

Minnesota Dragonfly Society


Spring 2017
Newsletter #7

Ensuring conservation of Minnesota's dragonflies and damselflies through research and education.

ALL NETS SWINGING By Angela Isackson (MDS President)

I am looking forward to getting even more done in 2017 with all of you swinging nets or snapping photos like the paparazzi. That may seem like a crazy notion, how could we possibly do more? Since the beginning, we have aimed high, even



completing that 30 page 501(c)3 application and creating bylaws seemed far out of our league. Last year we started our first year with the Ecofootprint Grant through  Enbridge, which awarded \$50,000 to MDS to conduct research and education in the northern watersheds. With excitement I can share we have recently accepted a second round of funds for 2018 with Ecofootprint for \$45,000 to continue our efforts. More exciting news is the privilege to host the Dragonfly Society of the Americas Annual Meeting in 2018, right here in Minnesota!

New challenges in our path represent an opportunity for growth. During the past few years we have taken on projects that have forced us to develop new skills and expand our abilities. 2017 will be no different as we look to challenge ourselves as we move forward with our goal of growing MDS into a stable, long-term organization. The projects we will be pursuing in the coming months and years will present us with new opportunities to grow as team members and an organization. I look forward to working alongside all of you as we enter this next stage of our journey. A rising tide rises all the ships in the harbor.

On that note I want to welcome all new members and encourage others to join MDS. Our work is ultimately about people. People are the sources of every great idea. People are the most important resource in any project. Relationships are the glue that hold everything, without the power of many working hands and the collabora-



tion of diverse minds, we would not see our huge success. Check out our busy schedule for 2017 and tune into our Facebook pages, there are many ways to get engaged and involved. I promise 2017 will be another great adventure and you will not want to miss out!

TO TEACH IS TO LEARN TWICE OVER By Dave Doyle

Last summer I was helping the staff at Tamarack Nature Center at one of their teaching events. I was mostly helping identify species caught.

We were working with kids in kindergarten and first grade. After we had talked about dragonflies, we took them into the fields and gave them nets. As with all kids they responded with great enthusiasm. Just being around them was a great pleasure. Near the end of our time, I heard a boy say "I got one". I turned to see what he had. It was an Eastern Amberwing (lifer for me)! I was way more excited than the kids, and I hope they were able to see that an interest in nature doesn't have to stop when you grow older.



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MEET OUR NEW GRANT COORDINATOR by Perk

Maia Crews-Erjavec is new to MDS but her star is shining bright as she takes on a very important task with us as the MDS Grant Coordinator. She is training under Crystal Boyd and is currently working on the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grant looking to fund a MDS Database Grant. Securing this grant would be awesome for MDS as the project would provide us with statistical analysis, data visualization and administration.

Maia is a junior at Augsburg College in the Biology Department focusing on Entomology. She plans to do research and is super excited to learn grant writing and draw upon that in her professional life. She is participating in Dr. Emily Schilling's research program on the Canada Darner (*Aeshna canadensis*), their distribution, phenology and migration cycle.



She says she has always been fascinated by insects which has led to many opportunities. She has been a butterfly student worker at the Minnesota Zoo. She credits her mother with furthering her path in entomology. Her mother heard Crystal Boyd (project coordinator/bee specialist) interviewed on MPR, leading Maia to seek out how to become involved in Minnesota's native Bee Survey. When asked which she prefers, nymphs or adults, there was no hesitation in claiming nymphs are her favorites. Her other critter of interest include millipedes which are not actually insects but still arthropods.

When not studying, or promoting dragonfly research, you will find Maia performing with her Irish band on her 7/8's cello, dancing Bollywood style or trying to put together plans to travel the world, already having ventured to Ireland and India.



DRAGONFLIES GO TO MARSCON

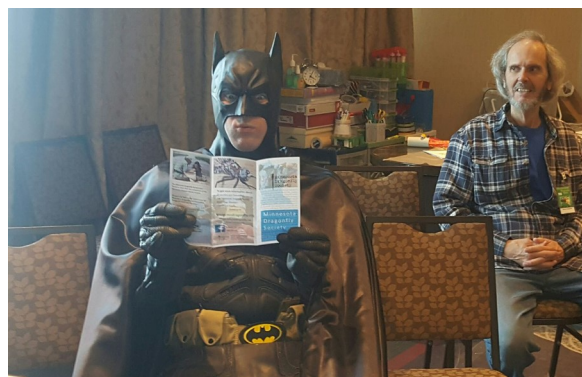
by Barb Heenan Andersen

When the Science Fiction Convention, MarsCon, contacted our president about providing a program for the Con (short for convention) Angela Isackson carefully put out requests for input. I responded enthusiastically as a past MarsCon attendee and avid science fiction groupie letting her know there would be a welcoming audience for us. All kinds of people attend this convention: scientists, artists, teachers, authors, and children, as well as fans of BEMs (Bug Eyed Monsters and Dragons). MarsCon specifically reached out to the Minnesota Dragonfly Society because the 2017 theme was "Dragons in Space."



Jacki Morrison volunteered to be the lead coordinator and arranged for a very successful event. The most popular part of our two-hour program was the "discovery" station with live nymphs and magnifiers. There was a constant flow of kids and some adults at the discovery table, handling nymphs and asking lots of questions. Curt Oien was there to work with the kids to make sure they knew about butt breathing, ballistic defecation, exuviae, labiums, and instars. We also had paper crafts, membership brochures, and other handouts.

Batman and other costumed characters attended the formal presentation developed by Jacki Morrison and presented by Ami Thompson.



Jacki titled it "Aliens Among Us" and cleverly used well known science fiction movie titles to frame a dragonfly ecology and research talk. During the question period at the end, Batman asked to have his picture taken with Ami!

Did you know there is about one science fiction convention per month in the Twin Cities? MarsCon is a smaller event, with around 200 attendees, but the response from the organizers was enthusiastic. They notified us that quite a few evaluations specifically mentioned our dragonfly program as one of their favorite experiences and gave us very high ratings. Jacki, Ami, Curt and I enjoyed it very much and were excited to discover a new audience passionate about dragonflies!

The feedback we got on the MDS presentation at MarsCon was phenomenal. We received excellent ratings from the crowd with people saying they were extremely likely to recommend our programs and events.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

- Jim and Jan Coleman
- Jenn and Caleb Ashling-Gillen
- Amy Jo Forslund
- Jim Johnson
- Steven Turnball
- Scott and Theresa Seys

STATE SYMBOLS—WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

- 1) This state's insect is the Four-Spotted Skimmer?

- 2) Nevada's state insect is a damselfly. It is the

- 3) The common green darner is this state's insect.

- 3. Washington
- 2. Vivid Dancer
- 1. Alaska

MDS – Calendar of Events – 2017

MAY 2017

Citizen Science Association Conference May 17-20
Gathering Partners of Natural Resources Conference May 19-21

JUNE 2017

Waterfest Lake Phalen June 3
Avinty Senior Living June 6
Dragonfly Blitz @ Warner June 10
Mini BioBlitz with CURE Swedes Forest SNA June 17
BioBlitz with Land Stewardship Glacial Lakes SP June 23-24-25
Ecofootprint Workshops Kanabec & Aitkin County June 24-25

JULY 2017

Minnesota Dragonfly Gathering Tettagouche State Park July 7-9
Dragonfly Festival at Eastman Nature Center July 8
MN Rovers Kilen Woods State Park July 15-16
Ecofootprint Workshops Mahnommen & Red Lake County July 22-23

AUGUST 2017

Dragonfly Workshop & Survey at Tamarac WNR August 11-12-13

MINNESOTA DRAGONFLY SOCIETY

Board Members:

President: Angela Isackson
Vice President: Ami Thompson
Treasurer: Jenn Gillen Ashling
Secretary: Kiah Brasch

John Arthur—Crystal Boyd—Jeff Fischer
Mitch Haag—Barb Heenan-Andersen
Ron Lawrence—Tina Morey—Jacki Morrison
Arne Myrabo—Curt Oien-Mike Sweet

Newsletter Editor:

Cathy Perkins

Membership:

The Minnesota Dragonfly Society welcomes everyone!
Annual Memberships are \$25 for individuals and \$30 for families. Contact: info@mndragonfly.org

Who We Are:

The Minnesota Dragonfly Society is a 501(c)(3) organization that facilitates Odonata (dragonfly and damselfly) research, surveys, and education.

Public events include survey outings, identification and citizen science trainings, family education events, and board meetings. Other events include professional development workshops for educators and research outings for trained members.

Currently the best way to reach us is to request to join our Minnesota Dragonfly Society Facebook Page or through our website:

www.mndragonfly.org.

Our Mailing Address:

Minnesota Dragonfly Society
P.O. Box 46192

MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER—TINA MOREY

HOW AND WHY DID YOU FIRST BECOME INVOLVED IN MDS AND WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO JOIN THE BOARD?

I first became interested in MDS while participating in a class taught by Kurt Mead, at the 2014 MN Phenology conference. I had never netted a dragonfly or scooped a nymph until that day. I came home, ordered a net and signed up for Facebook so I could follow MDS. (I was a big boycotter of Facebook until that day.) A short month later, I met Ami Thompson at Crex Meadows, where I practiced my netting and identification skills. I have been attending events ever since. Joining the Board is my way of giving back to those that inspired my curiosity and love of the dragonfly.



WHAT ROLE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF PLAYING ON THE BOARD?

My background is in business, not science, so helping to ensure our long term financial viability and layman messaging.

WHAT DO YOU FEEL IS UNIQUE ABOUT MDS?

The passion, expertise and inclusive nature of our members.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH THIS YEAR ON THE BOARD?

This is probably not a one year goal and it is BIG. I would like dragonflies to be discussed with the same level of interest as the monarch butterfly.

HOW WILL YOU APPLY YOUR CAREER KNOWLEDGE TO IMPROVE MDS?

My career has been focused on financing of health care, both on the payer and provider side. I have skills in financial modeling, policy, project management and leadership that when combined with the technical expertise of our other Board members will have tremendous impact on our work. During my MBA program, I co-lead the planning and execution of an event that brought the Surgeon General of the United States to Minnesota as our keynote speaker. I can use that experience to help in planning the 2018 DSA convention.

NYMPHS OR ADULTS?

Adults, in particular the Anax Junius (Common Green Darnier). Hmm...I can't forget my favorite damselfly Calopteryx Maculata (Ebony Jewelwing).



AND NEW BOARD MEMBER—BARB HEENAN ANDERSEN

HOW AND WHY DID YOU FIRST BECOME INVOLVED IN MDS AND WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO JOIN THE BOARD?

I think it was at Waterfest 2014 at Lake Phalen when I first met some members and learned that the Beautiful Dragonflies lived most of their lives underwater. Curt, Arne, Mitch and others showed me how the nymphs were identified for species and instars and I was hooked. I became a member to learn about a new group of animals. I joined the Facebook page and then helped with sorting the NGS specimens at the UofM Entomology Department that winter. I then attended a meeting in the fall of 2015 when there was a meeting to organize committees and elect officers. I agreed to be on the Events Committee since I enjoyed events. Jacki was the Chair so in the fall of 2016 we started meeting to organize the data collected at the 38 events held that flight season. Jacki asked me to become the Vice Chair and plan to become the Chair next year. Now we are organizing 2017 events on a computer program. Records we keep for each event include who was involved, how successful it was, when and where, what was done and photographs. This can be used for planning, budgets, reporting to members and others when needed. I attended a couple of Board Meetings to better understand how the Events Committee fits in with the overall Society activities. I was asked about joining the Board and said yes.



WHAT ROLE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF PLAYING ON THE BOARD?

Attend Board Meetings, participate in member activities, continue work on the Event Committee, becoming the Chair next year. For the 2016 Annual Meeting, I helped with planning and obtaining the food. I anticipate helping out where I can.

WHAT DO YOU FEEL IS UNIQUE ABOUT MDS?

I like the combination of Scientific and Educational aspects and the fact that there is much unknown about Odonata. I like working with and supporting people who are doing research, writing field guides and that know more than I do.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACCOMPLISH THIS YEAR ON THE BOARD?

I want to become prepared to lead the Event Committee next year.

HOW WILL YOU APPLY YOUR CAREER KNOWLEDGE TO IMPROVE MDS?

With the challenges of hosting a national meeting and continuing research as well as educational outreach, I can organize the data sheets after events and help prepare for events. I am ready to be a Lead for Events. I have filled in to take minutes of meetings, served on the Audit Committee and wrote an article for the newsletter along with assisting at events. My career in Medical Laboratory Management has given me some skills along those lines. I can learn to identify both adults and nymphs for species and sex and age as easily as I learned to identify human parasites, bacteria, blood cells, chemistry and more in my medical laboratory career.

NYMPHS OR ADULTS?

Adults are more beautiful and appeal to my artistic self. I am taking watercolor classes and plan to use them as subjects.



DRAGONFLIES ON



Did you know that Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz are credited with creating the “rerun” to conceal Lucy’s pregnancy? Does TV seem to be running that same series from 1951 to 1957 today?

Well, turn on your computer or Smart-TV and check out these dragonfly videos on YouTube.

- 1) Sky Hunters-The world of the dragonfly by The Secrets of Nature (run time 49:40)
- 2) The Secret World of Dragonflies by National Geographic (run time 14:55)
- 3) How Do Dragonflies See The World by BBC Earth (run time 4:14)
- 4) Dragonflies: The Flying Aces of The Insect World by National Science Foundation (run time 2:33)
- 5) Two Worlds of Dragonfly and Damselfly Mating Behavior by 22FVT (run time 3:22)
- 6) Dragonflies: Dainty But Deadly by The New York Times (run time 3:12)
- 7) Dragonflies and Damselflies by WalkAboutLad (run time 5:20)
- 8) Tiny Backpacks Tap Into Dragonflies Brains by National Geographic (run time 3:01)
- 9) Dragonfly: Beauty or Beast by Vashti Neal (run time 35:41)
- 10) Stunning Time-Lapse of a Dragonfly Growing Wings by Smithsonian Channel (run time 2:03)
- 11) Dragonfly and Damselfly Collection Techniques by WisSCBMnetwork (run time 3:13)
- 12) Wisconsin Odonata Survey by WisCBMnetwork (run time 2:26)
- 13) Dragonfly and Damselfly Adult Specimen Preparation by WisCBMnetwork (run time 8:56)
- 14) Dragonfly and Damselfly Nymph and Exuviae Specimen by WisCBMnetwork (run time 3:29)



Get Involved With MDS!

Join our Board of Directors or volunteer for a committee

Our non-profit is growing rapidly and we are looking to welcome new members onto our board and committees.

- Do you want to be part of a passionate and active group of people working towards the conservation of Minnesota’s dragonflies and damselflies through research and education?
- Are you good at rolling up your sleeves and getting work done?
- Do you have leadership experience working with nonprofits or leading new endeavors during periods of growth?
- Do you have successful program development and/or grant writing experience?
- Are you good at developing efficient processes and at identifying and clarifying roles?
- Do you have experience with marketing, branding, and or promotions?

If so, we need you! Please considering running for the board or joining a committee.

Board elections will be held at the Annual Members Meeting on January 28, 2017. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact us

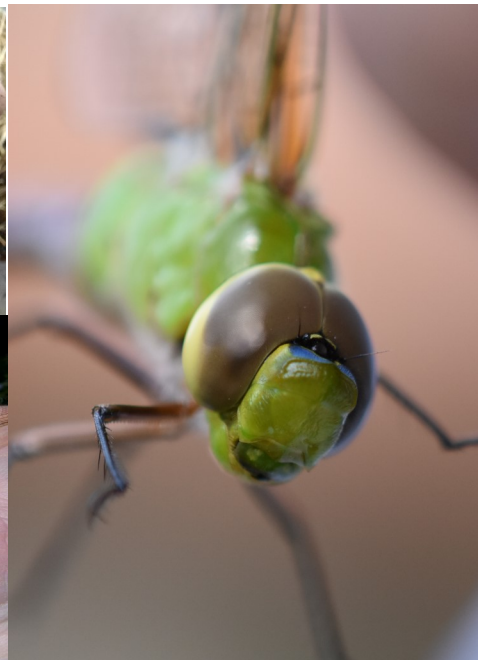
Do you have a great dragonfly photo or an awesome story from the field? We’d be happy to include it in the next MDS newsletter! The deadline to submit content for the April newsletter is March 15. Please email original articles, photos, artwork, news and events to: cathy.perkins@ymail.com

Minnesota Dragonfly Society Newsletter articles and photos are property of the authors unless otherwise stated.

LOOKING TO INCREASE YOUR ODDS OF FINDING DRAGONFLIES THIS SPRING? HERE IS A LIST OF EMERGENCE/ SPOTTINGS FROM SPRING 2016 FROM OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

If you intend to collect specimens, acquiring permission to legally collect is critical and should not be ignored. If on private property, you will need the property owners permission. You should always call ahead to make contact before ever swinging a net!

4/15/2016	Common Green Darner	Anax junius	Clifton French, Plymouth
4/15/2016	Common Green Darner	Anax junius	Wm O'Brien SP, Marine on the St Croix
4/16/2016	Common Green Darner	Anax junius	Ft Snelling SP, St Paul
5/2/2016	Eastern Forktail	Ischnura verticalis	Cottonwood Cty
5/5/2016	Rusty Snaketail	Ophiogomphus rupinsulensis	Montissippi RP, Monticello
5/5/2016	Dragonhunter	Hagenius brevistylus	Montissippi RP, Monticello
5/6/2016	Beaverpond Baskettail	Epitheca canis	Mississippi Cty River Pk, Rice
5/6/2016	Common Green Darner	Anax junius	St Louis River, Duluth
5/8/2016	Dot tailed whiteface	Leucorrhinia intacta	Wright County
5/18/2016	Clubtail	Gomphus	Crow Hassan Reg Pk, Rogers
5/21/2016	Beaverpond Baskettail	Epitheca canis	Brainerd
5/23/2016	Eastern Forktail	Ischnura verticalis	Ft Snelling SP, St Paul
5/23/2016	Common baskettail	Epitheca cynosura	Wargo NC, Hugo
5/24/2016	Stream Cruiser	Didymops transversa	St Croix SP, Hinkley
5/24/2016	Hudsonian Whiteface	Leucorrhinia hudsonica	Ludlow Pond, Big Bog SRA, Waskish
5/24/2016	Ebony boghaunter	Williamsonia fletcheri	Ludlow Pond, Big Bog SRA, Waskish
5/24/2016	American Emerald	Cordulia shurtleffii	Ludlow Pond, Big Bog SRA, Waskish
5/24/2016	Spiny baskettail	Epitheca spinigera	Ludlow Pond, Big Bog SRA, Waskish
5/26/2016	Four spotted skimmer	Libellula quadrimaculata	Northfield, Rice County
5/26/2016	Common whitetail	Plathemis lydia	Platt Lake, Crow Wing Cty
5/28/2016	Skillet Clubtail	Gomphus ventricosus	St Croix River
5/28/2016	Pygmy Snaketail	Ophigomphus howei	St Croix River
5/29/2016	Midland Clubtail	Gomphus fraternus	Bailey Point Nature Pres, Elk River
5/30/2016	Rapids Clubtail	Gomphus quadricolor	Wild River SP, Center City
5/31/2016	Rusty Snaketail	Ophiogomphus rupinsulensis	Zumbro River, Millville, Wabasha Cty
5/31/2016	Ebony Jewelwing	Calopteryx maculata	Zumbro River, Millville, Wabasha Cty



6/1/2016	Cobra Clubtail	Gomphus vastus	Coon Rapids Dam, Brooklyn Park
6/3/2016	Chalk-fronted Corporal	Ladona julia	City Park , Andover
6/3/2016	Four spotted skimmer	Libellula quadrimaculata	Rice Lake NWR, McGregor
6/4/2016	Amber-winged Spreadwing	Lestes eurinus	Wright Cty
6/7/2016	Dot tailed whiteface	Leucorrhinia intacta	Northfield, Rice County
6/7/2016	Midland Clubtail	Gomphus fraternus	Rum River, Anoka
6/8/2016	Cobra Clubtail	Gomphus vastus	Minnesota River, Scott Cty
6/11/2016	Four spotted skimmer	Libellula quadrimaculata	Carlos Avery WMA, Wyoming
6/16/2016	Spiny baskettail	Epitheca spinigera	Sherburne NWR, Zimmerman
6/17/2016	Amber-winged Spreadwing	Lestes eurinus	Carpenter NC, Washington Cty
6/19/2016	Cobra Clubtail	Gomphus vastus	Mississippi River, Dayton
6/19/2016	Blue-eyed darner	Rhionaeschna multicolor	Northfield, Rice County
6/20/2016	Four spotted skimmer	Libellula quadrimaculata	Oakdale Nature Pres, Oakdale
6/21/2016	Crimson-ringed Whiteface	Leucorrhinia glacialis	Crow Wing Cty
6/21/2016	Cyrano Darner	Nasiaeschna pentacantha	Hubbard Cty
6/21/2016	Subartic bluet	Coenagrion interrogatum	Clair Nelson Ctr, Finland
6/21/2016	American emerald	Cordulia shurtleffii	Clair Nelson Ctr, Finland
6/21/2016	Racket tailed emerald	Dorocorulia libera	Clair Nelson Ctr, Finland
6/21/2016	Spiny baskettail	Epitheca spinigera	Clair Nelson Ctr, Finland
6/21/2016	Beaverpond Baskettail	Epitheca canis	Clair Nelson Ctr, Finland
6/21/2016	Four spotted skimmer	Libellula quadrimaculata	Clair Nelson Ctr, Finland
6/21/2016	Springtime darner	Basiaeschna janata	Clair Nelson Ctr, Finland
6/21/2016	Ebony Jewelwing	Calopteryx maculata	Clair Nelson Ctr, Finland
6/21/2016	River jewelwing	Calopteryx aequabilis	Clair Nelson Ctr, Finland
6/21/2016	Sedge sprite	Nehalennia irene	Clair Nelson Ctr, Finland

