

MINNESOTA ODONATA GAZETTE

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Kurt Mead Coordinator



Greetings, Earthlings!

As many of you know, my family and I spent an entire year living abroad in Sweden. My family and I had a fantastic time! On the other hand it was a bit of an inconvenience for the MOSP as the Survey is really gaining momentum, and even though the advent of the digital age makes the world much smaller, the fact is that I just simply could not have run the entire Survey over the internet.

Dianne Rowse, MOSP Interim Coordinator in my absence, has done most of the work of keeping the MOSP growing and enthused in my absence. She stepped up time after time to get the job done and we all owe her a debt of thanks.

In addition, Jim Lind grabbed hold of the specimen and database ends of the Survey and he IDed, entered the data and prepared the HUNDREDS of specimens that have been submitted by MOSP volunteers.

These two folks, plus all of you have attended workshops and returned specimens and information to the Survey have set the

standard for years to come!

Now it is time to really shine! Our current grant cycle ends on June 30, 2010 and by that time I will have written a report that will underscore all of our records thus far, showing all of the expanded ranges of the Odonates and all of the species that are new to Minnesota since the start of our efforts. I am also hoping that we will move forward with a variety of initiatives that will ground the MOSP with a strong foundation and a large presence.

Kurt Mead
MOSP Coordinator

PS. Mail any and all specimens to me ASAP. Details on page 2. KM

Another Odonata Summer in Superior National Forest

By Dave Grosshuesch, SNF Biological Science Technician

This was the second year of the Superior National Forest (SNF) Odonate survey. The survey was galvanized by the partnership between the MOSP and the SNF, with three weekend surveys planned throughout the summer (June 13 - 14; July 18 - 19; August 15 - 16). Conducting surveys at various times of the year allowed us to capture different emergence times for species of interest (i.e., Regional Forest Sensitive Species, Species of Special Concern). One of the main goals of the survey was to provide the public with an opportunity to help collect valuable information about Odonates on the forest, as well as, learning more about the unique places and habitats on the

forest. Additionally, the survey was done to better understand the distribution and abundance of species on the forest, which may aid biologists when making resource management decisions.



Please see *Superior National Forest* on page 4

Submit Your 2009 Specimens, Now!

I have heard that some folks have specimens from 2009, or earlier. If you have any specimens to submit, here's what you need to do:

Double-check that you have all of your specimens properly prepared. The essence of this means that they have been soaked in acetone and properly labeled with locations well recorded with GPS coordinates if possible. For complete instructions on specimen preparation, refer to the "Surveys" page of the MOSP website:

(<http://www.mndragonfly.org/manual.html>)

Please box your specimens up and pad them lightly to avoid much sliding and banging

around during shipment. Do not use envelopes, padded or otherwise, as the crumbled specimens that arrive at my house will be of no use and your efforts will have been for naught.

Please send them as soon as you can as I need to write a complete report on MOSP activities before next summer...and it will take some time!

Shipping address:
Kurt Mead
6388 Lax Lake Rd
Finland MN 55603



Friend Request from the MOSP – Join a New Facebook Group

By Kurt Mead

I'm 43 years old and was a child when PCs came out. We had to learn Basic programming language in high school. Computers were never a big part of my life in the way that they are for the digital youth of today. My 10 year old daughter is much more digitally-minded than I. That said there are many digital tools at our disposal (and the *disposal* is where some of these tools should go). I have recently availed myself of the online networking tool, Facebook.

Although I do not intend on giving Facebook a complete endorsement I have found it very entertaining and useful for connecting with old friends and staying better connected to all sorts of people. There are the annoying quizzes and applications that some folks enjoy but drive me nuts (no offense to anyone...to each his own). One of the useful tools on Facebook, in my honest opinion (I think that younger folks say IMHO), is Facebook Groups. You can create or join a little club or support group revolving around any conceivable topic (or, as is often the case, inconceivable topics) and share insights and photos and...other stuff. A group member might get reminders about events or may join a discussion about a relevant topic. They may even network (I think that this means that they may

meet people, in a beneficial way, that they may not have met in some other way).

"What is the relevance of this to me?" you might rightfully ask. Then I shall tell you. I have just started a new Group on Facebook called, "Minnesota Odonata Survey Project". This group name is neither unique nor is it sexy, but it is descriptive and to the point. There is already some activity on it even though there are, as I write this, only seven members (and one of them is my sister who has very little interest in the subject but who gets points for loyalty and support). As the 2010 season approaches, all esteemed members will get reminders about workshops and other Odonata-related events as well as the ability to join all of our discussions of dragonflies and damselflies.

Again, no Facebook endorsement or arm-twisting. I just happen to know that a few of us are already there and this is a just another tool for us to use for our own benefit. To find the group, simply type "Minnesota Odonata Survey Project" into the search bar and see where it takes you. LOL, I think. (*Insert smiley-face emoticon, here.*) *

MOSP Summit Meeting Looks to the Future

By Kurt Mead, MOSP Coordinator

First, a little disclosure, here: The management, control and book-keeping for the MOSP is my responsibility. Only me. Through the grants from the MN DNR/USFWS, I have been tasked to do several things. They expect only me to deliver. I want to try to convince you that I can't do it myself and that without involved volunteers the MOSP is a house of cards.

Firstly, I must have all of the known Odonata collections in Minnesota catalogued by vetting all of the ID's and getting the information into the MOSP database. Secondly, I am tasked to train and organize volunteers who will spread out across the state to gather information about what Odonates are living near them. This information is added to the MOSP database, alongside all of the older data from the collections mentioned, above.

Finally, I need to interpret all of this data in order to write a complete report for the Minnesota DNR. This report will function as a sort of unofficial draft Atlas of Odonates in Minnesota.

Take all of this into consideration and you should get some sort of understanding of scope of this work. I feel a little overwhelmed at times.

One of my major concerns, looking into the future, is that of recruiting, supporting and keeping committed MOSP volunteers like you. This last point is critical to the continuation of the Survey. One person, or even a small group of people, cannot make headway in this enormous task.

With this in mind, I approached a number of MOSP volunteers with whom I am familiar and who, in the past, have stepped forward to take a leadership role of some sort. I asked them to meet together, with me, to communicate their vision for the future of the MOSP.

It was an inspiring evening attended by people from all over the state. We even had one attendee on speaker phone as he could not get away from home and work long enough to make the drive to the Twin Cities.

There is not enough space here to cover all of the topics that were discussed. Dianne, wisely, cut us off at 10pm, two and a half hours after we had started.

One of our main areas of concern was the potential for funding projects and items outside the scope of the DNR/USFWS grant that currently funds the MOSP. We discussed the possibility of gaining official non-profit status so that we raise a little money to provide workshop participants with needed supplies as well as goodies, like stickers, hats or t-shirts. This supporting organization could also provide complete Odonata kits (net, field guide, etc.) as a scholarship for young folks and/or for interested people who don't have the financial resources to buy the tools needed for this endeavor.



Summit Meeting attendees; (front row, l to r) Mike Garcia, Jeanne Jensen, Charles Habermann; (back row, l to r) John Arthur, Dianne Rowse, Scott King, Kurt Mead

Perhaps we could have a winter banquet/fundraiser at which we recognize significant work done by volunteers. Social networking (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) was discussed as a tool for connecting MOSP members. Partnering with State Parks and nature centers could get the word out to like-minded folks.

The topics I mentioned above are just a very few of the discussion topics at the Summit Meeting. We now put it out to you: what ideas, resources, contacts or dreams do you have for the MOSP?

Send me a note... Kurt

Superior National Forest from page 1

Sampling was done at 14 different locations, with six bog locations, five river locations, two lakes, and one wetland pond. Of the 14 sites sampled in 2009, eight sites had not been previously sampled and six sites from 2008 were resampled. Resampling of sites was done at locations with high Odonate diversity in an attempt to monitor sites, and also, to get a more thorough assessment of the species composition at sites. At each site we randomly walked throughout the area searching for adult Odonates; however, if few adults were found, we searched for exuviae (i.e., shed larval skin) along river or lake shorelines. Although it might seem difficult to find exuviae, once you've developed the exuviae search image they sometimes "jump out" at you! Finding exuviae at sites has the added value of confirming the breeding presence of species, which may prove invaluable for long-term monitoring and protection of aquatic environments.



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Are you sure? Dragonfly ID can be tricky at times.

Forty-eight species of dragonflies and damselflies were found during the three weekends, with 33 species of dragonflies and 15 species of damselflies. There were 27 species found at bogs, 25 species at rivers, 20 species at lakes, and 7 species at the wetland. Also, nine species

not observed during the SNF weekends were found – for a total of 57 species found on the SNF in 2009 (41 dragonflies; 16 damselflies). Although no new county records were found this year, one new species was added to the SNF Odonate list (Crimson-ringed Whiteface).



The two youngest members of the August 2009 SNF outing caught and released two dragonflies that are on Minnesota's Species of Special Concern list; Subarctic and Zigzag Darners. These finds occurred 3 minutes apart and 30 meters away from each other. Great job Yarrow Mead (age 14) and Chris Ethier (age 20)!

Additionally, there were 7 species found in a new county within the SNF boundary (i.e., these species have been recorded in the county before but not within the county boundary of the SNF), including 5 species in St. Louis and 2 species in Lake counties. The overall composite list for the SNF is 83 species, with 61 dragonflies and 22 damselflies. The highlights of the season were Zigzag Darner (Species of Special Concern), Subarctic Darner (Species of Special Concern), Least Clubtail (species of interest), Delicate Emerald (species of interest), and Ski-tailed Emerald (species of interest). Interestingly, Zigzag Darners were found at 5 locations on the SNF, with darners observed in tandem (i.e., exhibiting mating behavior) at 4 locations. The best highlight of the season was the 22 participants that helped to collect this information and made the events a huge success!


If you are interested in seeing the 2009 report or would like information about the 2010 surveys, please contact Dave Grosshuesch at: dgrosshuesch@fs.fed.us or call 218 229-8815. ✖

Superior National Forest Composite List – 2009

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- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Canada Darner | • Stream Cruiser | • Black Meadowhawk |
| • Lake Darner | • Swift River Cruiser | • Cherry-faced Meadowhawk |
| • Variable Darner | • American Emerald | • White-faced Meadowhawk |
| • Zigzag Darner | • Racket-tailed Emerald | • River Jewelwing |
| • Subarctic Darner | • Beaverpond Baskettail | • Ebony Jewelwing |
| • Black-tipped Darner | • Common Baskettail | • Northern Spreadwing |
| • Shadow Darner | • Spiny Baskettail | • Emerald Spreadwing |
| • Common Green Darner | • Ski-tailed Emerald | • Sweetflag Spreadwing |
| • Springtime Darner | • Delicate Emerald | • Slender Spreadwing |
| • Fawn Darner | • Williamson's Emerald | • Powdered Dancer |
| • Black-shouldered Spinyleg | • Calico Pennant | • Aurora Damsel |
| • Lancet Clubtail | • Chalk-fronted Corporal | • Subarctic Bluet |
| • Ashy Clubtail | • Frosted Whiteface | • Taiga Bluet |
| • Dusky Clubtail | • Crimson-ringed Whiteface | • Boreal Bluet |
| • Mustached Clubtail | • Hudsonian Whiteface | • Northern Bluet |
| • Dragonhunter | • Belted Whiteface | • Marsh Bluet |
| • Rusty Snaketail | • Four-spotted Skimmer | • Hagan's Bluet |
| • Least Clubtail | • Common Whitetail | • Eastern Forktail |
| • Twin-spotted Spiketail | • Saffron-winged Meadowhawk | • Sedge Sprite |
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Wa to do? What to do?


Anyone interested in submitting records to the MOSP should do some or all of the following:

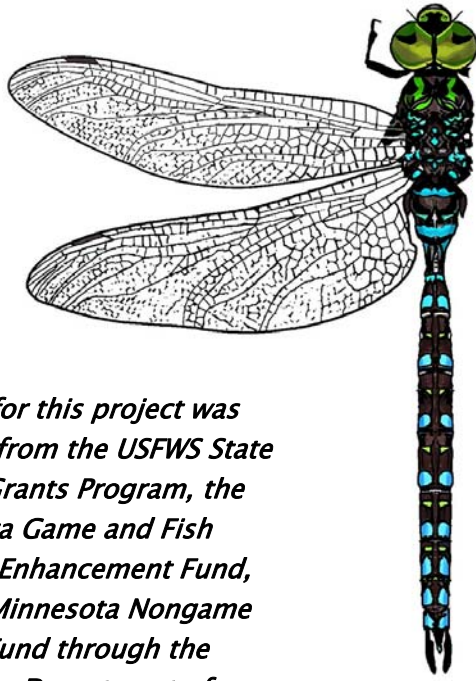
1. Check out the MOSP at www.mndragonfly.org for general info and specifics on how to conduct surveys and submit records and specimens.
2. Attend one of the five MOSP training workshops to be held throughout Minnesota. Dates and locations (as they become available) will be posted on the website.
3. Contact us at the email address on the website to get on our database of volunteers. There will be email announcements, newsletters, etc, periodically.
4. Brush up on your dragonfly and damselfly ID skills, then gather in packs of similarly-minded folks and head out into the wilds (or your backyard). Teach each other what you know and figure the rest out. Be resourceful with field guides and the internet and ask questions of those with more experience. 

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The old saying, "Many hands make light work" applies directly to our situation.

Our hope is that there will be many hands, in Minnesota, all adding a little bit to our knowledge of the Odonata of Minnesota. The result, hopefully, will be a better understanding of these charismatic insects in Minnesota.

5. Go to the OdonataCentral website at www.odonatacentral.com (there is a link to this on the MOSP website) and look up the list of known species for your county. I have printed out the data for all Minnesota counties (no small task) and I carry them around in a large three-ring binder. Consider doing so for any and all counties to which you regularly visit, as well as some of the surrounding counties, just in case. 



Minnesota Odonata Survey Project

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MOSP logo designed (and donated) by Rick Kollath of Kollath Graphic Design in Duluth

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