

# American Arachnology

Number 69

May 2004



## Future A.A.S. Annual Meeting Sites

**2004— 23 → 27 June, Norman, Oklahoma**  
**2005— Hiram, Ohio**

## **PLEASE NOTE !!!**

The deadline for registration and abstract submission for the 2004 AAS meeting in Norman, Oklahoma has been moved to **22 May**.

### AMERICAN ARACHNOLOGY

is the official newsletter of the American Arachnological Society, and is distributed biannually to members of the Society. Items for the Newsletter should be sent to the Editor, Alan Cady, Dept. Zoology, Miami Univ.-Middletown, 4200 E. Univ. Blvd., Middletown, Ohio, 45042, USA, Voice:(513)727-3258, Fax:(513)727-3450; E-mail:CADYAB@MUOHIO.EDU. Deadline for receipt of material for the Fall issue (Vol. 70) is 1 October, 2004. All correspondence concerning changes of address and information on membership in the American Arachnological Society should be addressed to the Membership Secretary, Jeffery Shultz, American Arachnological Society, Dept. of Entomology, Univ. of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742; Voice:(301)405-7519, Fax:(301)314-9290, E-mail:JS314@UMAILSRV0.UWMD.EDU. Membership information may be found at the AAS website: <http://WWW.AMERICANARACHNOLOGY.ORG>. Members of the Society also receive the JOURNAL OF ARACHNOLOGY (published triannually) and have access to electronic resources (JOA OnLine).

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2004 A.A.S. Annual Meeting  
University of Oklahoma  
Norman, Oklahoma

Wednesday 23 June - Sunday 27 June

**Hosted by Dr. Douglas D. Gaffin**

Associate Professor of Zoology & Dean of University College  
University of Oklahoma Norman, OK 73019

Phone: (405) 325-3521; FAX: (405) 325-7383

E-mail: [ddgaffin@ou.edu](mailto:ddgaffin@ou.edu)

**Please note that all information concerning the 2004 Meeting is available online (complete with hyperlinks) at the AAS website (<http://americanarachnology.org>). It is preferred that Registration and abstract submission be done via the website. Note that the registration and submission deadline is **22 May**.**

We are excited and proud to host the 2004 AAS meeting at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma. The conference will kick off with an informal reception alongside registration on the afternoon and evening of Wednesday, June 23. The scientific part of the meeting will initiate Thursday morning with a special scorpion symposium. The meeting will continue with paper and poster sessions through Saturday morning. All ses-

sions will be in the beautiful art deco Meacham Auditorium in the Oklahoma Memorial Union .

Our schedule mixes business with plenty of Oklahoma culture and hospitality. We will experience an authentic Oklahoma Barbeque on Friday evening at Burr Park, followed by an old-fashioned arachnid hunt on the shores of Lake Thunderbird. The beautiful Sam Noble Museum of Natural History will be our venue for the annual conference banquet and auction. Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier, director of OU's world-renowned meteorology program, will keynote the banquet with a special look into the art and science of an Oklahoman pastime – storm chasing. We have several additional treats and surprises in store for the meeting - including a return of the venerable AAAFF (The Arachnological Association for the Absorption of Federal Funds).

Sunday's highlight will be a trip to the Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge. The Wichita Mountains are a sub-range of the ancient Arbuckle Mountains and offer pristine hikes past creeks and lakes, through boulder-filled grasslands and oak forests. Wildlife, including bison, antelope, prairie dogs, and scissortail flycatchers, are abundant. Longhorn cattle, descended from Native American herds of the late 1800's, also roam the refuge's pastures.

**Travel:** Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City is a 30-minute trip away from campus. Other travel options include Amtrak's Heartland Flyer and Greyhound bus. By horseless carriage, you will find OU about 20 miles south of the I - 40 / I -35 junction.

**Food and Lodging:** Lodging is abundant throughout Norman, and accommodations suited to all comfort levels are available. Off-campus housing is available at the Residence Inn Norman, other hotels, and one of many Bed and Breakfasts in the area. On-campus, we have arranged for a block of low-cost, convenient dormitory rooms in Couch Center and the Sooner Hotel along with a range of tasty meal plans in the campus cafeteria. There are also many places to eat around campus and throughout Norman, and we will provide a map and diner's review at your arrival. Free shuttles will run throughout the meetings from the on-campus housing to the Memorial Union.

**On-Line Registration and Housing:**

<http://www.peopleware.net/index.cfm?siteCode=0214&eventDisp=5180609401&subeventDisp=PART&CFID=1283399&CFTOKEN=64257201>

NOTE: These three lines constitute the entire single URL! All three lines are joined together when using in a web browser.

**Weather:** Oklahoma summers are warm (temperatures average around 88°F in June) and often windy (the song about how "the wind comes sweeping down the plain" is true). May and June are Oklahoma's tornado season, so perhaps you'll have some excitement while here! The evenings are pleasant and punctuated with fireflies. You can pack your bags lightly - but warm showers move through quickly, so you might want to include a light rain jacket.

**Local Sights and Things to Do:** There are numerous things to see and do in the Oklahoma City (OKC) metro area. Visit Norman's own Little River Zoo, Museum of Art, and Campus Corner; or travel to Oklahoma City and visit the Zoological Park and Botanical Garden, Omniplex Science Museum, and the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum. Right in downtown OKC you can experience historic bricktown, stroll through the Myriad Botanical Gardens, visit the Oklahoma City National Memorial, catch a show at the Civic Center Music Hall, and so much more! Please peruse the following sites for other fun things available in the area.

and other travel ideas: <http://www.okccvb.org/> or <http://www.travelok.com/>.

Meeting Logo: Our logo and tee shirt design reflects Oklahoma's rich Native American heritage. We have also commissioned a special glow-in-the-dark poster to commemorate the meeting. Oklahoma icons lace the poster along with several arachnids. One of the scorpions bears an uncanny resemblance to Dr. Victor Fet. Image (see below). Posters are color (black and white with a splash of blue and red), glow-in-the-dark, and measure approximately 19 x 25 in.



**Tentative Itinerary for the 28<sup>th</sup>  
American Arachnological Society  
Annual Meeting, Norman, Oklahoma**

**Wednesday, June 23**

1:00 - 9:00 pm Check-in and registration at Sooner Hotel

5:00 - 7:00 pm Reception at Sooner Hotel

**Thursday, June 24**

7:30 Coffee (Meacham Auditorium Foyer, Oklahoma Memorial Union, [OMU])

8:30 Welcome: Introduction -- Doug Gaffin (Meacham Auditorium, OMU)

8:45 – 10:00 Scorpiology Symposium (Meacham Auditorium, OMU)

Part 1: Biology, Physiology, Toxicology

10:00 Coffee Break (30 min)

10:30 – 12:00 Scorpiology Symposium; Part 2: Diversity, Systematics, Evolution

12:00 Lunch break

1:45 – 2:45 Paper Sessions (Meacham Auditorium, OMU)

3:00 GROUP PHOTO

3:15 Break

3:30 – 4:30 Paper Sessions (Meacham Auditorium, OMU)

BREAK

7:00 Informal Session -- SNOMNH (7:00 - 9:00 pm)

**Friday, June 25**

7:30 Coffee (Meacham Auditorium Foyer, OMU)

8:30 Welcome back and Housekeeping -- Doug Gaffin (Meacham Auditorium, OMU)

8:45 – 9:45 Paper Sessions (Meacham Auditorium, OMU)

10:00 Coffee Break (30 min)

10:30 – 11:45 Paper Sessions (Meacham Auditorium, OMU)

12:00 Lunch break

2:00 – 3:00 Paper Sessions (Meacham Auditorium, OMU)

3:15 Break

3:30 – 5:00 Poster Session (Scholars Room, OMU)

3:30 First tour of History of Science collections

4:00 Second tour of History of Science collections

4:30 Third tour of the History of Science collections

\*\*\* Tours are limited to 10 people per group; first come first serve: signups at the meeting

BREAK

5:30 Barbeque at Burr Park

7:00 Collecting Trip to Lake Thunderbird (Clear Bay Area - Vans will transport)

**Saturday, June 26**

7:30 - 12:00 Posters

7:30 Coffee (Meacham Auditorium Foyer, OMU)

8:30 Welcome back and Housekeeping -- Doug Gaffin (Meacham Auditorium, OMU)

8:45 – 9:45 Paper Sessions (Meacham Auditorium, OMU)

10:00 Coffee Break (30 min)

10:30 – 11:45 Paper Sessions (Meacham Auditorium, OMU)

12:00 Lunch break

2:00 Business Meeting (Scholars Room, OMU)  
Student Awards Committee

6:00 Banquet (Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History)

Storm Chasing presentation by Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier

AAS Auction & Student Awards

Wander the exhibits

**Sunday, June 27**

8:00 - 4:00 Field Trip to Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge

Bus Transportation & Box Lunches

**ARACHNOAUCTION !!**

Be sure to comb-your-closets for items suitable to be placed on the block at the annual Vince Roth Memorial Auction. All sorts of arachnological books, clothing, and paraphernalia may be offered. Contact the Meeting hosts about your items.

# 2004 Meeting of the American Arachnological Society

University of Oklahoma

Norman, Oklahoma

Wednesday 23 June – Sunday 27 June, 2004

Hosted by Dr. Douglas D. Gaffin

(405) 325-3521; FAX: (405) 325-7383

E-mail: [ddgaffin@ou.edu](mailto:ddgaffin@ou.edu)

Register online (preferred), mail-in this form (address at bottom), call 405-325-2379, or fax to 405-325-7164.

Register online:

<http://www.peopleware.net/index.cfm?siteCode=0214&eventDisp=5180609401&subeventDisp=PART&CFID=1283399&CFTOKEN=64257201>

Abstract Submission: [http://www.americanarachnology.org/AAS\\_Meetings/AAS\\_2004\\_presentation.html](http://www.americanarachnology.org/AAS_Meetings/AAS_2004_presentation.html)

**Deadline is 22 May 2004**

## Personal Information

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code/country code: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone & FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

## Registration Fees

\_\_\_\_\_ \$90 - AAS Member                      \_\_\_\_\_ \$140 - AAS Member PLUS 1 Non-participant guest \*

\_\_\_\_\_ \$115 - Non-Member                      \_\_\_\_\_ \$165 - Non-Member PLUS 1 Non-participant guest \*

\_\_\_\_\_ \$70 - Student (same for member or non-member); Advisor/Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$120 - Student PLUS 1 Non-participant guest \*; Advisor/Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of non-participant guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\* Non-participant guests do not attend paper talks or get a booklet of abstracts; add \$35 for each additional non-participant guest (price above is for ONE).

## Events

**Welcome Reception:** Wednesday, 23 June from 5:00–7:00 pm. Snack food and open bar. Please indicate attendance so there is a headcount estimate. There is NO additional fee for this event.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I plan to be there      \_\_\_\_\_ I will be bringing this many non-participant guests

\_\_\_\_\_ No, I will be recovering from jet-lag, but thanks for asking

**Barbeque and Collecting Trip:** Friday, 25 June starting at 5:30 pm. Live entertainment, food, beverage, and van transport to Lake Thunderbird for collecting are included. For those wanting to travel with us but not collect, a restaurant/bar is located at the lake. Indicate number attending below:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 per person for the barbeque and entertainment (5:30–7:00 pm)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$0 for the collecting trip (7:00 pm – ??)

**Banquet:** Saturday, 26 June at 6:00 pm. Includes special guest speaker Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier speaking on “Storm Chasing,” a wonderful meal, cash bar, the AAS auction, student awards, and free access to the galleries at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History. Don’t miss this! Indicate number attending below:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$35 per person

\_\_\_\_\_ \$30 per person, student rate

**Field Trip:** Sunday, 27 June from 8:30 am – 3:30 pm. Travel with us to the beautiful Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge in southwestern Oklahoma. Our activities include hiking, boulder hopping, and general enjoyment of nature. Price includes bus transportation and box lunch. Indicate number attending below:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 per person

*\*\*Note the busses can only hold 100 people, so first come first served. If there is enough demand, a van or two may be taken. A waiting list will be assembled if needed.*

### Housing

**Off-campus** (try the Residence Inn, Norman, complete with pool, continental breakfast, happy hour, and a shuttle to campus; mention you’re with the AAS conference. Also, try one of the many Bed and Breakfasts in the Norman area).

\_\_\_\_\_ Neither option below is acceptable; I’ll be finding another on my own.

**Dormitories: (Couch Center)** Meal plans are available if staying in the dorms. Linens and towels are included. Indicate which combination of meals you would like, if any, on each day. Also indicate below how many nights you will be staying and your sex. (Since one bathroom is shared between two rooms in the dorm’s suite setup, same sex rooms will be assigned. If man/woman pairs are booking, the higher rate applies to cover the “loss” of one bathroom; i.e. you’ll have a private bathroom

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 per person per night double occupancy; We are: M / F

Roommate if doing a double: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$28 per night for a single room; I am: M / F

\_\_\_\_\_ \$19 per person per night M/F couples

Opposite sex roommate: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Nights staying in the dormitory (e.g. “5, Wed-Sun”)

**Sooner Hotel:** Meal plans are also available if staying at the hotel, but a complimentary continental breakfast is served each morning. Complimentary passes to the OU swim complex are also available. Indicate below how many nights you will be staying.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 per person per night double occupancy

Roommate if doing a double: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$50 per night for a single room

\_\_\_\_\_ Nights staying in the Sooner Hotel (e.g. “4, Thurs-Sun”)

*\*\*If you need to stay in the dorms or Sooner Hotel prior to June 23 or after June 28, please contact us for special arrangements, or indicate in the special instructions box below.*

#### **Meal Plans for Dorms or Sooner Hotel**

• \$4.50/Breakfast      • \$5.50/Lunch

• \$6.00/Dinner

(circle any you desire)

B L D Wed., 23 June

B L D Thu., 24 June

B L D Fri., 25 June

B L D Sat., 26 June

B L D Sun., 27 June

B L Mon., 28 June

# Merchandise Et Cetera

**Meeting T-shirts:** Printed on both sides with the 2004 AAS Logo (see Newsletter cover and images on page 2). Indicate how many, the size, and which color you prefer (“black” or “red”). (May be sold at the meeting also, but first come first served!)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 each    \_\_\_\_\_ S    \_\_\_\_\_ M    \_\_\_\_\_ L    \_\_\_\_\_ XL    \_\_\_\_\_ XXL

(e.g. 4 \$15 each    2, b/r S    1, b M    1, r L    \_\_\_\_\_ XL    \_\_\_\_\_ XXL)

**Meeting Posters:** Indicate how many you would like. Image (see image on page 2) is of a tornado ripping through the OU campus, throwing arachnids (one with an interesting resemblance) everywhere. Posters are color (black and white with a splash of blue and red), glow-in-the-dark, and measure approximately 19 x 25 in. (May be sold at the meeting also, but first come first served!)    \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 each (a steal!)

**Group photo:** Indicate how many you would like. Photos are 8 x 10 in. (Will be sold at the meeting also.)    \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 each

## Special Instructions

Let us know if you need extended stay in the Sooner Hotel or dorms; request vegetarian meals; inquire about handicapped access; etc.

## Payment Totals

Registration: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Barbeque: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Poster: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Group Photo: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Field Trip: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Housing: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make your check payable to the “University of Oklahoma” if mailing in this form.**

**Participants from abroad must enclose a cashier’s check payable in U.S. dollars or pay online, by phone, or fax (numbers at top of form).**

Send Payments to:

**The University of Oklahoma OUTREACH  
1700 Asp Avenue  
Norman, OK 73072**

**May 22<sup>nd</sup> - deadline to register for meeting, receive payment, and order merchandise**

## Cancellation Policy

If for some reason you cannot attend after you have registered and sent payment, a refund will be issued for as much as possible. However, the closer we get to the meeting the more expenses are incurred (photocopying, deposits, etc.). The entire registration fee cannot be refunded.

# AAS 2004 Annual Meeting

## Abstract Submission Transmittal Form

*Please type or write neatly*

### Presenter's Name and Contact Information

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Inst. Affil.: \_\_\_\_\_

Presenter's e-mail address (if possible): \_\_\_\_\_

Presenter's telephone with area and country code (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Presentation Title \_\_\_\_\_

Presentation Type (circle): **15 Minute Talk**      **Poster**      **Scorpion Symposium**

**Poster Size** — Maximum poster size is 4 feet X 4 feet.

**Is this talk or poster to be considered in the Student Paper Competition?** (This is open to any student who has not previously won the student competition. Former runners-up may enter.) **YES**      **NO**

**Students entered in the Competition should review the guidelines on pages 10—11.**

**General Topic of Your Presentation.** Please circle the one term that best describes the topic of your presentation. You may pick multiple categories if absolutely necessary.

**Behavior**    **Ecology**    **Systematics/Taxonomy**    **Physiology-Anatomy**    **Evolution**    **Other** (specify below)

**If you need any audiovisual equipment NOT in the following list, please indicate in the space below.**

Computer Projector,    Slide Projector.,    VHS Video Projector,    Overhead Projector,    Audio

**If there is any additional information you wish to provide (e.g., extra phone numbers, email or special requests) please indicate below**

# DOCUMENT FORMAT FOR AAS ABSTRACTS

**DEADLINE — 22 MAY 2004**

Font: Arial, Helvetica, or similar sans serif, 11 point (like this)

On separated lines please type:

**\* Title**

**\* Each author and her/his institution, city/state (or province) and country**

- If you need more than one line for an author and their institutional data, please separate it from the next author or the text by a blank line.
- If there are multiple authors from one institution, list the authors together on one line (if possible) and then go to a separate line to list the institutional data (see example below).

**\* The body of the abstract**

- Please limit yourself to less than 250 words. Format as you normally would -- your abstract will look great in the program.

**\* There is no need to title each line** -- it should be obvious as to what the title is, who the authors are, etc. Please see the example.

**Please avoid:** • **Sub- and superscripts** • **Underlines (italics are fine)**

These restrictions relate to displaying abstracts at the AAS website. As in the past, abstracts will be displayed at the Society's site prior to the meeting and permanently thereafter.

Note that standard Greek symbols are fine and will probably show up on most browsers but writing out a symbol such as "micron" instead of  $\mu$  also works well.

**Here is an example (from the Denver meeting):**

**A New Approach To Chemostimulation Of Scorpion Peg Sensilla Reveals High Resolution Response Properties To Near-Range Chemostimulants**

Douglas D. Gaffin and Mujahid A. Hines

Department of Zoology, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma 73019 USA

Scorpion pectines possess ordered two-dimensional arrays of thousands of microscopic pegs, each innervated by about 10 sensory neurons. Previous electrophysiological studies demonstrated chemosensitivity of peg neurons to volatile organic compounds blown across the peg fields. We report here a new, more natural approach for assaying peg chemosensory responses. Peg sensilla on pectines of *Paruroctonus utahensis* were recorded extracellularly with tungsten microelectrodes. We devised a new method for stimulant delivery, using pure organic stimulants delivered via glass pipettes with tip diameters of approximately 10 microns. We used a piezoelectric-driven micro-manipulator to vary the distance between the pipette tip and the recorded peg sensillum. Stimulant diffusion results in stronger, more vigorous, and more reproducible responses than when chemicals are applied in a directed stream (or ?puff?). Furthermore, the peg neurons become more responsive with prolonged stimulation, and spike frequency is inversely related to the vertical distance between the pipette and the peg. This acute sensitivity to stimulant distance suggests the ability to localize point stimuli at the scale of the peg field. We are currently investigating whether the change in neural activity of peg sensilla with prolonged stimulation is attributable to circuit dynamics or altered neural activity in individual neurons.

**Instructions For Those Submitting Abstracts as an E-Mail Attachment or  
a Disk Through the Post**

**Computer File Types**

\* **Please use one of the following:**

Microsoft Word ("doc" file)

Rich-text format (".rtf")

\* **Filenames** -- please name your files using the following format:

**FIRSTAUTHOR'SLASTNAME\_ABSTRACT.extension**

for example: **Gaffin\_ABSTRACT.doc**

**Simply attach your .doc or .rtf file to an e-mail to:**

Mark Walvoord [oumadfrog@ou.edu](mailto:oumadfrog@ou.edu)

Please include the subject line "**AAS Meeting Abstract**"

**Instructions for postal submissions of computer disks**

**Carefully pad your disk and mail it to:**

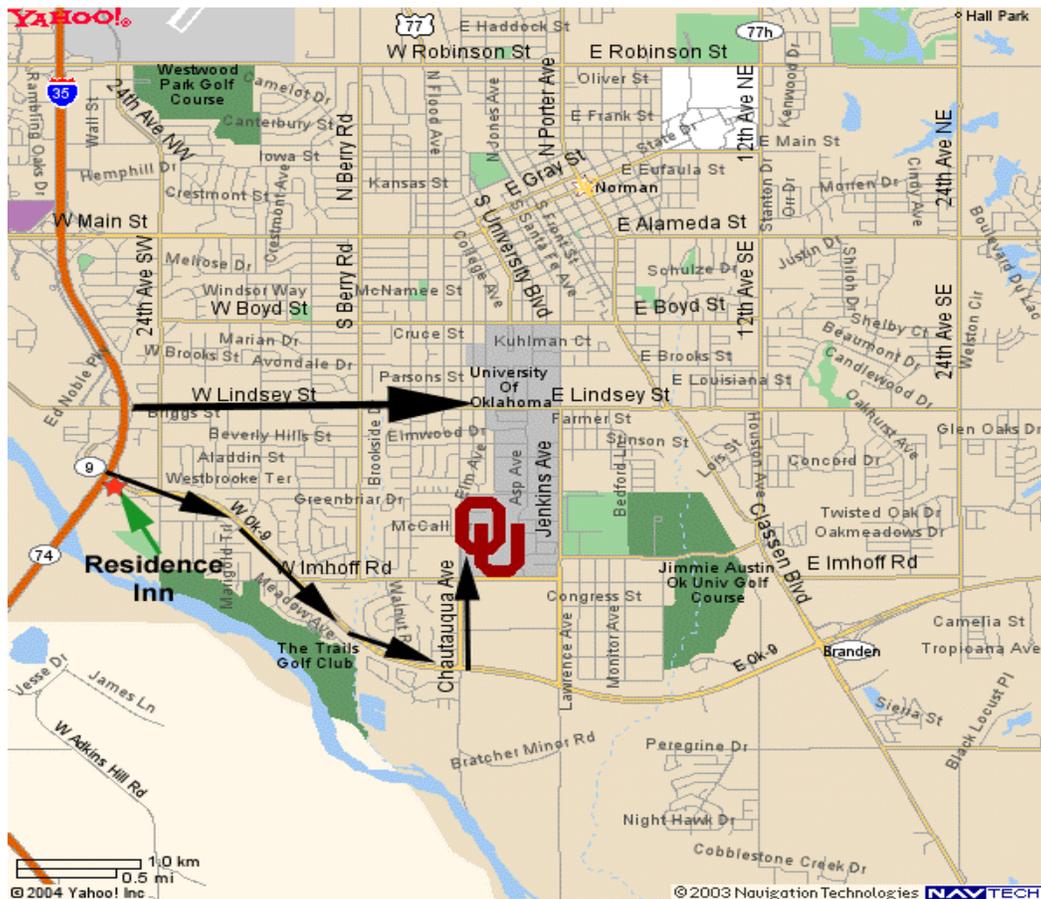
**[Mark Walvoord](#) Department of Zoology University of Oklahoma**

**730 Van Vleet Oval Room 314 Norman, OK 73019 USA**

(phone 405-325-2786)

**Instructions for postal submissions of typed abstracts**

If it is necessary to use a typed copy of your abstract, please mail it to the address above.



## STUDENT PAPER PRESENTATION AWARD GUIDELINES

### **I. ELIGIBILITY**

A. The student should submit a copy of the paper's abstract\* to the meeting organizer by the specified deadline (22 May, 2004). A letter containing a statement from the student's major professor or supervisor indicating the extent to which the work was independently developed and executed by the student also must be sent to the meeting host\*\*. The name and mailing address of the Meeting Host are:

Dr. Douglas Gaffin

Associate Professor of Zoology &

Dean of University College

University of Oklahoma

Norman, OK 73019

Phone: (405) 325-3521; FAX: (405) 325-7383

E-mail: [ddgaffin@ou.edu](mailto:ddgaffin@ou.edu)

\*The abstract may be submitted via the A.A.S. Website

\*\*The letter should be sent either electronically or by post to the host

B. The presentation either represents independent or joint research in which the student's contribution has been substantial. In case of a co-authored paper the student presenting the paper must be first author.

C. Entry is limited to one standard research paper per meeting.

D. Previous winners of the Student Paper award are not eligible.

### **II. JUDGES**

A. A panel of three judges will be appointed by the President-Elect before the meeting. The abstracts of all student papers and a copy of the judging guidelines will be mailed to each judge prior to the meeting. An appropriate number of evaluation sheets (listing the criteria as below) shall accompany the abstract package for each judge. Judges will be chosen from different disciplines (systematics, morphology, physiology, ecology, behavior).

B. Efforts should be made to avoid bias or conflict of interest in judging, either by appointing judges with no students in the competition or, if that is unavoidable, by having judges abstain from voting on their own students.

C. Judges should meet twice: once before the paper presentation to review the guidelines and once afterward to make a decision on ranking.

D. At least one hour should be available between the last eligible presentation and the scheduled announcement of the award.

### **III. EVALUATION**

A. Judges should rate presentations as "Outstanding, Good, Adequate, or Poor" based on the criteria listed below. In co-authored papers, the judges will carefully evaluate the student's contribution to the presented research. In case of a tie or very close ranking, the judges may decide on a joint award.

#### **B. Scientific Criteria**

##### **1. Introduction:**

- a. Was there a clear introduction to the research problem?
- b. Was the importance of the research question explained? Why was the work done?
- c. Did the speaker provide a background and context for the research? What was the state of the field prior to this study? A review of the entire field is not necessary, but the speaker must provide a reference framework in which to

assess the work.

d. Was a clear statement of the hypothesis(es) provided?

##### **2. Methods:**

- a. Was there a clear explanation of the techniques used in the project?
- b. How creative was the work? If the presentation involved techniques commonly used by the advisor, did the student utilize the technique to approach novel issues or novel questions?

##### **3. Results:**

a. Were the results of the study a valuable contribution to the field? Was the significance of the results clearly demonstrated? Could the student convince the audience they should care about their results?!

c. Were the experiments or results approached from several perspectives?

##### **4. Discussion & Conclusions:**

a. Were the results well summarized and placed in context relative to the introduction?

b. How sound were the conclusions?

c. Did the student extend the work beyond other projects associated with their advisor, or was it simply a minor increment of similar work?

d. Was the research sufficiently independent, unique, or creative?

e. Were the conclusions put in a broader context extending the value of the work beyond a small area in arachnology to better understanding within the field of systematics/ behavior/ ecology/ etc?

##### **5. Presentation Style and Logistics (oral):**

a. Did the speaker speak clearly and logically or was the organization of the talk confused and disorganized? Did the speaker communicate clearly and easily? Was eye contact made with the audience, or was the paper simply read from notes or the screen?

b. Were the graphics lucid? Were all of the figures intelligible with axes clearly labeled? Were tables broken into decipherable segments? Did the student clearly put effort into making the graphics used for the talk self-explanatory or informative?

c. Were the techniques used explained with a minimal use of specialist jargon so that a non-specialist or non-scientist could understand how the project was done?

d. Did the student project a professional demeanor, or were unnecessary 'humor', inappropriate references, or excessive excuses made?

e. How poised was the speaker? Was the presentation "timed" correctly?

f. How well did the speaker respond to questions?

##### **6. Presentation Style and logistics (poster):**

a. Was the poster clearly organized and well planned or was it clearly done at the last minute?

b. Were the graphics lucid? Were all of the figures intelligible with axes clearly labeled? Were tables broken into decipherable segments? Were the text, tables, and graphics self-explanatory or informative?

c. Were the techniques used clearly explained with a minimal use of specialist jargon, such that a non-specialist or non-scientist could understand how the project was done?

d. Was the poster clearly arranged such that there was minimal text for maximal effect? Were the visuals used appropriate for the point being made?

e. How well did the presenter respond to questions?

#### IV. ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES

Traditionally, the award is announced at the society's banquet. However, this year awards will be announced at the society business meeting on Sunday. We are trying out this new venue for student award announcements as an incentive for more student involvement with the "inner workings" of the Society. Students are strongly encouraged to attend the banquet as well since this is an ideal setting to "schmooze" with established arachnologists and to see George Uetz, auctioneer extraordinaire, and his minions, at their best.

#### V. AWARDS

The top ranking and runner-up individuals traditionally receive a monetary award. Other awards vary according to donations and other philanthropy.

### SAMPLE JUDGING SHEET

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Co-authors: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Paper: \_\_\_\_\_

**OVERALL RATING** - \_\_\_\_\_

#### Scientific criteria:

- Clarity of Introduction; background & context.
- Abstract; summarize main results of research?
- Scope of research problem; hypothesis(es) stated?
- Approach, design, and creativity of study
- Quality and details of analysis; clearly explained?
- Significance of results; different perspectives used?
- Soundness of conclusions; relation to Introduction?
- Contribution to field; impact outside immediate field?

**Rating of Scientific Criteria** - \_\_\_\_\_

#### Presentation (oral):

- Overall organization and clarity; proper timing?
- Oral presentation skill; presence, poise, & demeanor.
- Graphics were high quality and easy to read and interpret.
- Ability to respond to questions.

**Rating of Oral Presentation Criteria** - \_\_\_\_\_

#### Presentation (poster):

- Overall organization and clarity
- Minimal text for maximal effect?
- Graphics were high quality and easy to read and interpret.
- Ability to respond to questions.

**Rating of Poster Presentation Criteria** - \_\_\_\_\_

### HINTS ON GIVING A GREAT RESEARCH PRESENTATION

Thanks to **Linda Rayor!**

#### **Scientific Criteria:**

- Give a clear introduction to your research problem. Provide a background to your research and inform the audience about the state of the field prior to this study. You need not provide a review of the entire

field, but your listeners deserve to have your contribution to the field put into context. Explain the *importance* of your research question and why the work is of value.

- Clearly state the hypothesis(es) tested.
- Clearly explain the techniques or experiments used in the project. Explicitly describe any novel or uncommon apparatus or protocol.
- Explain your results clearly. The audience only has a minute or two to digest the content of your figures, so make the figures easy to read and to understand (uncluttered). It is often much better to present smaller portions of your data rather than large, unintelligible tables or figures ("less is best"). Provide telegraphic titles that help the audience grasp the meaning of the results more easily. Try to minimize abbreviations and jargon that only you understand. Basically, make it *easy* for your audience to understand your data as you guide them through it.
- Explain why the results of your study are a valuable contribution to your field. In your talk or poster, you should put the research in context so that the audience *cares* about your results. Do your conclusions extend beyond a small question in arachnology? Does your work contribute to better understanding within the broader field of systematics/behavior/ ecology, etc.?

#### **Presentation Style & Logistics:**

- It is much easier to understand a talk or poster that is logically organized rather than one that is confused and disorganized.
- As indicated above, your graphics should be lucid and easy to follow. Are your figures intelligible with the axes clearly labeled? Without you talking or you being present, would it be possible to look at the graphics and interpret the figures? Are the tables broken into intelligible segments? Are your graphics self-explanatory and informative?
- Few biologists are specialists in everything. For those biologists who work outside of your area of specialty, it is helpful if you explain your project with minimal use of specialist jargon or explain the unusual terms in your presentation. Your project should be understood by anyone in the audience, regardless of his or her field of expertise.
- You should project a professional demeanor. While humor may lighten a talk or a poster, humor that misses the mark can be jarring. Groveling excuses about problems with your data or your slides or visuals, inappropriate jabs at members of the audience, or private jokes generally do not go over well in a professional setting.

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## The American Arachnological Society

### Fourth Quarter Financial Report

31 December 03

Total Assets, end of third quarter, 2003	\$47,800.97
Balance in Checking Account, end of third quarter, 2003	\$27,341.80
Savings Bank of Walpole, #301-097501	

#### Deposits

Membership	\$17,513.94
paypal	\$5,117.94
checks	\$12,396.00
Page Charges	\$750.00
More revenue from Denver Meeting, auction, etc.	\$4,241.72
Interest	\$11.02
	<b>Subtotal \$22,516.68</b>

#### Expenses

Co-collected dues, Acta Arach Sinica	\$950.00
Allen Press, publishing JOA, vol 31, no. 2	\$11,537.45
Allen Press, electronic publishing	\$245.27
Postage, mailing expenses	\$11.59
Allen Press, Buyer's Guide	\$200.00
	<b>Subtotal \$12,944.31</b>

Balance in Checking Account at end of fourth quarter, 2003	<b>\$36,914.17</b>
Certificate of Deposit Account at Savings Bank of Walpole #600401944	
Balance on 30 Sep 03	\$20,459.17
Interest this quarter (Oct-Dec 03)	\$76.14
	Balance on 31-Dec-03 <b>\$20,535.31</b>

**TOTAL ASSETS \$57,449.48**

Respectfully submitted,

Karen R. Cangialosi, Treasurer

American Arachnological Society

Dept. of Biology, Keene State College, Keene NH 03435

# The American Arachnological Society

## Final 2003 Financial Report

31 December 2003

**Total Assets, end of 2002** **\$25,283.09**

Balance in Checking Account, end of 2002 **\$5,169.59**

Savings Bank of Walpole, #301-097501

### Deposits

Membership	\$65,553.29
paypal	\$9,936.70
checks & wires	\$55,616.59
Page Charges	\$750.00
Revenue from CA & CO Meetings	\$7,254.22
Sales, Spider Genera	\$502.00
Bio-One Revenue Share	\$3,905.51
CAS deposit for Roth award	\$500.00
Interest	\$44.38

**Subtotal \$78,509.40**

### Expenses

Co-collected dues	\$4,019.00
Allen Press, publishing, elec. Publis, buyer's guide, services	\$34,947.91
Honoraria to editor & associate editors	\$5,000.00
Postage, mailing expenses,	
foreign check fees, tax return fee, plaques	\$584.91
Student research and paper, poster awards	\$1,350.00
BioScience AD	\$477.00
Other (conference seed \$, AIBS)	\$386.00

**Subtotal \$46,764.82**

Balance in Checking Account at end of 2003 **\$36,914.17**

Certificate of Deposit Account at Savings Bank of Walpole #600401944

Balance on 31 Dec 02 \$20,113.50

Interest this year (2003) \$421.81

Respectfully submitted, Balance on 31-Dec-03 **\$20,535.31**

Karen R. Cangialosi, Treasurer

**TOTAL ASSETS \$57,449.48**

American Arachnological Society

Dept. of Biology, Keene State College, Keene NH 0343

## AAS and Roth Research Award Recipients

### AAS Research Fund

**Jeremy Gibson;** Dept. Biol. Sci., University of Cincinnati; SEISMIC COMMUNICATION IN A WOLF SPIDER; \$350

**Dinesh Rao;** Bangalore Karnataka India; INBREEDING AVOIDANCE IN A SOCIAL SPIDER: THE CASE FOR DISPERSAL; \$200

**Mor Salomon;** Mitrani Dept. of Desert Ecology, Blaustein Inst. For Desert Research, Ben Gurion Univ. Israel; IS THERE AN INDIRECT EFFECT OF NUTRIENTS ON THE FITNESS OF YOUNG VIVA ALLOMATERNAL CARE IN THE SOCIAL SPIDER *STEGODYPHUS DUMICOLA*?; \$200

**Annie Schlosser;** Miami University, Dept. of Zoology, Oxford, OH; CUES AFFECTING MUTUAL MATE CHOICE IN *PARDOSA MILVINA* (ARANEAE: LYCOSIDAE); \$250

**Ana Skemp;** University of Arizona, Dept. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Tucson AZ; HOW DO LOCAL SELECTIVE PRESSURES IN DIVERGENT HABITATS INFLUENCE THE EVOLUTION OF LEARNING ABILITY IN A SPIDER TEST SYSTEM?; \$250

**Kerri Wrinn;** Dept. Biol. Sci., University of Cincinnati; THE EFFECTS OF LEG LOSS AND REGENERATION ON PREY CAPTURE IN WOLF SPIDERS; \$350

### AAS Roth Research Fund

**Jack Brookhart;** Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Dept. of Zoology; HISTOLOGICAL AND SEM EXAMINATION OF THREE UNIQUE SOLIFUGID STRUCTURES; \$100

**Steven Foldi;** Dept. Biology, San Diego State University; EXPLORING INCONGRUENCE OF MOLECULAR AND MORPHOLOGICAL DATA IN *HABRONATTUS TARSALIS* SPECIES COMPLEX (ARANEAE: SALTICIDAE); \$400

**Brent Hendrixson;** East Carolina University, Dept. Biology, Greenville NC; PHYLOGENETIC SYSTEMATICS AND EVOLUTION OF THE SPIDER GENERA *ANTRODIAETUS* AND *ATYPOIDES* (ARANEAE, MYGALOMORPHAE, ANTRODIAETIDAE); \$400

### **Congratulations to the awardees!**

**Note: The deadline for the AAS and Roth Research Awards is 15 January. See the A.A.S. website for details.**

### **World Spider Catalog**

The online spider catalog Version 4.5 is up and running so spider enthusiasts with taxonomic questions are encouraged to take a test drive. New in this version is an alphabetical list of currently valid genera that may prove useful to you. Norm Platnick asks that you contact him if you encounter problems or errors (plat@amnh.org). There is a new URL for this version, but older bookmarks should still work ( RESEARCH.AMNH.ORG/ENTOMOLOGY/SPIDERS/CATALOG )

## *American Arachnology*

goes **electronic**

The Executive Committee of the American Arachnological Society took under consideration a movement from the Secretary and Membership Secretary to begin distributing *American Arachnology*, the Newsletter of the American Arachnological Society, via electronic mail to those members with an electronic mail address.

Beginning in the spring of 2003, *American Arachnology* will cease being routinely distributed to individual and institutional members in printed format. Instead, it will be sent electronically in its current format as a PDF to individual members of the society. Only individuals who are not able to receive e-mail will be sent a printed copy of the Newsletter. Institutional members will not receive printed or electronic versions of the Newsletter, although they will be made aware of the unrestricted availability of *American Arachnology* on the society's web page.

This proposal passed.

This proposal was implemented starting with Newsletter #67. Those unable to view PDF files should contact the Secretary to determine alternate delivery formats.

The benefits to our Society from this change are manifold:

- Approximately \$1,700 per year publication and mailing costs will be saved.
- More rapid publication.
- Easier distribution of ancillary A.A.S. publications and notices (Membership lists, post-doc, graduate research positions, and other announcements, AAS news alerts, etc.).
- Fewer inquiries from institutional subscribers for perceived back issues.

Please direct any comments, questions, or suggestions to the Secretary or Membership Secretary.

### THE VALUE OF AN A.A.S. MEMBERSHIP

Arachnologists ask, "What do I receive from being a dues-paying member of the Society?". This inquiry addresses an immediate and popular concern among arachnophiles. What does one "get" from being a member of the A.A.S.? ...

- Online access to the latest issue of the JOA.
- No page charges when publishing in the JOA.
- Access to the A.A.S. and Roth Research grants.
- Lower registration fees for the annual A.A.S. meeting.

Not to mention all the other benefits available to anyone: the Newsletter, all the features on the Website, etc.

Furthermore, dues for the A.A.S. are just about the lowest anywhere! **What a bargain !**

# 16th International Congress of Arachnology

12-17 July 2004 Gent - Belgium

## General information about the city of Gent

Gent (Ghent) is a modern European town with about 250.000 inhabitants. The city was founded in the early Middle Ages and was developed around two abbeys and a castle, all of which are still existing. It has a rich historical past and a well-preserved medieval city centre. Of utmost importance for Ghent is its university. It numbers some 25.000 students in 10 faculties of which the Faculty of Sciences is one of the most important. The university buildings are spread both over the historical and the more recent parts of the city, which makes the interaction between town and university very intense.

## Location of the Congress Venue

The congress will take place in the HIKW-building of Ghent University in the K.L. Ledeganckstraat 35, 9000 Gent. The venue at the Faculty of Sciences is situated about twenty minutes walking distance from the old city centre and about ten minutes walk from the railway station. It has a nice botanical garden and a park of about 40 hectares in its immediate vicinity.

Maps showing the location of the venue are to be found on the website.

Lectures will, depending on the need for parallel sessions, be held in two or more auditoria adjacent to each other, in this way facilitating the transfer of participants between different sessions. The poster sessions and coffee breaks will be held in the nearby foyer.

## Scientific programme

There will be possibilities for oral as well as poster presentations.

Overhead projectors, slide projectors and digital equipment for Power Point presentations will be available.

Oral presentations will be limited to 20 minutes, including five minutes for discussion. The official language of the congress is English.

The Proceedings will be published as a special volume of the "The Journal of Arachnology". More detailed information about "author instructions" will be given with the second circular. PhD student awards will be selected for the best poster and oral presentation.

## Accommodations

A wide range of accommodation possibilities will be available: e.g. hotels, student hostels, youth hostels, camping. If you desire low budget accommodation, please indicate on the registration form.

## Registration

Registration fees will be kept as low as possible and are estimated below:

Members of the ISA .....about 200 €; Non members of the ISA .....about 240 €; Accompanying persons.....about 150 €; Students .....about 100 €

Possibilities to obtain grants will be available.

The registration fee includes congress participation, mid-week excursion, abstract volume, Proceedings, get-together party (with a selection of Belgian beers) and several receptions.

Registration can be done by providing the necessary information

on the preliminary registration form, which can be downloaded from the website (<http://allserv.rug.ac.be/~jpmaelfa/index.htm>), and sending it before March

31 by e-mail or regular mail to the Secretary: Léon Baert, Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences, Vautierstraat 29, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium (16ICA@naturalsciences.be).

Those who have registered properly will receive a second circular with more detailed information.

## Organising Committee

- Jean-Pierre Maelfait (president), Institute of Nature Conservation, Brussels & Ghent University, Gent.

- Léon Baert (secretary), Royal Belgian Inst. for Natural Sciences, Brussels.

- Mark Alderweireldt, Ghent University, Gent.

- Dries Bonte, Ghent University, Gent.

- Robert Bosmans, Nature Dept., AMINAL, Antwerpen.

- Rudy Jocqué, Royal Museum of Central Africa, Tervuren

- Shirley Gurdebeke, Ghent University, Gent.

- Frederik Hendrickx, Ghent University, Gent.

- Danny Vanacker, Ghent University, Gent.

- Jeroen Vanden Borre, Ghent University, Gent.

- J. Bosselaers, H. Deconinck, M. Janssen, R. Kekenbosch, J. Lambrechts, M. Ransy, J. Van Keer, K. Van Keer, ARABEL.

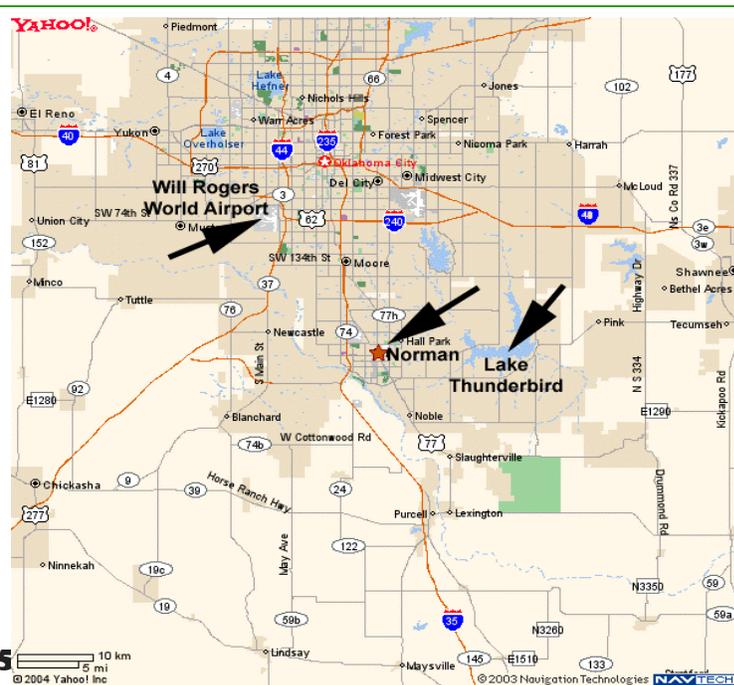
Additional information can be found at the website: <http://allserv.rug.ac.be/~jpmaelfa/index.htm>

## Jim C okendolpher writes:

Joel Hallan has just published on the Internet (<HTTP://ENTOWWW.TAMU.EDU/RESEARCH/COLLECTION/HALLAN/OPILRPT1.TXT>) a list of all the Opiliones of the World.

Also, if you have not seen Joel's pages on other arachnid orders you should see:

<HTTP://ENTOWWW.TAMU.EDU/RESEARCH/COLLECTION/HALLAN/ARACH1.HTML>.



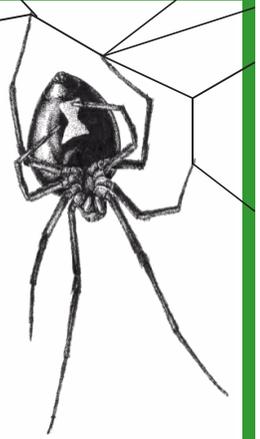


# American Arachnology

The Newsletter of the American Arachnological Society

Number 69

May 2004



## AMERICAN ARACHNOLGICAL SOCIETY WEBSITE

[HTTP://AMERICANARACHNOLOGY.ORG](http://AMERICANARACHNOLOGY.ORG)

**Ken Prestwich** has developed our website where one may find membership information, **Annual Meeting Info & registration**, announcements & Bulletin Board, officers, meeting minutes, instructions to JOA authors, an electronic JOA index, graduate study opportunities, a photo gallery, links to other arachnological sites, and **JOA OnLine** (electronic versions of the Journal of Arachnology; available to A.A.S. Members). Many, many thanks and kudos to Ken for applying his time and skill to the Website!! Thanks too to Holy Cross for sponsoring the site.

## ARACHNOLOGY IN CYBERSPACE

Here are some website addresses for arachnological information:

**International Society of Arachnology**—[HTTP://WWW.ARACHNOLOGY.ORG](http://www.arachnology.org)

**Wolf Spiders of Australia** (Lycosidae) - [HTTP://WWW.ALPHALINK.COM.AU/~FRAMENU/LYCOSIDAE/INDEX.HTML](http://www.alphalink.com.au/~framenu/lycosidae/index.html)

## JOURNAL OF ARACHNOLOGY ELECTRONIC INDEX

The electronic index for the Journal of Arachnology is available at: <http://vassun.vassar.edu/~celt/suter/spiderform.html>

Note that the main search keywords are: SCORPION, SPIDER, HARVESTMAN, MITE. Any word or taxon that is in a title may be found with a search of the Index. Thanks to Bob Suter: [SUTER@VASSAR.EDU](mailto:SUTER@VASSAR.EDU) [HTTP://FACULTY.VASSAR.EDU/~SUTER/SUTER.HTML](http://FACULTY.VASSAR.EDU/~SUTER/SUTER.HTML)

## AMERICAN ARACHNOLOGY

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