

# Bugged

MSU DEPARTMENT  
OF ENTOMOLOGY



MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY

Banded-legged golden orb-web spider by Bill Ravlin, MSU Entomology

## FROM THE CHAIR

It's a new season at MSU Entomology. The last few months have been busy and exciting as I have begun my tenure as chairperson of the MSU Entomology Department. My journey here began in fall 2019, and like so many other plans, was delayed due to the covid-19 pandemic. In this introductory column, I'll briefly introduce myself and then highlight how MSU Entomology is moving forward.

I came to MSU after serving 14 years in the Entomology & Plant Pathology Department at North Carolina State University where I had extension and research responsibilities for IPM in specialty crops. As a native of northeastern Wisconsin, I received my BS in Entomology from the University

of Wisconsin and headed to UC Davis for my PhD. Joining MSU Entomology was a welcome opportunity to return to the upper Midwest and to learn first-hand what our outstanding faculty, students and staff do on a daily basis to advance insect science in Michigan and beyond.

During the last few months, MSU Entomology, like much of the world, has started to cautiously reopen. After a completely remote start to spring semester for the first three weeks, we have shifted to hybrid online and in-person department seminars and department meetings. We will hold our first in person awards reception since the start of the pandemic on April 28 at the Kellogg Center, and we will celebrate our 2022 graduates on May 5. Please reach out if you would like more details

on these or other upcoming events.

Other changes in the works at MSU Entomology include:

- The upcoming retirement of Joy Landis who has ably served as communications manager for 12 years. Taking over from Joy will be Judi Smelser, who will have a joint appointment with Entomology and the School of Packaging—two dynamic programs with big plans!
- Recruitment of Julianna Wilson to serve as assistant professor for tree fruit entomology, starting in May 2022. Wilson brings a wealth of experience and interdisciplinary expertise to this critical position.
- Construction on Phase 1 of the Pollinator Performance Center. In this phase, we're building critical infrastructure for beekeeping, honey extraction, and training.

I'm looking forward to a Michigan spring, and hope to welcome many of you to visit us at MSU Entomology!



Bill Ravlin, MSU Entomology

*Bombylius major* on Spring beauty shot by the Red Cedar.



**Hannah  
Burrack,  
Chairperson**

## RESEARCH & PROJECTS

[Will Wetzel's lab recently published Plant chemical diversity and its frequency have distinct but complementary effects on insect foraging](#) in the *Journal of Applied Ecology*.



Kayleigh Hauri

One way to manage pests in agricultural systems without pesticides is by using cultivar mixtures, or multiple varieties of a crop in the same field. These mixes can effectively reduce pest pressure; however, results can vary, and it is unclear why. One aspect rarely investigated is how the cultivars are arranged in the field.

According to lead author graduate student **Kayleigh Hauri**, the researchers performed an experiment at [Kellogg Biological Station](#) to determine how plant chemical diversity and its spatial arrangement influences insect herbivore movement and feeding. They used field plots of two tomato cultivars, one commercial variety and one with reduced terpenes, an odor cue released by plants and used by insect herbivores and predators to locate hosts. The cultivars were planted in monocultures or dicultures of different arrangements. Caterpillars were released in the plots and later recaptured and assessed for feeding and survival.

Feeding damage was more concentrated in mixtures compared to monocultures but was only reduced in the more 'clumped' diculture compared to a more 'even' diculture. Chemical diversity and how it is arranged influenced herbivore foraging. The arrangement of diversity itself can have large effects on herbivore performance and should be considered when planning a mixture to control specific herbivore pests.



### MSU Entomologists welcome arrival of samba wasp for biocontrol of spotted-wing drosophila

MSU researchers who specialize in fruit crop pests and biological control are excited to receive a new biocontrol agent that could help fruit growers manage spotted-wing drosophila (SWD) on their crops. SWD has been a significant new pest for Michigan growers. The arrival of SWD resulted in a 30% per acre increase in the cost to produce blueberries and tart cherries in Michigan through increased insecticide applications.

The samba wasp (*Ganaspis brasiliensis*) is a tiny parasitic wasp that lays its eggs in SWD larvae. After years of evaluation and permit review, USDA APHIS and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development have approved release of this wasp to states where it threatens fruit production.

A vial containing adult samba wasps on their first day on the MSU campus.

One of the researchers, [Juan Huang](#), recently travelled to the USDA lab in Delaware and received training on the rearing process. She returned to MSU with 100 of these insects to begin mass-rearing efforts. Once sufficient numbers of wasps are in colony, targeted releases are planned this summer at blueberry and cherry farms around the state.

This program provides hope for improved integrated pest management (IPM) practices on fruit farms across Michigan and the potential to reduce insecticide spraying for this pest.

Teams from three entomology labs led by [Rufus Isaacs](#), [Julianna Wilson](#) and [Marianna Szűcs](#) are collaborating to develop this new biocontrol agent for Michigan farms.

**With funding from the National Science Foundation, Amanda Lorenz and Henry Chung will deliver a unique workshop at the MSU Bug House for local K-5 teachers.** The workshop will introduce insect biology, demonstrate handling and care of live insects and train teachers in activities and lessons that directly align with curricular requirements from the Next Generation Science Standards. In addition, teachers will work on brainstorming and developing a personalized lesson plan utilizing insects. The workshop will be offered on



Jordan Noble, Be Noble Photography

two dates: Friday, July 22, and Saturday, July 23. The goal is to host 15 participants on each day for a total of 30 and to offer the workshop a total of three summers.

## Tatter family makes gifts to MSU Entomology in memory of Jordan Tatter

The Department of Entomology is honored to receive three transformative contributions from Mary Ellen Tatter and family. The gifts establish The Tatter Family Endowment for Excellence in Entomology (\$2 million); The Tatter Family Fund for Excellence in Entomology (\$200,000); and The Tatter Family Fund for Diversity and Inclusion in Entomology (\$150,000). The Tatter family created the endowment and funds in the spirit of Jordan Tatter who was a 1960 MSU Entomology graduate advised by former MSU President Gordon Guyer during Guyer's years as a professor.

Professor and former chairperson Bill Ravlin said, "The Tatter family gifts are a real milestone for the department as they will allow us to invest funds focused on entomological excellence with the ultimate goal of making national and international impacts. We cannot thank the Tatter family enough for their gifts and encouragement."

The family indicated that their gifts are to honor previous and current faculty and students at Michigan State University's College of Agriculture & Natural Resources and to support the important future contributions of the Department of Entomology. Tatter family members have been avid supporters of the Entomology Department and remain extremely enthusiastic about its impact.

"My mother and father were passionate about the importance of entomology, agriculture and natural resources to our world. They believed supporting Michigan State University was the best way to pursue this passion," said the Tatters' son, Stephen Tatter, M.D., Ph.D., who is a

professor and neurosurgeon at Wake Forest School of Medicine.

"The idea of giving to the community is like giving to your family and MSU is family. Giving to MSU is like taking care of your loved ones," he added.

During his college years, Tatter was involved with several MSU milestones. While earning his bachelor's degree from the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, he was a member of the first three varsity soccer teams (1956-1958) and the inaugural MSU Honors College. He performed his entomology master's dissertation research with Dr. Gordon Guyer, future chair of the department and MSU president.

"We are so excited about the opportunities the Tatter Family Endowment and Funds provide to empower excellence in entomology," said department chairperson Hannah Burrack. "We expect that these funds will help us recruit new faculty members, support innovative research, and build innovative collaborations to answer global grand challenges. This is a dynamic time for Entomology at MSU!"

Tatter remained deeply tied to MSU and Michigan agriculture throughout his life. He served on the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

Stakeholder Advisory Board, the board of the MSU Foundation, and was a charter member of the MSU Extension and Experiment Station Council. MSU's Southwest Michigan Research and Extension Center dedicated the Jordan B. Tatter Conference Center in 2004.

He was a fruit grower in Watervliet, Michigan, and an agricultural consultant co-founding Prescription Farming. Other work included serving as MSU Extension district agent for fruit crops in Southwestern Michigan, president and CEO of Southern Michigan (Hanson) Cold Storage, commissioner of the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources, commissioner of the Michigan Department of Agriculture, president of the International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses, and chair of the board of the Detroit Branch of the United States Federal Reserve Bank.

He was also a gold panner, golfer, trapper, hunter, father and husband of Mary Ellen Tatter. Mary studied special education at MSU. She first met Jordie at Camp Watervliet for Girls, where she was a camper, and later became a counselor, water skiing instructor, and director.

Mary Tatter served the community in many roles, including reading tutor, Watervliet District Library board member, Watervliet Community Hospital board member, 4-H Foundation board member, runner, mother and grandmother. An additional \$400,000 has been designated toward a graduate fellowship in the College of Education to honor her passion for education. Since making these gifts, Mary passed on January 11, 2022 ([read obituary](#)).





## FEATURED UNDERGRAD NATE HOWDER

**Hometown:** Arlington, Virginia  
**Studies:** Entomology major

**Why entomology?** I've always been interested in animals in general. I spent a lot of time as a child looking under rocks in our yard for bugs with my dad. As I got older, I moved away from my interest in bugs and focused more on other animals. I took an animal science class in high school and found I had as much interest in the dubia roaches they raised to feed other animals as I did animals they were being fed to. So I began raising dubia roaches and hissing cockroaches for myself.

### **In high school, you volunteered at the Smithsonian.**

**Tell us about that.** Being at the Smithsonian was a really fun and rewarding experience. I started as a volunteer in Q?rius, a hands-on part of the museum aimed at kids. I learned how to facilitate various activities and engage with the museum visitors. We also got to take objects from Q?rius to a cart in the hall and present them to visitors however we saw fit. In my last couple months, I was trained to work in the Insect Zoo. I handled live insects such as hissing cockroaches and tobacco hornworms, helped instruct and manage visitors inside the Butterfly Pavilion, and helped facilitate tarantula feedings. Unfortunately, my time there was cut short by COVID.

### **What is your best experience with entomology?**

Working as vice president of the [MSU Bug Club](#), with club president Osten Eschdor to make Bug Club a worthwhile organization has been so satisfying. We basically redesigned it from the ground up; we planned out so many new meeting ideas to find a good balance of usefulness and fun. When I first joined, the only people we could count on attending our meetings, which were online with zoom, were the executive board members. Now we have over 150 members of our discord and consistently get around 15-20 people in addition to our board at every meeting.

### **Favorite way to spend time outside of your studies?**

When it's warm enough outside, I like to spend time looking for bugs. It's a lot harder to do that in winter, especially when there's snow on the ground. I like making art too, particularly drawing and pixel art.

**What is your favorite thing about MSU?** I like how spread-out the campus is. A lot of the other schools I visited felt much more compact and claustrophobic.

## FEATURED GRAD STUDENT KEVIN POSTMA

**Home:** Manistee, Michigan  
**Previous education:** BS Botany, Miami University; MA Curriculum & Instruction, Univ. of Mississippi.  
**Major advisor:** Julianna Wilson



### **What was something positive you experienced as a student during a pandemic?**

Due to the pandemic, Entomology professor [Larry Gut](#) was unable to find an undergraduate scout for his research in orchards in the Hart and Manistee areas. He needed someone to check traps for codling moths and potential new invasive species that haven't shown up yet but could be harmful for the fruit industry. He begged growers to find him a scout, which led to the local biology teacher (me) taking the job! Though just a scout, I enjoyed the research and getting to interact with really intelligent people. At the end of summer, [Julianna Wilson](#) and Gut asked if I would be interested in pursuing a PhD! Because I am working full time as a high school science teacher, I have to complete most of my coursework virtually. Before the pandemic, few of us could zoom or use other online tools so I doubt that I could be a PhD student if the pandemic hadn't forced us all to learn these tools.

### **Tell us about how you experience being a teacher and a grad student.**

I have taught high school science for 23 years at a small school in Manistee, so I have taught almost every subject area. Teaching has pushed me to deeply understand concepts so that I can help students reach an understanding. While I hope that they will all grow to love and understand science, I know that many of them struggle and get frustrated because science is hard. Being a grad student lets me experience some of the struggle and frustration that comes with pushing as earning a PhD isn't easy. Learning isn't always easy. I realize how little I know and that I have to work to understand the material and reach out to my professors for help when needed. While this feeling is uncomfortable, I ask my students to do this every day. Hopefully my frustrations and moments of intellectual insecurity will help me become a better, more compassionate teacher.

**What are you researching?** I am researching whether orchards sequester significant amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and whether the grass alleys between the trees can be manipulated to increase soil carbon sequestration. While my research is primarily biogeochemical, plant changes affect insect populations. Everything is multidisciplinary.

## Dan Herms awarded 2022 Entomology Distinguished Alumnus Award

Dan Herms is our 2022 recipient of the department's Distinguished Alumnus Award. Herms' career has spanned 13 years as director of the plant health care program at Dow Gardens in Midland, Mich.; 21 years on the faculty of the Ohio State University Department of Entomology, including five years as chair of the department; and most recently, serving as vice president for research and development at The Davey Tree Expert Company.

At Davey Tree, Herms provides strategic leadership of their research and development program, directs their research and diagnostic labs, oversees master planning of their new 176-acre research and training campus in Kent, Ohio, and



develops projections for how climate change will impact the tree care industry and Davey operations over the next 30 to 50 years.

"Being named a Distinguished Alumnus is incredibly meaningful as the Department of Entomology

has been and remains such an important part of my personal and professional life history," Herms said. "The excellent faculty, staff and students I had the great fortune to interact with and learn from during my graduate program were foundational to the success that I've enjoyed since. The department has produced so many distinguished alumni and it is incredibly humbling to be honored among them."

Read more about Herms' path through his diverse and successful career in our 2019 interview, [Doctorate in entomology is a springboard for three careers for this alumnus.](#)

Recipients of other departmental awards will be announced at the April 28 awards banquet.

## INTRODUCING

### The GW Bird Family Foundation for Environmentally Sound Agriculture

Former students, colleagues and family of MSU Entomology Professor Emeritus George Bird are honoring his international commitment to environmentally sound agriculture with an award and grant organization.



George Bird is well known across the country and internationally for his work with integrated pest management, sustainable agriculture and sustainable-equitable development. He has applied his diverse training in nematology, plant pathology, entomology and horticulture to cultivate the evolution of innovations in these fields. He has been a consistent voice in academia for partnering with farmers to

support environmentally sound agriculture.

In his honor, a new foundation has been established with the goal to foster environmentally sound agricultural innovation. The foundation will sponsor:

- An annual award for environmentally sound agriculture innovation by an individual or group.
- Environmentally sound agriculture innovation grants.
- A website for enhancing environmentally sound agricultural.

The foundation's board of directors will include the MSU Entomology chairperson. The first GW Bird Environmentally Sound Agriculture Award will be announced at the end of 2022, with a call for nominations to take place in the near future.



George Bird meets with a farmer as part of a USAID IPM CRSP project in 2010. Bird has made many trips to the countries of Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan working on related IPM collaborations.

# Buzzing along with the Pollinator Performance Center

In March, builders began to convert an existing facility on MSU Campus farms into the new MSU Pollinator Performance Center. A partnership among the [Department of Entomology](#), [MSU AgBioResearch](#) and [MSU Extension](#) provided the initial funding to support the most urgent needs such as the honey extraction facility and a staff locker room. The final building will be home to the honey bee farm facility, space for teaching and outreach along with research labs.

The farm building will include a fully operational honey extraction facility and controlled climate rooms for indoor overwintering research. The planned Phase II construction will also include research labs, a teaching classroom and space for extension events.

Landscape plans are also underway for pollinator gardens and a fully accessible teaching space to complement the hundreds of trees planted by MSU Infrastructure, Planning and Facilities in May 2021.



Meghan Milbrath, MSU Entomology.



Ana Heck, MSU Extension/Entomology

March 19, 2022 - Demolition has begun to remove stalls used for large animal research to make room for the new honey house, which will include a hot room, a honey extraction system, bottling tanks, and clean storage for extracting honey from research and extension hives.

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development inspectors receive training from MSU Extension educators at the Center's teaching hives.

The Pollinator Performance Center will significantly expand MSU's capacity for research, teaching and extension. The farm facility will allow researchers to manage enough colonies to perform field trials and potentially develop a breeding program. The close proximity of hives to classrooms, research labs and pollinator plantings will enable faculty and extension educators to expand

programming and ensure MSU remains at the forefront of honey bee and other pollinator research.

To read more about the facility, see [New on-campus center to serve as hub of MSU pollinator research, teaching, outreach](#). Please support our efforts by giving to the [Pollinator Performance Center Building Fund](#), or by contacting MSU University development.

## Students win at meetings



This winter meetings were typically held both in-person and online. Several of our students excelled with presenting their work at a couple of events. Congratulations to these winners.

### North Central Branch of the Entomological Society of America

- **Brianna Foster**, Second Place (tie) in the 10-minute Paper PhD Session 2 (P-IE) (in-person).
- **Michael Kalwajtys**, First Place in the 10-Minute Virtual Poster Competition.
- **Julie Michaelson**, Third Place in the 10-Minute Virtual Poster Competition.

### International Integrated Pest Management Symposium

- **Jessika Maas**, Honorable Mention in the Poster Competition.

## Linda Gallagher receives CANR dean's award of distinction

The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) has initiated a new award, the CANR Staff Dean's Award of Distinction, and it is no surprise to those who have been a part of MSU Entomology that Linda Gallagher is its first recipient. Gallagher will receive her award on April 21.

The new award recognizes a support staff member for their outstanding long-term service to CANR and their exemplary performance during their employment. If long-term service were the only award criteria, Gallagher's 40 years in CANR would put her in the running. But it is her role and recognition by many at MSU as an exceptional business manager that made her the front runner for the award.

Nomination materials note that exemplary only begins to describe



Derrick Turner, MSU Photography

Gallagher. Faculty, students, staff, colleagues and administrators referred to her as "the cornerstone," "the steady presence" and "the glue" that holds the department together. Academic programs do not become renowned for research alone. One nominator shared that "multiple senior faculty in our department owe their careers' funding success to the support from Linda and her office, both for developing proposals and keeping them on track after they were awarded."

Gallagher is a critical link among people, the department, colleges,

the university and beyond. In addition to her direct department leadership, she is also sought out by others in similar roles in other CANR departments and colleges because of her vast understanding and institutional knowledge. Colleagues in Entomology, other departments and administrators within CANR and the University shared that Gallagher is "one of the best" at Michigan State University.

Recently, Gallagher used her understanding of department budget and structure to formalize support and accounting for diversity and inclusion initiatives undertaken by faculty, staff and students. Having a mechanism to fund these goals is a significant step towards their sustainability.

Our sincere congratulations to Linda! Truly, successes within our department are significantly due to her exceptional leadership abilities, skills, dedication to excellence and institutional knowledge.

*Article includes excerpts from article by Abbey Miller, CANR.*

## Rich Merritt Entomology Legend

The Fall 2021 issue of *American Entomologist* included a Legends feature on University Distinguished Professor Emeritus **Rich Merritt**. In the interview by Marlin Rice, Merritt shares stories and advice illuminating a colorful path to becoming a renowned entomologist.

He says he found his passion for entomology when he chose his last class at San José State University, "I was a biology major and I put off until the last course a choice between botany and entomology. I had to take one more elective.

I could care less about insects my whole life. I never collected them, I never saw them. And I flipped a coin—botany lost—and I had to take an entomology course my last year."

The rest is history. Merritt credits his students as key factors in his success. Below he is shown with his former students at his 2013 retirement celebration.



## Entomology undergraduate students build community centered around their passion for arthropods.

Interest in insects and entomology is gaining new momentum at MSU. Much of the activity is centered around an undergraduate organization, the MSU Bug Club. Club president Osten Eschedor reports meetings this past fall averaged about 25 people per event. The club also hosts a Discord server with over 160 participants who daily share insect news articles, memes and advice about entomology. Most club members are not entomology majors or minors but that doesn't stop them from wanting to engage on arthropod topics.

Eschedor notes the club met 8 times during fall and had a variety of activities centered around its new mission statement: MSU Bug Club will provide a welcoming environment for students interested

in learning about entomology to connect with fellow arthropod enthusiasts and develop professional skills. Activities included a collecting trip on campus, pinning workshop, Bug Bingo, Halloween party and decorating the MSU Bug House, a tour of the A.J. Cook Arthropod Research Collection and an entomology careers presentation, and entomophagy.

Entomology student advisor Amanda Lorenz is the club advisor. Board members along with Eschedor include Nate Howder, Claire Komarzec, Alyssa Garza and Jonathan Tharp. All board members are Entomology majors.

Learn more about the club on Instagram and Twitter @bugclubmsu.



The club's logo is modeled after the *Sesia spartani* moth.



Eschedor in the MSU Bug House.



### Professor and former chairperson Bill Ravlin received two honorable mentions in the National Wildlife Federation's 2021 Photo Contest.

His photos were selected from over 40,000 entries.

To see his award-winning sweat bee, *Halictus ligatus*, visit [bit.ly/Ravlin-NWFpics](https://bit.ly/Ravlin-NWFpics) and view the third image to the left in the photo gallery. The banded-legged golden orb-web spider featured in the banner of this newsletter is his other winning image.

## MEET OUR POSTDOCS NAYELI CARVAJAL

In March, MSU Entomology's Bug Talk podcast interviewed postdoctoral researcher Nayeli Carvajal. Nayeli is a member of the [Wetzel lab](#) moving from California to Michigan in April. She completed her PhD in November 2021 at the University of California - Irvine studying climate change effects on insect-plant interactions.

During her postdoc, she will be researching how heat waves affect potatoes and its associated pests.

Outside of research, Carvajal is passionate about plants, hiking and also enjoys reading and cooking.

Check out her website: <https://nayelicarvajal.weebly.com/>



You can listen to the interview with Carvajal in Episode 84: [buzzsprout.com/911479/10297995](https://buzzsprout.com/911479/10297995)

You can also watch all the podcasts on YouTube on the Bug Talk channel at [www.youtube.com/channel/UCYJf8hS87OdcxZT9K1BqKhQ/videos](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYJf8hS87OdcxZT9K1BqKhQ/videos)





## ALUMNI NEWS

### Robin Rosenbaum

(staff, 1980s) will receive the 2022 CANR Distinguished Service Award during ANR Week. She has had a



distinguished 30-year-career with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD). She currently serves as Plant Health Section Manager, Plant Pest Management Division. Read more about Rosenbaum: [bit.ly/RosenbaumAward](https://bit.ly/RosenbaumAward)

**Toby Petrice** (PhD 2020, Ravlin), a research entomologist with the Forest Service's Northern Research Station in Lansing, Michigan, is being recognized with an early career scientist award. Petrice is being honored for demonstrating outstanding capability and exceptional potential to shape the future through intellectual and inspired leadership, as well as through integrating research and education in furthering the Forest Service mission.

**Ke Dong** (Professor, retired 2020) is a professor of biology at Duke University. She was a departmental seminar speaker in March and was interviewed by Bug Talk podcast. Listen at: [bit.ly/KDbugtalk](https://bit.ly/KDbugtalk)

## Bugged newsletter

### NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION

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Donn Johnson receiving his award.

**Donn T. Johnson** (PhD 1978) was awarded the 2021 Arkansas Association of Grape Growers Outstanding Achievement Award. Johnson is a professor emeritus at the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture who specialized in fruit pest management. He developed pest management programs for conventional, organic and high tunnel fruit production systems and has consulted in the Republic of Yemen, India, Armenia and China.

**Neil Kagan** (MS 1978, Merritt) has published an article, *Blazing a Path to Wilderness: A Case Study of Impact Litigation through the Lens of Legislative History*, 11 Mich. J. Envtl. & Admin. Law 87 (2022), <https://repository.law.umich.edu/mjeal/vol11/iss1/4/>. Kagan was part of the legal effort to enforce federal environmental resource laws that resulted in designation of 8 million acres of federal land across 23 US states as "Wilderness Areas." The designation protects the land from development, preserving it as wilderness.

An interview with Kagan regarding the lawsuit is part of the Good Legal Stories Series: Protecting Biodiversity Part 1: *Oregon Natural Resources Council v. Block*, Normandy Chair for Peace (Feb. 2, 2022), <https://normandychairforpeace.org/2022/02/02/protecting-biodiversity/#do>.

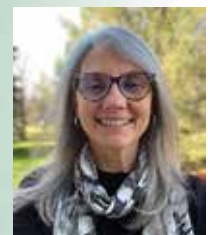
## A note from editor Joy Landis

After 30+ years with the MSU Integrated Pest Management Program, including a partial appointment with the Department of Entomology for the past 12, I am retiring. I have fully enjoyed developing communications for the Department and thank you all for sharing your work, stories and insight with me. To our readers, thank you for your feedback and enthusiasm for sharing news and participating in interviews. Entomology has many talented and thoughtful people, and I am thankful I could collaborate with so many of you.

I am pleased Judi Smelser has been appointed the new communicator and will split her time 50/50 between Entomology and MSU's School of Packaging. Judi was previously employed by MSU's Earth and Environmental Sciences Department. I know her as a fellow communicator on campus. She has an excellent reputation and experience with many aspects of communication. Please share all your stories with her, big and small ([smelserm@msu.edu](mailto:smelserm@msu.edu)). If you get a chance, ask her about her Emmy Award from her work in Los Angeles. She began employment with Entomology on April 11.



Joy Landis



Judi Smelser



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## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

# WEDNESDAY WALK THROUGH THE PAST

How do you get to know a new campus and your new department during a cold January with pandemic restrictions in effect? Our new Entomology chairperson Hannah Burrack decided to invite Department members for a walk at noon on Wednesdays. One walk featured significant entomology and agricultural landmarks around campus. Perhaps you remember this odd structure near Linton Hall on West Circle Drive?

According to medical entomologist Ned Walker, this is a horse trough gifted by the class of 1900. The entomological twist is it has been a frequent mosquito sampling site, including sampling for the invasive *Aedes japonicus* (see <https://academic.oup.com/jme/article/49/6/1307/964300>).



Derrick L. Turner, MSU Photography



Hannah Burrack, MSU Entomology

Professor Ned Walker at the sampling site.