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Winter 2008

American Society of Parasitologists Newsletter, v. 30, no. 4, Winter 2008

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ASP Newsletter

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Winter, 2008

American Society of Parasitologists

Newsletter

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From the *Editor* of the Newsletter

Consider publishing your parasite poems, posting a link to your favorite "parasite lecture," providing an actual parasite lecture, or otherwise send "something" in to the editor. Your contribution is valuable and anything sent in to me will be considered for publication. See below.

Sincerely,

Scott Lyell Gardner, Ph.D.

CONTENTS

Pages	Topic
1.	Editors note and contents
2.	Meeting data
3.	Field Photography
4.	Congratulations - Jackie Fernandez
5.	Poem
6.	Field trip Report - Paraguay
10.	The Dick and John Column
14.	ASP Meeting Data
25.	Credits / ASP Affiliates



MEETING DATA

PLAN FOR THE 2009 ASP MEETING [Knoxville, TN].

The 2009 ASP Annual meeting will occur at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Knoxville, TN, from 13-17 August, 2009. You can visit the Crowne Plaza web site at: <http://www.crowneplaza.com>, for more information on the Knoxville edition of the hotel. Sharon Patton and Charles Faulkner will be the co-chairs of the Local Committee. Watch for more information both on the ASP web site and in the Journal.

Next Meetings for the ASP are planned:

2010; 22-25 June, Colorado Springs, CO

Other Meetings.

THE XIIITH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARASITOLOGY (ICOPA) (2010).

To be held in Melbourne, Australia, from **15-20th August 2010** at the new Exhibition and Convention Centre. All are invited to join the parasitology community at this exceptional facility that lies in the heart of Melbourne in close proximity to the scenic Yarra River and the associated parks, multicultural restaurants, cafes and bars.

International Biogeography Society Fourth Biennial Meeting

January 8-12, 2009

Merida, Mexico

<http://biogeography.org>

Check the web site of David Gibson for more meeting data:

<http://www.diplectanum.dsl.pipex.com/purls/index.htm>

FIELD PHOTOGRAPHY - A FEATURE OF THE ASP NEWSLETTER



These images were taken during field work on two different continents. See if you can figure out which continent the image represents. See the next newsletter for the answers. Photos by SLG.



CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. JACKIE FERNANDEZ!

Jackie Fernandez, a native of Chile, completed her Ph.D. in my lab at Wake Forest University in 1991. Along the way, she met and fell in love with Dr. Steve Ritter, a Ph.D. student in our Department of Chemistry here at Wake Forest. Eventually, they married and settled in Vienna, Virginia, so that Steve could be close to his work as an editor at the American Chemical Society in Washington, D.C.

They soon had two sons and Jackie made the decision to be a 'stay-at-home mom,' and not pursue a career in parasitology, for which she had worked so hard and for which she was exceedingly well suited. As her sons grew, Jackie began serving as a teacher's helper in the local school system. Later, she decided to obtain a teaching certificate that would allow her to be employed as a high school biology teacher.

Now then, the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) presents the Outstanding New Biology Teacher Achievement Award each year to a "new" biology/life science instructor within his/her first three years of teaching who has developed an original and outstanding program or technique and made a contribution at the start of his/her career. A supervisor at the Oakton High School in Fairfax County, Virginia nominated Jackie for the award. It was announced last spring that she had won in a national competition and, in October, she was flown to Memphis, Tennessee where she was presented the award at the annual meeting of the NABT.

She was recognized by the NABT this fall and the Fairfax County Public Schools last spring for the outstanding performance of her English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) Biology 1 class on the 2007 Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) exams; all 22 of her students passed the test, with seven passing at the advanced level.

Referring to a Fairfax County public school news release, her students credit her with using visuals, mnemonic devices, and relevant examples to communicate concepts in biology. Her colleagues acknowledge the extra time she puts into study sessions after school and during her planning and lunch periods to help students improve their knowledge of biology. Her science department chair referred to her "gift" for teaching and how she has made the difference in the lives of so many students. An Assistant Principal spoke of her ability to adapt her style and approach to the diverse needs of her students.

I have also nominated Jackie to receive the Marcellus Waddill teaching award given in honor of one of our now retired mathematics teaching faculty here at Wake Forest. There is a \$20,000 cash prize that goes with this recognition, making it one of the most prestigious teaching awards given in the U.S. Recipients will be announced in the spring of 2009 and the presentation made at our Convocation next fall.

Those of us who knew Jackie as a graduate student are not the least bit surprised by her talent in the classroom. We knew of her work ethic, exceptionally high standards, and her enthusiasm.

Personally, I am pleased by her success. Moreover, it could not have come to a nicer person!

Gerald W. Esch
Charles M. Allen Professor of Biology
Wake Forest University



Forever Elusive

A poem by Maurice R. Odiere
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Forever elusive!

They all desperately search for me,
Like a lost love,
I torment their minds.
But their studies have been equivocal,
Atleast I provide a platform for research.
Why are they so desperate to quantify me?
No way! I plan to stay elusive.

Like any other physiological process,
I cost energy, only how much?
My impact to the host's energy budget is significant,
Yet quantifying me has been a nightmare.
Mounting, maintenance and tissue repair....
All are my 'supposed' costs.
I am elusive, even at thermoneutral.

I vary at my choice, timing, intensity and duration,
Whether I am naïve or involve memory,
Whether whoever elicits me is intracellular or extracellular,
Whether I am humoral or cell-mediated,
Whether induced by non-replicating, non-living antigens or living
pathogens,
Whether induced by micro- or macroparasites,
Whether atopy, allergy or autoimmunity,
I am complex, yet simple but elusive.

You damn scientist!
You'll seldom directly quantify me in your lifetime.
No one ever wants to be irrelevant,
To be relegated into obscurity and oblivion.
I am no exception,
I love and enjoy all the attention,
So I choose to hide, to be forever elusive!



Field Trip Summary

By: F. Agustín Jiménez
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This is a summary of a field trip that Agustín was able to make into the wilds of Paraguay. This will be the last addition to the **ASP Newsletter** that Agustín will prepare from his address in the Manter Lab. He will be moving soon to the Department of Zoology at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale Illinois. He will continue on as an associate editor of the ASP Newsletter from there.

Last March I had the opportunity to collect parasites of mammals in Paraguay with the purpose of increasing the knowledge of the fauna of parasites collected in the core of South America. The relevance of landlocked Paraguay in the area of parasite biodiversity depends on the variety of habitats that occur therein. Among the most important biomes, there are some small patches of Atlantic forest in the eastern portion of the country, just bordering Brazil. The Atlantic forest has a unique fauna and flora associated with the eastern portion of the continent. It has been decimated across vast extensions in Brazil and Argentina and very few patches remain in Paraguay. Those patches have dramatically decreased during the past few years due to intensive agricultural practices.

Historically, the eastern portion of the country has been inhabited and exploited intensely. Among several reasons, the abundance of water and natural resources had made of this zone a favorite area for Europeans and their descendants to settle in. In addition, the presence of two navigable rivers –the Paraná and the Paraguay– eased the trade and transportation of natural resources, mainly towards the bordering countries.

In recent years, and by the end of the 35-year dictatorship of Gen. Alfredo Stroessner, Brazilian settlers were allowed to crop the lands west to the banks of the Paraná. By the beginning of the XXI century the road between Ciudad del Este and Cruce Carumbey was paved. This translated into the more efficient transportation of heavy machinery, tractors and trucks used in large-

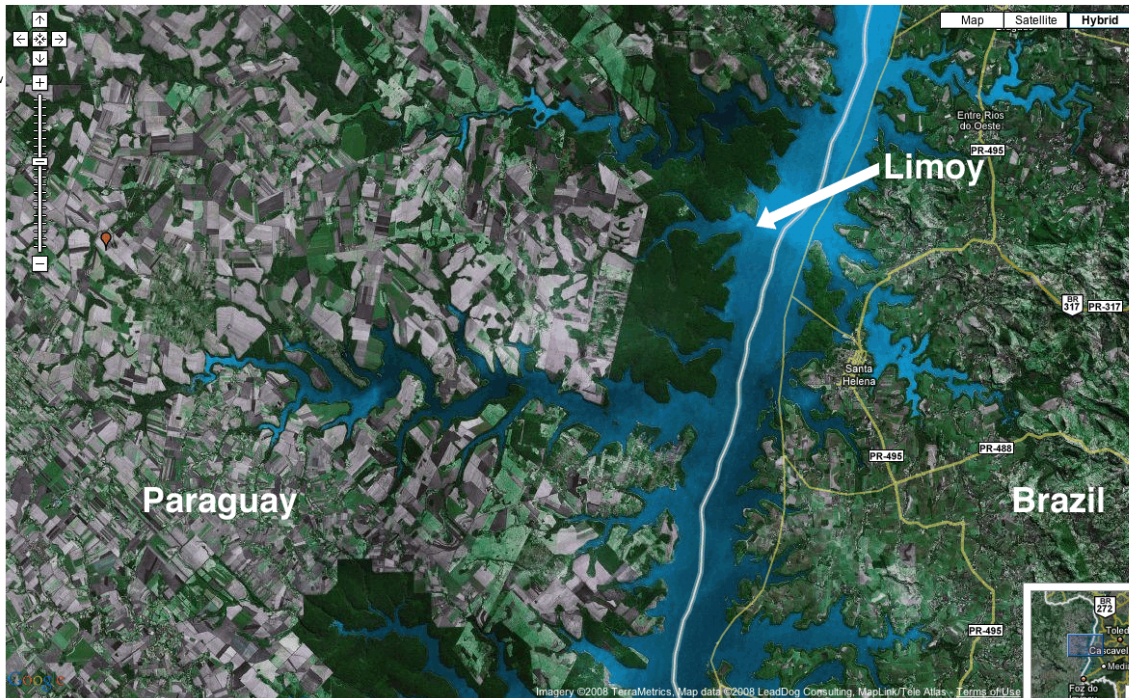


scale agrobusiness. The pressures of the market experienced during the recent years determined a switch from small scale farming, to a large-scale soybean production.

The recently introduced agroindustrial practices are in stark contrast with the small scale farming practiced by the local people. As a consequence, the intensive deforestation has brought erosion to the area. In dry days, either a breeze or the passage of a heavy truck would blow a cloud of fine red dust, which could cover a person in a fine film of dead forest soil.

A recent report by the USDA summarizes this information. You can visit their site at: <http://www.pecad.fas.usda.gov/highlights/2008/05/Paraguay/>

The pictures I present are a clear aid to see the effect of intense cropping on a small territory, and we offer pictures to see in a smaller scale what that interface looks like. The snap from Google Earth shows the transition between the Limoy Biological Reserve (pronounced Lee-moh-uh in guaraní) and agricultural land. In the picture we see up to 10 harvesters running at the same time and loading it into a trailer as fast as they can. The harvest was concluded in one week working 24 hrs a day. The trailers were so heavy that they compacted the dirt roads, giving them a solid and smooth surface. That compaction made the road remain smooth even after a heavy rainfall.



Limit between the Limoy Reserve and the agricultural land, showing the impact of land fragmentation. Across the river, deforested areas of Brazil used for livestock (Image from Google Earth).



The westernmost limit between Limoy and the agricultural land. The only separation is the maintenance road (which is part of the station). Photo by Agustín Jiménez



The same spot few days later, with up to 10 tractors cropping the soybean plantation. Photo by Agustín Jiménez



Agustín in a bog.

The Dick and John Column Number 7



Figure 1 - Dick - (note what appears to be a bottle in the foreground - can't be sure tho! -ed)



Figure 2. John. Seems to be relatively relaxed here (-ed).

Dear Dick & John:

Saw your column and wondered if you could help me. I will retire in several weeks, and I am particularly worried about my first day of retirement. In fact, I am so stressed that my dreams of that first day occur as nightly paroxysms. In those dreams, it is my first morning of unemployment and just as I have done for the decades, I get up shower and shave as usual, put on my faculty clothes, kiss my spouse goodbye and head for the university. I arrive at "my office," a space that has been my second home for as long as I have been a faculty member, and I am very embarrassed to interrupt the new office occupant. In retreat, I look for the restroom I have used all these years, but it has been renovated into someone's laboratory. The dream ends as I sputter and stammer my way out of the building, only to find myself standing next to my bed at home.

How can I avoid this and what was your first day of retirement like? How can I avoid embarrassing myself?

Signed: Embarrassed



Dear Embarrassed:

Your dream is not unusual for the about-to-be and the newly retired. It is difficult to make an acute transition from the routine of teaching, research and committees that have occupied you for 30 to 40 years and immediately find yourself retired. It can be scary! We have several suggestions for handling the first day of retirement and then will describe our first days of retirement. We think you will note several general themes.

First, we would recommend that for the next week or so you (and your spouse) consider putting away some funds that can be spent on that first day of retirement. Then plan a special treat for yourselves, a treat that requires you to be away from your College or University and a treat that you can not forget. Plan something that turns you on and will keep your mind fully occupied for the full day. It could be anything from your spouse insuring that you take the garbage to the land fill (we do not recommend it), to staging a protest for some cause (better), to buying that yacht that you always dreamed of. (These are DS's suggestions, JO was thinking more along the lines of buying a Harley, skydiving, flying down to Vegas, starting your campaign to run for state legislature, going on safari, getting a tattoo

JRS's First Day of Unemployment:

I am a lover of auctions and have been a collector of all things for many years. This of course is much to my wife's dismay! In addition to all my books from my office coming to the house, I also bring home my auction treasures. But the first day of retirement is both special and something different, so you guessed it; I went to an auction that was selling a large collection of woodworking tools. I went with my wife's approval and by myself since she has absolutely no personal interest in wood working tools. I bought an expensive miter saw, a biscuit joiner, all sort of clamps, screw drivers, and a number of other odds and ends that I could not live without. It was quite an expensive day, but by the time the auction ended I was exhausted from loading everything into the van, and then the excitement of telling the wife of my treasures. My auction purchases also took care of the next several days and I did not even begin to think of the University and my ex-office. I spent those next few days trying out my new toys, and trying to find space for them in my workshop garage. The most fun was explaining to my wife what a biscuit joiner was and why I REALLY needed one. "No dear, it is not for baking biscuits. It can not be used in the kitchen. It is for joining pieces of wood together." I also had to explain to her why neither of us could park our cars in the garage anymore. That explanation took as least several more days and by the time the week was up, I had been cured of my office addiction.

I must state that there is some danger in doing what I did. For example, I now have fewer excuses for not doing those home improvements that my wife has placed in my job jar over the last few years. Also, since I have spent money on my toys, Judy has suggested that she should be able to spend the same amount on something she enjoys (usually a new piece of jewelry). However, if I had not scheduled to go to that auction, and tried to wean myself from



the office by going cold turkey, I would probably still be sitting in a chair parked in the hallway outside of my old office.

Finally, I am being kept mentally alert by attempting to creatively think up ways to avoid that damned job jar. I still get an occasional compulsive urge to return to "my office and laboratory", but the urges are slowly decreasing. At those times, I take cold showers, rev up the biscuit joiner or carve on a cane and commune with my old friend George Dickel. (By the way JAO, the dangers and excitement of trying out a new wood working tool can be just as great as the thrill of riding a Harley! During the biscuit joiner tryout I was almost permanently fixed to the wood plank that I was working on.)

JAO's First Day of Unemployment:

Now, I could tell you that I did buy a Harley Hog and get a skull and crossbones tattooed on my back, but to be honest, my garage, a rented shed and backyard have never seen a two-wheeled vehicle except a bicycle and my back? Well if I do have a tattoo, I assure you that it is crossed tapeworms and small intestine. Actually, the first day of JAO's retirement was years in the planning: First, my spouse and I decided that retiring simultaneously would be a mistake. We agreed that we needed to find our own paths in retirement, so that when we met for dinner, we had something to talk about. So retiring separately allowed the first to retire to establish a new life outside of the house. So, guess who retired first? Yep, the party girl retired and was having so much fun that I sat in my University office one fall morning getting ready for class and thinking "I've done this all before, in fact for decades, and how come she is having so much fun!" There was no doubt that I was ready to let my students take over the next decades of research and teaching, not to mention grant writing and committee work.

There is no substitute for planning for retirement. All of us realize that financial planning is a must, but goal/activity planning is also necessary for one's own mental health. The year before retirement, a friend of mine and I opened Crooked-Line Etching Studio. It is in a building far enough from home and the university that anyone wishing to contact me can call my cell phone, but not too far away that I can not meet a friend, colleague or spouse halfway between for lunch or take a break from printing and visit to the Wonder Pub for some of the best of Wisconsin's yeast byproducts.

So what did I do the first day of retirement? First, be assured that I did not get up and put on my faculty clothes (which included a tie!). In the morning, dressed in shorts, t-shirt and sandals, I sat reading the paper, drinking coffee and smiling while my University colleagues were lecturing and teaching a histology laboratory that I had taught for 30 years. At 10 a.m., my wife and I left the house for different destinations: my wife to give a tour to second graders at our Chazen Museum of Art, and I to work on a new etching at my studio. That night at dinner out with a group of friends to celebrate retirement, my wife leaned across the dinner table and asked "Do you want to buy a motor cycle or get a tattoo?" Before I got a chance to reply, she added, "Kidding aside, did you miss your teaching or your lab today?" "Hell, NO!" was my honest answer, "but I did miss the students, and are you finally agreeing that I can get a tattoo?"

You can see from our first day stories that our original suggestions are based on several general themes. First, in both of our cases an event was scheduled (an auction or a dinner) and a second both required some planning and some spending money. Finally, in both cases



our minds were fully engaged in something that was not in any way connected with our ex-offices and universities. We were on the way to being cured of homing urges to return to the University!! SO GO SCHEDULE AN EVENT AND ENJOY THAT FIRST DAY AND FORGET THE OLD ROUTINE!

We will meet you at the tattoo parlor....

Dick and John, Brothers in Parasitism

Remember our motto: "You are never too young to consider retirement." We are only here to help you over those retirement hurdles. Write us if you have problems. The Dick and John Retirement Consults, Inc. are only here to serve you.

The authors of this column might be or might not* be found at the following:

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* remember they are retired!



Announcement: American Society of Parasitologists, 84th Annual Meeting, August 14-17, 2009

Knoxville Tennessee: Venue and Local Attractions

Our meeting venue this year is the Crowne Plaza-Knoxville. Just 20 minutes from McGhee Tyson Airport, the Crowne Plaza is situated in a superb location in downtown Knoxville that is convenient for touring, dining, and shopping. Walk to the Old City and Market Square to enjoy over 30 eateries, nightlife, shopping, and outdoor concerts.

Knoxville offers visitors the perfect mix of small town charm and big city fun. The city is on the banks of the Tennessee River and in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains. Surrounded by unsurpassed natural beauty, visitors can easily travel to the six national parks located within 90 miles of the city. Knoxville has something for everyone. Shoot a few hoops and explore the interactive exhibits at the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, visit the world class Knoxville Zoo, tour the University of TN, enjoy the local history, nightlife, dining, shopping, museums, or take advantage of the numerous parks and gardens located within the heart of the city. The beauty and natural resources surrounding Knoxville mean limitless opportunities for fun and adventure.



hand clappin" Bluegrass bands.

We are planning a BBQ and Bluegrass cruise on the Tennessee River for an optional Sunday evening activity. Participants will have the opportunity to take in the scenery and enjoy live entertainment while they cruise the river on an authentic paddle wheel riverboat. The Tennessee River takes its name from the Cherokee Indian village Tenasi and is the largest river system in the Southeast. Today it is possible to go anywhere in the world by following the Tennessee downstream until you reach the Ohio and into the Mississippi, and all the way to the Gulf of Mexico. Our cruise will be approximately 2 hours with a full BBQ buffet and features one of Knoxville's finest "banjo pickin-foot stomp-

An exciting Scientific Program that will stimulate thought, provoke discussion, and inspire is being planned. Special sessions include symposia on teaching parasitology, veterinary parasitology, a second Associate Editor's symposium, as well as the 2009 Clark P. Read Mentor Lecture and the Barclay-McGee Lecture. In addition, we will have some traditional favorites such as the annual Coccidiosis Conference and the annual Student Auction.

Knoxville Tennessee is the place where past, present, and future come together in the shadow of the scenic Cumberland Plateau and the foothills of the biodiversity rich Great Smoky Mountains. We know your experience will be memorable. Mark the calendar and make your plans to attend the 84th Annual Meeting now.



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Note to Members -

The ASP Newsletter welcomes news stories, articles, poetry. Please send your text electronically to the editor as an e-mail and attach as an MS Word document. Drawings, photographs, charts, or tables can be sent as B/W TIF files at 300 dpi. Please send TIF files one at a time. A general rule is to limit photograph size to 3x5". You may attach both text and graphic files to your email message.

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--BEST WISHES FOR A NEW YEAR!--

SLG