



The facet

A newsletter by the ENTOMOLOGY & PLANT PATHOLOGY CLUB,
Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, Mississippi State University

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From Editor's Desk

Spring 2005 newsletter is finally here. This issue mainly focuses on the EPP Club activities in educating school children about the insects and/or plant diseases. We would like to welcome Julie Dobbs and Ravi Vemula as the new members of editorial team replacing three graduate students (Mario Carillo, Johnson Zeledon, and Jennifer Murray) who have graduated or moved. Everyone is more than welcome to contribute. Send your article to facet_epp@yahoo.com. We hope you enjoy this issue.

2005 EPP Club Officers

President: Ravi Vemula
Vice President: SangMi Lee
Secretary: Sarah Self
Treasurer: Edda Martinez-Calez



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Randy the Roach or Ugly Tomatoes???

Educating Children about Insects and Plant Diseases

In this Spring the EPP Club members had several opportunities to transfer their knowledge to K-12 children from Starkville and Tupelo. We accepted Sudduth Elementary School invitation to participate in their first Science Day. It was quite a task to speak to 14 classes of second graders. We talked about insect metamorphosis and showed them that plants, like humans, could get sick too. It was fun for most kids since that was their first opportunity to observe active creatures using microscopes – big thanks to Clarissa Balbalian, Sandra Smith & Parvathi Ynturi for providing us with the nematodes.

We also had visitors from K-12 level of homeschooled children from Tupelo and kindergarten children of Sudduth Elementary School. We entertained them with "Insects" the movie (plus popcorns and KoolAid) or Insect puppet show, created by John Long (entitled "What Makes Me an Insect"), bee lessons, butterfly art and petting "Randy the Roach". Check out some of these moments captured by Julie Dobbs in the next page (p.2) ☺☺☺.



Which scientific meetings are coming up?

July 30 – August 3 American Phytopathological Society (APS) Annual Meeting, Austin TX
July 30 – August 4 Mycological Society of America (MSA) Meeting, Hilo HI
November 3-4 Mississippi Entomological Association (MEA) Meeting, Starkville MS
November 6-9 Entomological Society of America (ESA) Annual Meeting, Ft. Lauderdale FL



“Can we pet Randy?” (Science Day at Sudduth Elementary School)



A girl with Randy the Roach. “It tickles me ...”



“Why these tomatoes look ugly? Like humans, plants can get sick too!!”



Doug and bees



Doug, Sudduth kindergarten kids and bees



John and his butterfly



Alex from Sudduth with a darkling beetle on his arm



A boy with a honeybee frame



Boys with MS insects

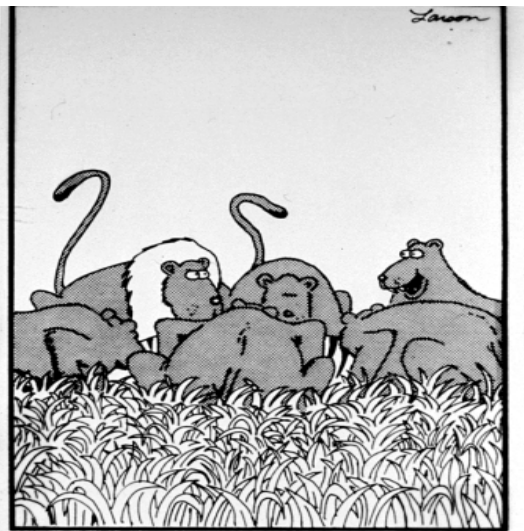
(All children school photographs are courtesy of **Julie Dobbs**)



MSU Linnaean team in action. From left to right: Ravi Vemula, Jenn Murray, Murali Ayyanath, and Tim Menzel (photographer: Dr. Livy Williams)

**2005 SOUTHEASTERN BRANCH
ESA MEETING - A STUDENT
PERSPECTIVE**

The Department of Entomology & Plant Pathology, Mississippi State University had a privilege to be the host for the 2005 Southeastern Branch ESA (SEBESA) Meeting. The meeting was held in Tunica, MS on March 6-9, 2005. Most students in our department showcased their research in oral or display presentation. We had opportunities to meet and interact with students and faculty from other universities. As the organizer of the Linnaean Games (entomological-related College Bowl Game) this year, I was pleased to see nine schools - including MSU - in the branch participated. The winner and runner up were Clemson University and North Carolina State University, respectively. The Student Symposium (Topic: Opportunities in Insect Rearing: From Basic Training to Practical Application) was well attended considering concurring sessions. In addition, as always our T-shirt fundraising was a big success. All in all, it was a great and fruitful meeting. (S. Woolfolk)



"Hey Sid! What are we going to do with the bag of your dung this mycologist collected?"

Editorial team: Julie Dobbs, Ravi Vemula & Sandra Woolfolk

New faces

Want to know about two new graduate students who have been around in the department since January 2005?

Julie Ann Dobbs is originally from Gulfport, MS. Her secondary-educational journey began at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College where she completed an A.A. in Science Education. After a battle with cancer, she eventually returned to college to complete her B.S. in Chemistry from William Carey College, Hattiesburg. Her educational quests then lead her to MSU where she worked toward a M.S. in Environmental Toxicology. Her research dealt with neurochemical changes in



children after exposure to OP insecticides.

However, tired of playing with rats, she has recently started working with Dr. Evan Nebeker to obtain her Ph.D. in Forest Entomology. Although her specific research project is yet to be

determined, she is interested in how forest management practices, such as thinning, burning, and seasonal flooding, may alter species diversity.

Tyler Wilemon is working with Dr. Gary Lawrence on nematodes for his M.S. degree in Entomology & Plant Pathology with emphasis in Plant Pathology. His project deals with nematodes. You can find him around in the Nematology Lab at North Farm.



CONGRATULATIONS TO ...

- Kevin and Elisa Page** for the birth of their second child, Allie Kate Page in April.
- Joe MacGown** as a recipient of the 2005 Zacharias Distinguished Staff Award from MSU.
- Sonya Baird, Mona Goodin, and Maribel Portilla** for their 5 years service to MSU.
- Dr. Maria Tomaso-Peterson and Sandra Smith** for their 15 years service to MSU.
- Drs. Jack Reed and Mike Williams** for their 20 and 25 years, respectively, service to MSU.
- Doug Stone** as recipients of the Outstanding graduate student poster at the 13th Biennial Southern Silvicultural Research Conference in Memphis, TN on March 1-2, 2005 and Outstanding graduate student poster at the Southeastern Microscopy Society Annual Meeting in Pensacola, FL on May 18-20, 2005.
- Sandra Woolfolk** as the winner of the 2005 Research Assistant Award (Doctoral Level) given by MSU Graduate Student Association.



Have an article or news for the next issue?
Send it to facet_epp@yahoo.com