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The Mayfly Newsletter

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20th Issue of the Newsletter
Celebrating a Decade of Publishing

Editor’s note: This anniversary issue of The Mayfly Newsletter is dedicated to the memory of our friend and colleague, Bill Peters, who passed away on 3 June 2000. See p. 6 for more details.

Ephemeropterists are a very social group. At international meetings we have no problem communicating or sharing information. The problem is that we hold these international meetings every three years. Something was needed to fill in that three year gap between meetings. So, ten years ago, after completing a desktop publishing course, I decided to establish The Mayfly Newsletter.

As editor, I am proud to say that this is the 20th issue and the 10th anniversary of the newsletter! The newsletter has published a tremendous variety of items in its 141 pages to date. These include contributed articles, retirements, the mayfly portion of the annual NABS bibliography, obituaries, position statements, business meeting reports, announcement of the availability of databases and workshops, research reports, review of proceedings, cartoons, poems and web sites. It has also been used by convenors to publicize four international conferences on Ephemeroptera.

The inset graph shows how the number of people receiving the newsletter has increased over the ten years. (The first issue is not included on this graph since it was used to announce the availability of this publication. An official mailing list began with the second issue.) There were 170 individuals on the mailing list for the second issue. This has grown to 387 for this issue. The recipients of this newsletter currently represent 42 countries throughout the world.

The Permanent Committee of the International Conferences on Ephemeroptera adopted The Mayfly Newsletter as its official newsletter in May 1993.

There has never been a subscription fee for the newsletter. This has been due to the Deans of the School of Arts and Sciences, Drs. Dan Dill and Vilas Prabhu, at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, who have made funds available for publishing and distributing the newsletter. Not having to collect subscription fees reduces the bookkeeping for me tremendously, but more importantly, it increases the availability of the newsletter to individuals who could not subscribe.

Past issues are still available. When someone asks to be added to the mailing list, I send them a complete set of back issues. This will continue until back issues are depleted.

I have enjoyed editing this newsletter and appreciate the complements, messages of support, and contributions that you have sent.

I’m looking forward to the next decade of The Mayfly Newsletter.

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The Mayfly Newsletter is printed on recycled paper with vegetable-based ink.
More on the Mayflies in Lake Erie...

Editor's note: The following information was supplied by Ken Krieger who can be contacted at the addresses at the end of this article.

The January 2000 issue of this newsletter reported the return of the large burrowing mayflies (*Hexagenia*) to Lake Erie, with emphasis on the eastern basin. These native inhabitants began repopulating the western end of the lake in the early 1990s. This article reports ongoing studies of the mayflies in the western basin and the Ohio nearshore areas of the central basin. The mayfly nymphs had succumbed in the 1950s to oxygen depletion in the lake, and elevated contaminant levels in the sediments may have also played a role in their disappearance and failure to recolonize the lake until the last decade.

With early support from Ohio Sea Grant and later support from the Ohio Lake Erie Protection Fund, Ken Krieger, at Heidelberg College (Ohio), along with colleagues from the USGS Great Lakes Science Center, surveyed the western basin of Lake Erie beginning in 1993 to determine the distribution and abundance of the burrowing nymphs. Sampling was always done prior to the beginning of the emergence of the subadults. The nymphs appeared to spread toward the middle of the basin from more shoreward areas and became most abundant in the western end of the basin. The average density throughout the basin increased exponentially between 1993 and 1997, reaching 451 nymphs per square meter, before declining to 157 per square meter in 1998. Scientists at the University of Windsor and the Great Lakes Science Center continue to conduct independent annual surveys of the densities in the western basin.

Expecting that the nymphs would spread eastward and begin repopulating parts of the central basin, Ken began sampling the nearshore zone of the central basin from off the Cedar Point amusement park near Sandusky eastward to the Pennsylvania state line in 1997 and is continuing that survey annually. After finding very few nymphs in 1997 and 1998, the nymphs appeared in numerous samples last summer west of Euclid, Ohio (just east of Cleveland), still at densities below six per square meter. The nymphs still were not found eastward.

Because Ken expected that the nymphs would be hard to find in the central basin, he set up a volunteer Mayfly Watch in 1997 with the assistance of Ohio Sea Grant extension specialists. In the first summer, all but two of more than twenty volunteers found winged (adult and subadult) *Hexagenia limbata* and *Hexagenia rigida* onshore, although in low numbers. In 1998 and 1999 the volunteers found successively more mayflies — in larger numbers and on more days per volunteer — and the mayflies continued to be reported in the Cleveland area into October. Unlike Ed Masteller’s results in Pennsylvania, Ohio’s volunteers found very few *Ephemera simulans*. Rafts and windrows of shed nymphal skins were reported several miles out from shore by fisheries biologists in 1998 and 1999.

Ken has also performed studies of the diets of forage fishes in Lake Erie since the summer of 1995. That work, and other studies on game species, have shown that the nymphs are becoming an important food once again for many fishes in the lake.

Some of these studies have been published or presented at scientific meetings. Reports on the results of the first two summers of Mayfly Watch are available, and other information can be obtained by contacting Ken Krieger at the Water Quality Laboratory, Heidelberg College, Tiffin, Ohio 44883, USA, phone (419) 448-2226, kkrieger@heidelberg.edu, and by visiting http://www.heidelberg.edu/offices/wql/ and http://www.epa.state.oh.us/oleo/lepf/.

A fact sheet (FS-069) on “Mayflies and Lake Erie: a Sign of the Times” can be obtained from the Ohio Sea Grant at http://www.sg.ohio-state.edu/.
Mayfly Conference Information

Past Conference Proceedings

Uwe Humpesch suggested that a complete list of proceedings from past mayfly conferences be published in the newsletter. This is a good idea—I haven’t seen such a list in a while. This list follows.


IXth Conference Proceedings

Eduardo Domínguez reports that Kluwer Academics/Plenum Press will publish the Proceedings of the Ninth International Conference on Ephemeroptera and the Twelfth International Symposium on Plecoptera under the title, Trends in Research in Ephemeroptera and Plecoptera. He has a total of 54 manuscripts. Eduardo has already sent page proofs to the authors and is asking for a prompt return so that he might have the final version to the publishers by mid-July.

Xth Mayfly Conference

According to Elda Gaino, the web site for the Joint Meeting of the Xth International Conference on Ephemeroptera and the XIVth International Symposium on Plecoptera will be updated soon. It will contain information about the hotels, conference center, prices, and so on.

The URL for this site is http://www.unipg.it/maystone.

The meeting is scheduled for 5-11 August 2001, in Perugia, Italy.

New Mayfly Publications


A Bibliography of Chinese Mayflies

Zhou Chang-fa, Department of Biology, Nankai University, Tianjin, 300071, Peoples Republic of China, email zhouchangfa@tjmail.com

I am a Ph.D. candidate and plan to study the adults of Chinese Ephemeroptera (excluding Baetidae) for my Ph.D. As far as I know, there are 223 known species of mayflies in China. The following is a list of papers that I have compiled on Chinese Ephemeroptera.

Leptophlebiidae) from Anhui Province, China. Acta Zootaxonomica Sinica 14(1):91-95

Seminar:
Systematics, Biology and Biogeography of Ephemeroptera
(with emphasis on South American groups)

- Date: 20-24 November 2000
- Professors: Eduardo Dominguez and Carlos Molineri
- Maximum number of students: 15
- Cost of inscription: US$ 100
- Pre-inscription deadline: August 30
- Interested persons: Contact Dr. Ruben Marin at hydrobio.ird@mail.megalink.com
- Please send an intention letter and curriculum vitae
William L. "Bill" Peters

For the second newsletter in a row, I must unfortunately report the death of one of our colleagues. Mike Hubbard recently informed me that Bill Peters died of heart failure on 3 June 2000.

It has not been easy finishing this newsletter with Bill’s death in mind. Bill was my major professor for my Ph.D. and I got to know him, his wife Jan, and daughter Rae quite well over those seven years.

As I indicated to Eduardo Domínguez, international conferences just won’t be the same without Bill. He could always be easily identified in a crowd – a cloud of cigarette smoke above his head, clothed in either a brown suit on more formal occasions or his well known Hawaiian shirt during informal times, his deep laughter filling the room.

Besides his prolific research and passion for mayflies, I think Bill will be remembered for his great generosity. Everyone can tell stories of how he helped graduate students, postdocs, and colleagues. It was not uncommon for Bill and Jan to take people into their home and care for them like family.

Bill is and will be legendary among ephemeropterists – for his work on leptophlebiids and especially for his devotion to the Permanent Committee of the International Conferences on Ephemeroptera on which he served as chair since the committee’s inception. The success of our international meetings is due in part to Bill’s efforts.

Memorial contributions may be made to the R. Capelouto Foundation, Inc., c/o Entomology, Orr Drive, Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, Florida 32307 USA or to the General Scholarship Fund at this same university.

Condolences may be sent to his wife Jan at 1803 Chuli Nene, Tallahassee, Florida 32301 USA.
Old Mayflies Give Clues to Past Atmospheric Densities

Fossilized mayflies can be used to estimate the density (pressure) of ancient atmospheres, according to geologist John L. Cisne of Cornell University. He spoke at the annual meeting of the American Geophysical Union last month in San Francisco.

Most species of mayflies live only a few days as adults, succumbing to fish and other hazards. Occasionally, however, one of them will land in soft sediment and become a well-preserved fossil. Such fossils indicate that the common mayfly has persisted with little change since its appearance some 300 million years ago, the Cornell scientist says.

Mayflies work like little helicopters, Cisne explains, as they dance up and down in a mating swarm. Measurements of the sizes of the wings and flight muscles lead to estimates of the density of the atmosphere in which the mayfly danced. From such measurements on fossil and modern mayflies, Cisne concludes, “The atmosphere’s mass must have been practically the same for the last quarter-billion years, at least so far as mayflies can tell us.”

Geologists have learned from rocks that Earth’s atmosphere at times has been quite different than it is today. Their only clue to ancient atmospheric pressures, however, has been the size of gas bubbles frozen into lava as it solidified. Mayfly measurements promise to supplement these methods to good effect, Cisne believes, in determining the mass and composition of ancient atmospheres.


Mayfly Web Sites

Mayfly Central
http://www.entm.purdue.edu/entomology/research/mayfly/mayfly.html

Ephemeroptera Galactica
http://www.famu.org/mayfly

2001 Joint International Conference
www.unipg.it/maystone

The Electrogena Pages
http://webspace.pronet.it/c.belfiore/Electrogena/

Mayfly Korea
http://myhome.shinbiro.com/~monka/index.html

Nomina Insecta Nearctica (Ephemeroptera)
http://www.nearctica.com/nomina/oddbugs/ephem.htm

The Mayflies of South Africa
http://www.ru.ac.za/departments/zooento/Martin/ephemeroptera.html

Ephemeroptera from France
http://www.invfmr.org/

Ephemeroptera of Texas
http://www.utexas.edu/research/bfl/collections/aqinsects/ephem.htm

Mayfly Toys

This license plate was found attached to a 1986 Honda Civic in western Oklahoma, USA. The owner of this vehicle claims to publish a newsletter on mayflies. Likely story.

Members of the Permanent Committee

The members of the Permanent Committee of the International Conferences on Ephemeroptera are J. Alba-Tercedor, Spain; I. C. Campbell, Australia; E. Dominguez, Argentina; J. F. Flannagan, Canada; E. Gaino, Italy; K. S. Gibbs, USA; P. M. Grant, USA; V. Landa, Czech Republic; P. Landolt, Switzerland; W. L. Peters, USA; M. Sartori, Switzerland; and T. Soldan, Czech Republic.

Emeritus members include G. F. Edmunds, Jr., USA; J. Fontaine, France; L. Muller-Liebenau, Germany; and H. J. Schoonbee, South Africa.
# Address Updates - New Corrections, Changes

Changes or additions to the mailing list and email addresses since the last issue are listed below. Updated addresses will be published as they become available. Please inform the editor of any changes in postal or email addresses.

### NEW/CHANGES

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The Mayfly Newsletter is the official newsletter of the International Conferences on Ephemeroptera and is published twice a year to facilitate communication among ephemerologist. Subscriptions to the Newsletter are free. To place your name on the mailing list or to contribute information for the next issue, contact Peter M. Grant, editor, The Mayfly Newsletter, Department of Biological Sciences, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, 100 Campus Drive, Weatherford, Oklahoma 73096-3098 USA, phone (580) 774-3294, fax (580) 774-7140, email grantp@swosu.edu. This publication was authorized by the Dean of Arts and Sciences and was printed at a cost of $160.00 for 500 copies.