

Gillette Club Centi-bration – how you can participate

As most of you are aware this is the Centennial Year for the Gillette Entomology Club, CSU's oldest student club. As part of the celebrations there will be a very special event on October 6 –“ A Centi-bration of Entomology”. This will be a featured part of Homecoming Weekend activities and will be held from 10-2 in the Clark Building.

The Centi-bration will involve games, booths, displays, movies and much, much more (including a “Dunk an Entomologist” tank.) A central part of this will be the booths/displays that will feature any manner of arthropod related material that might be of interest to the anticipated crowds that will travel through. This will be an outstanding opportunity to reach a very large number of people (many hundreds, minimum, can be expected) on subjects of interest to you.


We would like to have every Department lab that involves itself with insects in some way to have at least one display, either done by yourself or interested students. Others outside the campus with an interest in participating are also welcome. The subject of your display is wide open. Perhaps it would be something related to your research area, perhaps it just would be a subject that was of interest to you or others. (For example display topic ideas already taken involve bed bugs, edible insects, and Mexican jumping beans.)

Please think about participating in this high profile event and let me know what display/booths you would like to contribute to the Centi-bration. I will also try to come around sometime this week to discuss this with you and answer questions you may have.

Thank you!

Whitney Cranshaw—Whitney.Cranshaw@ColoState.EDU

The Gillette Entomology Club presents a



Centi-bration
100 years
of Entomology

Commemorating 100 years of the entomology club at Colorado State University



Upcoming Events

• **October 5**
2012 Homecoming Parade Join last year's winners of the Novelty Division and be a part of the Precision Net Drill Team. For more information talk to Rachael Fithian.

• **October 6**
Mark your calendars for October 6, when the Gillette Entomology Club presents its Centi-Bration of Entomology. The Club is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year and the Centi-Bration will be the largest "bug bash" northern Colorado has ever seen! There will be displays and booths, games and movies and much, much more. All with entomology themes that the oldest student club on campus has been promoting now for a century. The Centi-Bration will be part of the Homecoming Weekend activities. It is scheduled from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and will be held inside and outdoors of the Clark Building A-Wing. Everyone is welcome!



Thirteen Graduate Students Join BSPM

BSPM welcomes 13 new graduate students to the department in 2012. Please take a moment to learn more about them and help make them feel welcome next time you see them.

Nuha Altilmisani is from Saudi Arabia and she received a Bachelor's in Animal Science in Faculty of Education for Girls, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Nuha received her Master's degree from the Biology Department at



King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia where she completed several courses in Biology and Entomology. The title of her master thesis is: Survey of rice insect infestation in Jeddah city and the effect of some plant oils on *Sitophilus Oryzae* L. Nuha studied English Language at Intensive English Program in Colorado State University for one year, so English is her second language. She is enrolled in a Ph.D. program in Bioagricultural Sciences and Pest Management at Colorado State University. Her advisors are Dr. Frank Peairs and Dr. Paul Ode and her ambition is adding useful achievements in the area of Entomology.

Chip Belcher is originally from a small town in the mountains of north Georgia, and has been here in Fort Collins for 10



years. He is a Master's student working with Dr. Boris Kondratieff. Chip's interests are in aquatic and stream ecology, and wildlife biology/ecology. He has an A.A.S.

in Wildlife Biology from FRCC-Larimer, and a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University.

Ana Maria Bossa is from Colombia, and is a Ph.D. student in Plant Pathology under the advisement of Dr. Jan Leach.

She received her Bachelor's degree in Biology at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia. During her undergraduate studies, she was part of the Molecular Plant Pathology research group from the Biology Department. For her degree project, Ana worked with Cassava protein-protein interactions in response to Cassava Bacterial Blight. After that, she worked as a research assistant at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) in the Biotechnology Research Unit for more than 2 years. There, she worked on the identification and characterization of



Orthologs of maize sexual-determination genes in rice and develop of synthetic lethality. As part of the project, Ana was a visiting scholar at Dr. Dellaporta's Lab at Yale University on two occasions. The project she will be working on in the Leach Lab is focused on the temperature effects on resistance genes to bacterial pathogens in rice. Her main interest is to further deepen her knowledge of plant-microbe interactions and in applying it to the development of crops with durable resistance to pathogens.

Rene Corral is a Master's student in Plant Pathology in the Department of Bioagricultural Sciences and Pest Management, and will be advised by



Drs. Jan Leach and Valérie Verdier. His research will be focused on the interaction of environment (temperature), host plant resistance (R gene) and pathogen virulence/ avirulence by studying rice and the bacterial blight pathogen *Xanthomonas oryzae* pathovar *oryzae*. Rene was born in Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Mexico and grew up in Fort Morgan, Colorado. He received a B.S. in Chemistry from Colorado State University. Rene enjoys drumming, working on his cars, skiing, snowboarding, and biking.

Curtis Hildebrandt calls Burlington, CO his hometown and he grew up on a small 3/4 section farm just outside of Bethune, CO, where his dad is also an aerial sprayer. Curtis



just graduated with his B.S. degree in Soil and Crop Sciences from Colorado State University and also has a minor in Chemistry. He is currently working with Dr. Philip Westra in the Weed Science Lab toward getting a M.S. degree.

Kallie Kessler was born and raised in Eagle, CO. She received a B.A. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from CU-Boulder in 2009 and has worked for the Denver Natural Areas Program since graduating. Primarily, she worked in the area of weed management, which led her to the Weed Science Program here at CSU. Kallie is a Master's student under the advisement of Dr. George Beck and Dr. Scott Nissen. Her research will focus on the herbicidal control of downy brome in rangeland. In her spare time she enjoys going running, skiing, and camping.



Michael Koontz is originally from Maryland. Sea turtle research and tropical forest conservation work set him on a path to earn his B.S. in Biology from the University of Hawaii at Hilo. After graduating, he worked on two tropical forest projects—one involving carbon cycling response to climate change and another involving forest response to invasive ungulate management. Mike continued working on climate change ecology in Colorado looking at treeline shifts of common forest species under



warming treatments. He will be changing gears to join Dr. Ruth Hufbauer's lab and will work on small population dynamics and evolutionarily interesting aspects of the *Tribolium* flour beetle model system.

Bernadette Kuhn is a Ph.D. student under the advisement of Dr. Andrew Norton and Dr. Boris Kondratieff. Her research will focus on plant-insect interactions. Since 2010, she has worked as a botanist/ecologist in the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) at CSU. Prior to joining CNHP, she worked as a botanist completing floristic inventories and rare plant inventory and monitoring studies in the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains. Bernadette holds a B.A. in Environmental Policy from the University of Kansas, and a M.S. in Botany from the University of Wyoming. As a student in the GDPE/BSPM department, she will focus her research on pollination ecology, habitat needs of native bees in agricultural and rangeland settings, and bee taxonomy. She is thrilled to be a lab instructor for the Plant Identification course at CSU.



Jillian Lang is a Ph.D. student in the Cell and Molecular Biology program and is advised by Dr. Jan Leach. She received her B.S. in Biology from SUNY Fredonia and a M.S. in Plant Pathology in BSPM at CSU with Dr. Howard Schwartz. In between



her time in BSPM, she worked as a Senior Scientist in algae based biofuels at Solix BioSystems. She returned to CSU two years later and is currently a research associate/lab manager for Dr. Jan Leach. Jillian is excited to be in class again and looks forward to a dynamic research project combining bioenergy and disease resistance in the rice model system.

Peter Leipzig-Scott was born and raised in New York, where he received his degree in Environmental Studies from Skidmore College. His research there covered a wide range of issues, but much of it examined the spread of riparian invasive plant species. After graduation, Peter worked for the BLM and the Nature Conservancy in Tucson, followed by wildlife conservation work in Costa Rica. Most recently he has spent the last year and a half working with the USGS here in Fort Collins, studying contaminant loads in macroinvertebrates and spiders. Peter will be switching gears this fall, joining Ruth Hufbauer's lab and turning his research focus back to plant ecology.



Derek Sebastian is a Master's student in Weed Science and is advised by Dr. Phil Westra. Originally from Loveland, CO, Derek received his B.S. at Creighton University, with a double major in Biology and Secondary Education. He played on the Creighton Men's Basketball Team all four years, where they qualified for the NIT (National Invitation Tournament) during his sophomore year, and the NCAA tournament this past season. He is very excited to begin his research and further his education here at Colorado State University.



Bradley Tonnessen is a new Ph.D. student in Dr. Jan Leach's laboratory. He grew up in Albuquerque, and graduated with a B.S. in Biology with a focus on mathematics from the University of New Mexico. His academic interests are in the genetic control of plant defense responses (DRs) to pathogens as well as secondary metabolite production. He'll be focusing on utilizing rice



transgenics for promoter optimization by incorporating novel combinations of cis-acting transcription factor binding sites to DR genes in order to improve plant defense. Since moving to Colorado, he has begun to embrace the outdoor lifestyle of hiking and backpacking, but his free time is better spent on what he has been doing since he was eight years old, being an ice hockey goaltender.

Christopher Van Horn (not pictured) is a Ph.D. student in Cell and Molecular Biology advised by Dr. Phil Westra. His office is in the Weed Research Lab.

2012 Outstanding Science Staff

Peter Forrence received the 2012 Outstanding Science Staff Award established by the Students as Leaders in Sciences organization. Dr. Boris Kondratieff arranged for Matt Camper to present Peter with two beautifully framed drawings. Congratulations Peter!



Cheryl Bowker Receives Prestigious Award

Bioagricultural Sciences and Pest Management Ph.D. student, Cheryl Bowker was awarded the Ethyl Allen Fellowship from Sigma Delta Epsilon-Graduate Women in Science this summer. The fellowship is a \$5,000 award and Cheryl was one of 10 women selected from 188 applications! Please take a moment to congratulate Cheryl next time you see her.

