someone's fertile imagination, then promulgated by an unwitting newspaper as "the truth". One of these stories is the old centipede in the woman's tooth story. Fact or fiction. Well, as I was perusing a chapter on centipede venoms, I chanced across a reference to this dental anomaly. It is indeed true. A 38-year old British woman went to the dentist complaining about tooth pain. Extraction of the tooth revealed a bloody mass in the tooth crown which was placed on a nearby table. At this point, the bloody mass uncoiled and started to crawl away. Apparently, the centipede, identified later as *Lithobius forficatus*, crawled into a cavity in the tooth then was disturbed so it bit the woman in the gums, whereupon the gums swelled, sealing the centipede in its little enamel tomb. There you have it, gross as it may be.

Gebier, S. and B. Kopkin. 1972. Pericoronitis due to a centipede. Brit. Dental J. 133:307-308.

A special thank you goes out to the following people who were members of the 1998-1999 Board of Directors for FERM:

1998-99 FERM Board of Directors

Officers:

Greg Ballmer, President
Dave Hawks, Vice President
Mike Gates, Secretary
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Serguei Triapitsyn, Principal Museum Scientist
Saul Frommer, Senior Museum Scientist (1998)
Doug Yanega, Senior Museum Scientist (1999)

Museum Munchings

by Rick Vetter

In my never-ending studies of recluse spiders, I have been contacting various arachnologists around the country regarding the distribution of *Loxosceles* spiders. A South American recluse spider, *Loxosceles laeta*, had been established in the basement of Harvard's Comparative Museum of Zoology for decades. When I queried whether the spider was still known to be there, I got a lengthy reply from Dr. Herb Levi, one of America's pre-eminent arachnologists of the 20th century, who is now retired. The amusing comment that he passed along was that he felt that *L. laeta* had been present in the museum since the 1930's because that was about the time that all the taxonomists (of all animal taxa) stopped complaining that the Thysanurans were eating the labels off the specimen jars.

Also, to balance out the overabundance of 6-legged news with some 8-legged creature announcements, here are some of the newest tidbits of spider happenings at UCR. Recently Tom Prentice has found a queer little beast of a spider at Lake Skinner: about 1 mm long with 6 eyes (most spiders have 8 eyes). According to Darrell Ubick at the Cal Academy, it appears to be an undescribed new genus of Amaurobiidae. Not to be outdone, Rick "Me, too" Vetter stumbled upon 2 mature males of a similar beast out at Cactus City. When Tom scrutinized the Cactus City buggers, he felt they were a different species than the ones he collected. So UCR may be very influential in helping the erecting of a new genus of spider with at least 2 species.



LATEST NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM

by Serguei Triapitsyn (Principal Museum Scientist) and Doug Yanega (Senior Museum Scientist)

The Entomology Research Museum continues to get strong support from the Entomology Department, with five graduate students working in the museum during this (winter) quarter. Their assignments will include: databasing of incoming specimens and returned loans; identification of unsorted beetles; mounting and labeling of dry backlog material; assessment and curation of the "immature stages" collection in ethanol, etc.

Also, Dr. Richard Goeden donated 48 drawers of well-curated and beautifully labeled voucher specimens from his past research projects, and one of the grad students will transfer these specimens to the museum, where they will be fully integrated into the general collection.

The museum scientists, as well as several other FERM members, attended the Entomology Collections Network annual meeting held in Athens, Georgia in December. Doug Yanega made a presentation about the progress made on the on-going NSF-sponsored project to remount and database the most valuable specimens in the *Aphytis* wasp slide collection from Hoyer's medium into Canada balsam. A large part of his presentation was devoted to describing the specimen-level database system that is used both by this project and also for recording label data for most incoming and outgoing specimens in the museum. The ERM database now has records for over 10,000 specimens.

At the same meeting, Dave Hawks made a presentation about the results of his research on nocturnal movement patterns of *Plusiotis* scarab beetles in Honduras (together with Ron Cave of El Zamorano). Their project was sponsored by the National Geographic Society, and will be appearing in a future issue of the magazine.

Finally, FERM obtained 12 volumes of Bernard D'Abrera's "Butterflies" series from the McBurney's, as well as "Sphingidae Mundi" and other rare books, and deposited them in the museum library, where they can now be used by visiting FERM members. This is good news for all the professional and amateur lepidopterists affiliated with the Entomology Research Museum.





INSECT PREPARATION TIPS: PART I, LABELING

by Doug Yanega, Senior Museum Scientist

This will be the first in a short series of articles to help those FERM members who like to collect and prepare their own insects. Labeling seems like a good place to start. Why? Most insect field guides talk about proper pinning, but proper labeling is not emphasized as much, and can be even more important from a scientific standpoint. A specimen that is pinned poorly can often be remounted, but a specimen whose label is missing essential data is often worthless for scientific purposes, and hopefully all of us who collect insects have in mind that they could be useful to someone at some point, beyond any aesthetic value they might have for us personally. Many FERM members donate material to the Museum, and it would definitely be helpful if such specimens had well-made labels.

So, what makes a good insect label? Top priority is having the essential information, second priority is fitting that information into a small enough space (anything bigger than about 15 x 7 mm is getting too big). It can be tricky to accommodate both priorities. Sometimes, then, abbreviations are good, as long as (a) they are standard abbreviations, or unambiguous, and (b) necessary to keep the label from being too big. Sometimes you might have room for spelling out "San Bernardino National Forest", and that's fine if so, but if you have to abbreviate, writing "SBNF" is going to confuse a lot of people. The rule of thumb I like to use is this: "If this specimen were to wind up in the hands of a foreign scientist in 50 years, would they be able to figure out when and where it was collected?" So, you compromise, and write "S. Bernardino Nat. For." A complete label might look like this:

Times New Roman:	1000 U.S. 8. Bernardino Nat. For.	Arial:	1000 U.S. 8. Bernardino Nat. For.
	1000 U.S. 8. Bernardino Nat. For.		1000 U.S. 8. Bernardino Nat. For.
	1000 U.S. 8. Bernardino Nat. For.		1000 U.S. 8. Bernardino Nat. For.
	1000 U.S. 8. Bernardino Nat. For.		1000 U.S. 8. Bernardino Nat. For.

There are several things to notice about this example, which should help understand why it's better than most.

- (1) It has the country. US collectors are almost unique in the world in *not* being in the habit of indicating the country on their labels. You can generally squeeze "USA" in there, trust me.
- (2) The abbreviation for the state is the standard one, that even a foreigner should be able to recognize. I have an old specimen in front of me whose label reads "Loon Lake, WN" - and I can't tell whether it's supposed to be Washington or Wisconsin. Of course, if the county name was shorter, like Inyo Co., I might use "Calif." instead. This is less ambiguous than CA.
- (3) It has the county. That "Loon Lake" label doesn't list the county, and it turns out there are 18 different Loon Lakes in Wisconsin, for instance. The collector is long dead, so we'll never know where that specimen is from.
- (4) It gives distance relative to the nearest town that one can find on a standard map/gazetteer. Always try to give distance relative to the nearest well-defined permanent place. In many cases, a small town is better than a big city, because the borders are better defined. A label that says "15 km N Los Angeles" is poor because no one would know when to start counting.
- (5) It gives elevation. When you're in the hills, a few hundred yards along the road can mean a big change in elevation, and many species of plants and animals have definite altitudinal limits; this information can be very meaningful.
- (6) It gives the distance in kilometers, and elevation in meters. The odds are good that scientists from other countries may someday read those labels, and since only the US uses miles and feet, it's better if we use the international standard.
- (7) Best of all, it has latitude and longitude, even if not exact to the second. In principle, if you have this information, the other data on the label is hardly even necessary. It's always good to have a DeLorme map, or even a GPS unit, when you're collecting so you can note where you are. Future scientists will love you for putting that data in there.
- (8) It gives the date in an internationally recognizable format. Most countries list day then month then year, so if you write "4-10-98" on a label, people won't be sure whether it's April 10th, or October 4th. The "Roman numeral for the month" convention is how most people solve this.
- (9) It doesn't say "collected by M. W. Gates", which would be a waste of space. Honestly, everyone knows that a person's name on an insect locality label indicates the collector, so anything more than the name would be redundant. That's also why it doesn't say "2000m elevation" - people will know from the units that you're talking about elevation.
- (10) None of the lines on the label exceed a total of 25 characters, which is about the limit for 4-point lettering to keep within 15 mm length. The label is also only 5 lines long, which is about the limit for staying within 7 mm width.
- (11) Though this example doesn't have it, sometimes you might have an insect caught on a possible host plant, a bee collecting pollen, a fungus-feeding insect on a mushroom, etc. In such cases, it's good to either include one line, or - if it would make the label over 5 lines long - a separate label below the locality label. In the present case, since I have latitude and longitude, I'd replace the "S. Bernardino Nat. For." line, and use the scientific name of the host if I knew it (e.g., "on *Abies balsamea*"). Sometimes that sort of biological information is quite valuable, and you don't want to omit it, though you also want to keep it down to a reasonable size or skip it altogether if it's trivial (e.g., "found on dead rabbit carcass on rocks along stream" is too wordy and trivial).
- (12) Finally, if you're making labels using software, font choice can be important. Assuming you have a laser printer/inkjet that prints crisply (600 dpi +, a VERY important assumption), the size should be 4 point lettering, with fairly close spacing between lines (but not so close that the bottom of, say, a "g" on one line will overlap the top of an "r" on the line below), and my favorite font is Times, which has very compact letters with close spacing, and serifs on the characters so you can easily tell a 1 from an l from an I. If the resolution of your printer isn't as good, then you might need to use a simpler font like Arial (actually, many entomologists prefer this font, regardless). And, finally, use high rag, acid free paper to print your labels! I should mention that FERM members who come by on Museum Nights (Thursday evenings) are welcome to use the LaserJet printer in the Museum to make their labels using Microsoft Word.

The FERM Year 1999 in Review

by Greg Ballmer

During 1999, FERM's first full calendar year in existence, there were some remarkable achievements. FERM's membership rose to over 130. Revenues were sufficient to purchase a new Zeiss dissecting microscope with camera lucida, and a small library of Lepidoptera reference books for the Museum. Additionally, a pair of walkie-talkies and a pair of GPS devices were purchased to assist in field surveys.



FERM field trips were conducted at the Coso Mountains, Granite Mountains, Kelso Dunes, San Bernardino Mountains, and Zzyzx. Participants of these excursions experienced a wide range of montane and desert habitats and collected many valuable voucher specimens, including new species, for the Museum. Specimens collected on these trips will be shared with the U C Sweeney-Granite Mountains Reserve and the Zzyzx Desert Studies Center to help establish reference collections of insects for those research facilities.

A rather special FERM event, the first Collectathon, was held in September. Initially conceived as a means of demonstrating to new students the immense diversity of insects occurring in this region, the Collectathon may become an annual event. Two-person teams were given the task of collecting representatives of as many insect families as possible in southern California within a 24-hour period. The winning team of Mike Gates and Doug Yanega tallied 181 families.



The January 1999 FERM Annual Meeting featured David Hawks, who gave a spectacular slide presentation on the systematics of *Phasiotis*, the jewel scarab beetles. Dave's field studies in Central America have led to the discovery and descriptions of several new species, along with new information on the biology and host relationships for additional species. This information has also led to a revised view of the relationships among the species within *Phasiotis*. Dave's exceptional *Phasiotis* slides are to be the basis for a forthcoming National Geographic article.

Doug Yanega joined the UCR staff in February as the Entomology Museum's new Senior Museum Scientist. In April, Doug gave a FERM program about his insect collecting and rearing experiences over a two-year period in Brazil. Although originally intending to concentrate on social bees (his specialty), Doug reared many other insects found in a variety of uncommon Brazilian habitats and collected many rare, colorful, and unusual species.

The fall (November) FERM program featured Norm Penny, who gave a presentation on the changing nature of collections management. This topic is highly relevant to the Museum as plans evolve for its future growth and organizational structure. From hinged wooden specimen storage boxes to movable foam-bottom pinning trays in glass-topped drawers arrayed in compactor storage racks, and from hand-written inventory lists to infinitely expandable computer data bases, the evolution of specimen curation and data storage have come a long way. The future of collection management will combine compact specimen storage with flexible and convenient data access.

The Winter (February) 2000 FERM annual membership meeting signals the end of the terms of office of FERM's first elected officers: Greg Ballmer (President), Dave Hawks (Vice-president), Mike Gates (Secretary), and Martin Barnes (Treasurer). A new slate of officers will be elected to serve through 2001.



RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY FERM MEMBERS

Gates, Michael W. 2000. A new species of *Cirrospilus* from the southwestern United States and Mexico. Proceedings, Entomological Society of America 102:58-61.

Gates, Michael W. 1998. Contributor of information for data sheets on economically important *Eurytoma* spp. (Hymenoptera: Eurytomidae). CABI Crop Protection Compendium CD-ROM.

Lepschi, B.J., Kolesik, P. and Gates, M. 1999. Notes on the fruit gall fauna of *Anthrocercis antsanthia* (Solanaceae) in Western Australia. Transactions of the Royal Society of South Australia 123(4): 149-150.

Hawks, David C., & Guy P. Bruyca. 1999. *Chrysina cuvei*, a new species from Honduras (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Rutelinae). Consortium Coleopterorum, 3: 15-20.

Hawks, David C. 1999. A review of the *Phasiotis marginata* complex including the description of a new species (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Rutelinae). Consortium Coleopterorum, 3: 21-29.



Book and Reprint Recycling Committee



As if the Annual Meeting wasn't enough of an enticement, there will be some very special books to be auctioned off as well. Bring your paycheck, get there early, and mingle with colleagues who will hate you after you waltz away with that special entomology book to be auctioned off at the Annual FERM meeting:



- **The Flies of Western North America** by FR Cole. 1969. 693 pp. (*a copy of this book was auctioned off at the last meeting and was sold for \$45 after much spirited bidding*)
- **The Armored Scale Insects of California.** HI McKenzie. 1956. Bull. Calif. Insect Survey volume 5, 209pp.
- **An Introduction to the Aquatic Insects of North America.** RW Merritt and KW Cummins, eds. 1978, 441pp.
- **Hymenoptera of American North of Mexico.** Muesebeck, Krombein, Townes et al. 1951. USDA Agric Monograph #2, 1420pp. + supplements 1 and 2. *To be auctioned as one item:*
- **A Manual of Common Beetles of Eastern North America.** Dillon and Dillon. 1961. 884pp.
- **Taxonomists' Glossary of Genitalia in Insects.** SL Tuxen. 1970. Second Enlarged Edition. 359pp (*to be sold in a plain brown wrapper and we won't tell your mother about your purchase*)

For amusement sake:

- **How to Know the Insects.** HE Jaques. 1947. 2nd edition!!!! purchased by Ted Fisher in 1968 for \$2.50. (this will probably be more of a curiosity than anything).
- **American moths of the subfamily Phycitinae.** C. Heinrich. 1956. U.S. Natl Mus Bull #207, 581pp.

And a classic (and I don't mean the recent animated movie):

- **Ants.** William Morton Wheeler. 1960, 3rd printing of 1910 book. 663pp.

See Rick Vetter on TV!!

February 19th, Discovery Channel, Wild Discovery, at 8 pm. The program will be "Stings, Fangs, & Spines", and our very own Rick Vetter will be interviewed about black widow and brown recluse spiders.



PINE : PARTNERS IN NATURE EDUCATION

All FERM members receive a 20% discount on UCR Extension Natural Science Field Study Courses. Call UCR Extension at (909) 787-3806 or send an email to more-info@ucex.ucr.edu to receive the current catalog. An entire list of natural science courses is available on the web site www.unx.ucr.edu/ns/fns.

- Venomous Arthropods and Reptiles of Medical Importance April 29th, May 6 and 13th (Three Saturdays)
- Tick Identification Workshop Saturday June 17th, 9 to 4 pm,
- Ecology of the Southern California Butterflies - Apr. 5, 26, May 17, June 7. (Three Saturday field trips TBA)
- Field Study of the San Andreas Fault: San Bernardino to Palmdale - Mar. 4.
- Geology and Natural History of Anza Borrego State Park - Feb. 5, 6.
- Geology and Natural History of the Eastern Sierra - Apr. 8, 9.
- Geology and Volcanic Hazards of Mammoth Mountain - May 6, 7.
- Natural History and Ecology of the Grand Teton National Park - Aug. 7, 8, 9, 10.
- Geology and Natural History of Yosemite: A Weekend of Discovery - Sept. 16, 17.
- Geology and Natural History of the Mojave National Preserve - Mar. 31, Apr. 1, 2.
- A Field Study of Birds: Springs - Apr. 18-June 3.



FUTURE FERM FIELD TRIPS

FERM OUTINGS FOR THE START OF THE FAUX MILLENNIUM

Please be aware that because this announcement was written so early in advance, that dates for the trips have not yet been decided. Please contact the trip coordinator listed below if you have interest.



Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve: South of Temecula, west of I-15, and north of Fallbrook about 40 miles from UCR. It consists of coastal sage scrub and chaparral, much recently burned, with extensive oak-willow riparian and aquatic habitats. As with much of So. Calif. habitat, it is disappearing. The rare skipper, *Euphyes vestris*, was recently collected on the Riverside Co. side of the reserve; a new county record. There are 2 houses with bedrooms and kitchen facilities but they are at different ends of the reserve; we will only be able to use 1 of them per field trip. San Diego State University is interested in developing a Reserve faunal inventory. As organisms are being extirpated throughout various regions of southern California, it is hoped the Reserve will help keep them from extinction. As FERM members, we will be allowed to survey for insects and other invertebrates. If there is interest we will have a field trip in the spring and another in the summer. Only people that have strong interest in supporting the goals of San Diego State University will be encouraged to come. A few specimens of each new species for the Reserve's collection will be donated to the UCR collection. Open to 12 people per field trip.

China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station: This military reserve is just east of Inyokern along SR-14 about 2 1/2 hours from UCR. Because the base has limited access to the public, the area has had little human disturbance, except for scattered bombs and bombshells (a minor point). Habitats range from around 2,000 feet (at the China Lake bed) to nearly 9,000 feet elevation (at Maturango Peak). The region of intense study for the past 4 years is the Coso and Argus Mts. A bird, the Inyo Towhee, is restricted to these 2 isolated mountain ranges and there are a fair number of endemic insects only found within them (e.g., 6 new scarab beetle species found in the Coso Mts, a large black and yellow Cerambycid restricted to the shoreline of China Lake and rare butterflies with restricted ranges include the San Emigdio Blue, the Argus Blue, Comstock's Blue, and the Vernalis Blue). Camping conditions are primitive with no outhouse. Tents and sleeping bags will be needed by all, because of cool temperatures and wind at the camp site (ca. 7,500 ft elev.). In mid June 1995 it snowed down to 5,000 ft and it remained on the ground all day. Foldout chairs will also be useful for collecting at the mercury vapor lights. We will be cooking outdoors on gas stoves. We will probably have two field trips, one in early and the other in late summer. Only people that are American Citizens with social security numbers and are interested in supporting the mission of identifying all invertebrates found in the vicinity of springs may come. New species for the base will be given to the UCR collection. No more than 12 people will be allowed on each field trip. The base is twice the size of Rhode Island and because there are no habitations on base it is easy to get lost. For these reasons we will require everyone to remain in contact at all times with at least one of the leaders.



San Jacinto Mts: FERM member Oscar Clarke has graciously given us permission to use his property in the San Jacinto Mts for a FERM trip. The land is around 3000 ft elev. and covers 83 acres. Be aware however, that this is just land. There are no buildings and no facilities on the property whatsoever. Personal toilet activities will be accomplished with a shovel and some dense bushes, if any, for privacy. Because this is so close to Riverside, folks can have the option of making this a day-trip or for those capable of roughing it, an overnighter is also an option. We will attempt to make this trip in April or May before temperatures get too hot.



For either the Santa Margarita or China Lake trips, contact Gordon Pratt (euphilotes@aol.com) or 909-788-9703. For the Oscar Clarke San Jacinto Preserve trip contact Rick Vetter (vetter@citrus.ucr.edu) or 909-787-3550.



Doncha just hate it when, there you are all set with a cup of chamomile tea, ink pen in hand and archival paper ready to go for a busy afternoon of scientific label writing and the pen is clogged with ink. Although you can't completely stop those pesky pen blockages, here's a helpful hint to make the ink flow. When the pen is clean and dry, disassemble the parts and lay them out. Get a Q-tip and some baby oil. Put a small dab of oil on the Q-tip and rub a light coating of oil on the weight, interior chamber and the ink reservoir. Although the first few scribbings will be somewhat oily, the ink will flow nicely and smoothly for longer periods of time and an extra benefit is that you will actually be able to see the ink level in the reservoir instead of just the blackness of night. Oh, how festive!!



...Think about it. Don't you know someone who would love to be a member of FERM? Spread the word! Use the Membership Form below to give somebody a gift membership or loan them your copy of this newsletter for them to peruse. How could anyone resist a membership to FERM with all of the great accomplishments and field trips outlined in this issue? Challenge a FERM friend to a contest to see who can get the most new members...WOW! Increasing FERM membership has never been so much fun! Do your part! Promote FERM!

Call for Newsletter Submissions!!!



Please remember that this newsletter is written entirely by members. We cannot have a newsletter without your text and photo submissions. If you have had a recent insect encounter or adventure that you would like to share with FERM members, by all means write it down and send it in! We are always looking for items to include in the newsletter.

Send submissions to Rick Vetter (vetter@citrus.ucr.edu) or Connell Dunning (ConnellD@citrus.ucr.edu). Imagine the wonderful feeling of accomplishment that you will enjoy with each additional publication to list on your CV!!

Also, please send us titles of any of your recent entomological publications. We would like to list these publications in future newsletters.



Friends of the Entomology Research Museum Membership Form

Check here if you are renewing

Name _____ Address _____

Interests _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

Please Check

Basic Membership	\$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustaining Member	\$25.00+	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donor	\$100.00+	<input type="checkbox"/>
Benefactor	\$500.00+	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patron	\$1000.00+	<input type="checkbox"/>

Submit your membership form and dues to:

Martin M. Barnes, Treasurer
Friends of the Entomology Research Museum
Department of Entomology - 041
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