

CONNECTIONS

Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology Newsletter



Greetings from your Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology

Summer 2022 has been a busy time in the department. Our students, staff and faculty have worked very hard in the field this growing season under some very hot and dry conditions for much of the summer.

Likewise, the addition of summer undergraduate interns and hourly workers always brings a new level of vitality into our programs. I was reminded of the energy that young people can generate during the Arkansas 4-H O-Rama that was held on the Fayetteville campus on July 26-29th.

On these days, students from across the state join together for competitions, socials, workshops and tours. Once again, our excellent graduate students stepped up big-time to host a popular informative booth for these kids at the Bumpers O-Rama College Fair and Picnic.

If you ever need a reminder of why we do the work we do, I highly recommend hanging out with a group of young people like those 4-H'ers. Every student I observed or met conducted themselves with a high level of maturity.

The level of passion and work-ethic they bring to their competitions and projects can only give one great hope for the future.

It was also clear that their Extension mentors and group volunteers worked very hard to help them prepare for the many aspects of this event. Watching these young people interact and talking with them truly made me eager to start a new semester and get students back to campus (even with the added parking and traffic battles it brings).

In ENPL we continue to strive to serve the state and especially its people. Based on what I've seen in the past year from our faculty and students, I am confident in saying that our mission in extension, teaching and research consistently benefits the state and its young people. As always, please reach out to me with any news, updates or questions.

Best wishes,

Ken Korth
Professor and Department Head
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IN THIS ISSUE

GREETINGS FROM ENPL

OUR MISSION

RECENT EVENTS

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

UPCOMING EVENTS

IN MEMORY

CONTACT US



Ken Korth



WHAT WE STAND FOR

As part of the ongoing process of strategic planning for the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, the faculty composed the following statements. These are meant to guide us as we make decisions and plans for the future growth and success of our unit.

Our Vision:

The Department is a global leader in entomology and plant pathology; promoting human, animal, and plant health, environmental sustainability and food security.

Our Mission:

The Department serves science and society through discovery, translation and dissemination of knowledge and resources to promote human, animal, and plant health, environmental sustainability and food security.

Our Core Values:

To realize our collective Vision and enact our Mission, we will uphold these values:

- Foster interdisciplinary and synergistic collaboration.
- Champion a supportive, diverse, and inclusive environment.
- Support innovation and excellence.
- Ensure scientific integrity.
- Engage and serve our stakeholders.

Authored and adopted by the faculty, March 2021

Recent Events

ENPL Farmer's Market

Throughout summer 2022, many of our students and faculty members have volunteered their time to answer questions and exhibit specimens at the Fayetteville Farmers Market.

Each Saturday, we interact with community members at a booth displaying materials from both entomology and plant pathology. This is one of our most visible outreach activities in the community. In addition, students this year also participated in the weekly Goshen Farmers Market.

Materials include live insects, diseased plant specimens, microscopes, insect museum drawers, games, and books. Shoppers love to ask questions and share their stories at this free event.



Blast from the Past

The department received a warmly welcomed visit from a former Plant Pathology secretary, Beverly Brady. She was the Plant Pathology secretary from 1955 to 1957. She dropped by the department office and reminisced a bit about the AGRI building and Dr. Cralley.

Recent Events cont.



Ozarks Bug Crawl

The department recently had the pleasure of working with the Historic Cane Hill folks resulting in a collaborative event like no other, the Ozarks Bug Crawl!

Special shout-out to our amazing instructor, Dr. Austin Jones, who played a key role in making this all happen!

The event was to highlight the habitats in the Ozarks, promote entomological awareness and create a bioblitz beginning of an educational display for Cane Hill's museum and visitor's center.

Firefly Fling

On July 10th our outreach booth was visited by an estimated 4,000 people at the Firefly Fling of the Botanical Garden of the Ozarks. This annual family event offers fun in the garden, featuring fire dancing, laser light shows, and guests in their favorite fairy or woodland creature costumes.

Our entomology displays are a perfect fit for this activity and are always a popular addition to festivities. Special thanks go out to volunteer and alum Dr. Carolyn Lewis, and to Dr. Austin Jones, who has coordinated numerous activities.



Rice Crop Extension Research Crew Buckles Down



This is a portion of the crews of Dr. Nick Bateman and Dr. Ben Thrash, a mix of hourly workers and graduate students— breaking for a group photo knee-deep in the middle of rice crop research. Photo Taken July 7th.

Recent Events cont.



ENPL Bowling

On May 14th, the Entomology and Plant Pathology Clubs jointly hosted a bowling night for the whole department. Students, staff, and faculty attended and filled up at least 6 lanes. Attendees were invited to enjoy the provided pizza and refreshments, as well as bowl for fun or competitively. Shout out to Austin Jones who took home the trophy for the most points!

ENPL Faculty Retreat



On June 7-8th, the ENPL faculty met at the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute on Petit Jean Mountain for a two-day retreat. The primary topic was curriculum updates in both entomology and plant pathology graduate programs. In addition to coming away with some concrete action items, the group time was useful for sharing research updates and for fellowship. We enjoyed the non-Zoom face-to-face time. Dr. Yeshe Wamishe was able to demonstrate the cornhole skills she has developed while playing with her grandchildren. It was a productive and enjoyable time for all.

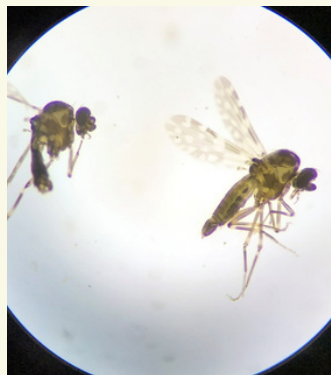


Plant Pathology GSA Tomato Sale

Thank you to all the students that worked so hard on the plant sale this weekend, and including in the weeks leading up to the sale. The event was a huge success and we received several comments from people saying how well they were treated. The Plant Pathology GSA leadership did a great job this year in organizing the event. In addition to bringing in funds for the student group, this is an invaluable learning opportunity for those that participate. For the department, it is a high-profile chance to introduce the public to us and our work.

Awards and Recognition

Entomologist and Professor Emily McDermott Featured in Newswire



Emily McDermott, assistant professor of entomology at the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, wanted to find out if invasive Asian tiger mosquitoes and native biting midges — commonly called "noseeums" — were inclined to share habitat resources. The answer seems to be "no," but the reasons are unclear. McDermott plans to investigate the matter further this summer.

McDermott is investigating whether the two species may compete for resources, which could indicate whether the mosquitoes present a greater or lesser risk for spread of disease to humans.

For more details see: <https://bit.ly/3bmKI7r>



Tobiasz Druciarek Awarded Polish National Science Center Grant

Tobiasz Druciarek has been awarded a prestigious Polish National Science Center grant to start his own lab at his alma mater, the Warsaw University of Life Sciences this Fall. Tobiasz has been a tremendous asset for the Virology lab dissecting the intricate world of mite/virus interactions and developing strategies for mite/virus control. We will for sure miss him, but we are also very excited that he will be moving on to the next stage of his career.

Emeritus Professor Donn Johnson Receives Award

Donn Johnson, Emeritus Professor, University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture received the 2021 AAGG Outstanding Achievement Award from the Arkansas Association of Grape Growers at the annual conference November 4th in Little Rock, AR. He has been integral part of the Arkansas grape and wine industry for many decades.



Awards and Recognition cont.



Congratulations to Sherrie Smith, Instructor and Plant Diagnostician in the Plant Health Clinic. Sherrie received the Distinguished Service Award from the Arkansas County Agriculture Agents Association. This honor is bestowed on members who have served at least 10 years with the Cooperative Extension Service, who have conducted outstanding programs, and are held in high esteem by their colleagues.

Award Given to Instructor and Plant Diagnostician - Sherrie Smith

This award is one of the highest awards a member can receive and it's only given to 2% of the ACAAA membership each year. In her role, Sherrie provides trainings to County Extension Agents, Extension personnel, and the public. Sherrie takes her portable diagnostic lab to flower/garden shows, field days, and other special events. She also authors a weekly newsletter detailing current disease problems for county agents, Master Gardeners, and other interested parties during the growing season. Way to go Sherrie!

Research tracking cattle disease turns up invasive ticks in Washington County

Scientists conducting research on tick-transmitted cattle diseases in Arkansas have turned up new samples of the invasive Asian longhorned tick.

The Asian longhorned tick, also known as a bush tick, was found in May by Elizabeth Smith, extension entomology program tech for the University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture.

The tick collection is part of a broad surveillance project to monitor spread of cattle diseases such as anaplasmosis through ticks.



The project is being conducted by Kelly Loftin, extension entomologist, Emily McDermott, assistant professor of entomology, and Jeremy Powell, veterinarian and animal science professor.

The work is a collaboration among personnel within the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station and the Cooperative Extension Service, the research and outreach arms of the Division of Agriculture.

Awards and Recognition cont.

ENPL Students Awarded at LIWC '22



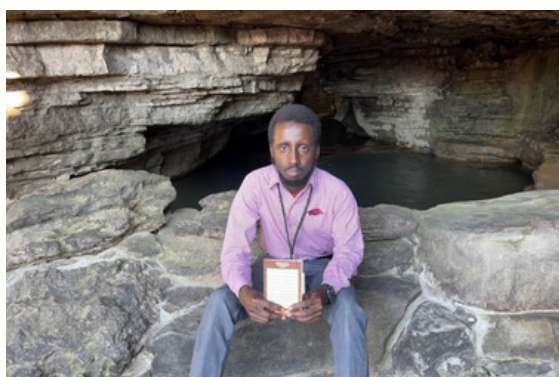
Cassie Steel and Blythe Lawson, both ENTO PhD students, recently gave oral presentations at LIWC '22 (Livestock Insect Workers Conference) in Dallas, TX. Each won competitive travel grant awards, fully funding their trips to the conference.

ENPL Outstanding Student Award Recipients Bumpers 21-22

U of A's Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences has recognized student winners of outstanding student awards for 2021-22 during the Honors and Awards Reception on April 21st. Both Paige Cummins, an ENTO MS student, and Juanita Gil Bedoya, an AFLSPH PhD student, received an outstanding student award respective to their degrees.



ENPL Student Highlight Featured in APS



The American Phytopathological Society (APS) southern division featured Sherif Sharfadine, a PLPA MS student working in Alejandro Rojas' Soilborne Pathology and Ecology Lab (SPEL), as their student highlight of the month in June.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Insect Festival - October 27th, 2022

The Festival educates and entertains Arkansans of all ages about the beauty, value, and interest of insects and other arthropods. The first Festival was held in 1993. The one-day event typically draws more than a thousand people. It takes most people about 1-2 hours to travel through the festival grounds and all the activities. There are many educational exhibits with expert entomologists to answer your questions.



FREE!

INSECT FESTIVAL of ARKANSAS

Follow updates as they arrive at enpl.uark.edu
Send questions to cmills@uada.edu

Want to learn more about our interdependent relationship with insects in local ecosystems? Join the entomologists of Arkansas for a day of fun, festivities, and education about the incredible diversity, importance, and beauty of insects.

Location:
Pauline Whitaker Animal Science Arena
1335 W. Knapp Fayetteville, AR 72701

Scan this QR Code for more information!

Save the Date
10.27.2022

U of A DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
Dale Bumpers College of
Agricultural, Food & Life Sciences

In Remembrance

Dr. Jeffrey Karl Barnes

Thank you for many years of service with the University of Arkansas and the Division of Agriculture

Sadly, Jeff Barnes passed away on March 31st. Dr. Barnes served as curator of the Arthropod Museum for many years. He was an expert on robber flies and other diptera.

You can see the obituary and leave tributes for his family at <https://www.bernafuneralhomes.com/obituaries/Jeffrey-Barnes-5/#!/Obituary>

Jeff received his doctorate from Cornell University in 1979, after performing the field research for his dissertation in New Zealand. He was employed as a Senior Scientist and Curator of Entomology at the New York State Museum 1980-2000. He joined the Department of Entomology in 2000 and became Curator the Arthropod Museum in 2002, retiring in 2016. In Arkansas, he performed the usual curatorial duties, adding specimens, controlling museum pests, sending out loans, and so on. He developed displays for public viewing at various venues, including schools, festivals, fairs, and the local farmer's market. He also taught Insect Diversity and Taxonomy for several years.



CONNECT WITH US



Alumni, we would love to hear from you! Reach out to us with updates or let us know how you are using that ENPL degree at enpl@uark.edu. We would love to feature you in our department newsletter.



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