



The Midlands Naturalist

IN THIS ISSUE

August 3, 2019 Guest Speaker **p. 2**

MMNA Calendar **p. 2**

Reminder **p. 3**

Volunteer Opportunities **p. 4**

Advanced Training Opportunities **p. 5**

Red Fox Family Encounter **p. 6**

Featured Species:
Insects of Summer

Lepidoptera **p. 7**

Odonata **p. 8**

Hymenoptera **p. 9**

Diptera **p. 10**

Orthoptera **p. 11**

Coleoptera **p. 12**

Hemiptera **p. 13**

and more! **p. 14**

Rambur's Forktail (*Ischnura ramburii*), immature female



photo: Lee Morris

Message from our MMNA Chair

Happy Summer!

The spring ephemerals are gone, the birds are busy with their fledglings, and the main components of the summer feel like heat, humidity, and bugs. While most people are shunning the bugs (as well as the heat and humidity), I am reveling in them (the bugs!). Not just because I'm a naturalist, but because the diversity of the Arthropods is just amazing.

Back in May, I made an impromptu stop at Molly's Rock Picnic Area in Newberry County (Sumter National Forest). It was early evening, and probably a little late to be stopping by, but I was in a nature state-of-mind. As I walked by some half-grown oak trees, I spotted a flash of red. It was almost hovering in the air next to me. I turned and watched it fly over to an oak leaf and attach. It was a tiny fly. It had huge, bright red eyes. It was hanging from the edge of the leaf by one of its forelegs. It gripped a smaller insect with the other five legs, clutching it close to its body, and was feeding on it.

As I carefully looked around, I realized that these little flies were everywhere, flying or hanging from the edges of the leaves eating. I was mesmerized and spent the next half an hour in the growing dusk trying to get them in focus with my camera (*see p. 10*). How could I have not heard of a tiny, crimson-eyed fly that hung from leaves like the famed hanging thief robber fly?

I've seen many new insects this spring and summer, and those tiny dance flies were the highlight, but it is still stunning how biodiverse our little slice of the planet is. Let's hope we can keep it this way.

Lee





photo: Aiken Standard



photo: Aiken Standard

Upcoming Quarterly Meeting – Aug 3, 2019, 10AM – Cayce Tennis and Fitness Center

Our MMNA Quarterly Meeting will be held Saturday Aug. 3, 10AM at the Cayce Tennis and Fitness Center, 1120 Fort Congaree Trail, Cayce, SC. We have the upstairs room, and there is ample parking in the tennis center lot. The entrance to the 12,000 Year History Park/Timmerman Trail is next door - a great area for a nature walk before or after the meeting.

The first hour will be about association activities and business. For the second half of the meeting, our speaker will be **Barry Kesler** from the SC Department of Natural Resources. Barry is from Silverstreet, SC. He earned his bachelor degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology from Clemson in 2007 and is currently working on his masters in the same field at Clemson. Barry taught high school biology for a number of years before joining DNR. He has been the Heritage Preserve Biologist for Region 3 since 2015.

Barry will be talking about the ongoing work at the Aiken Gopher Tortoise Heritage Preserve focused on the gopher tortoise and other associated rare herps.

Midlands Master Naturalist Association

Lee Morris	Chair
Ed Siggelko	Vice-Chair
Alice Clark	Recorder
Ellen Blundy	Treasurer
Anne Palyok	Activities Committee Co-Chair
Dee Dee Williams	Activities Committee Co-Chair
Sara Green - SCWF	Advisor
David Groh	Newsletter Editor

We welcome your submissions to this newsletter! Send your: photos, trip/hike reports, citizen science reports, book or website reviews, or anything you think will interest your fellow naturalists to:

mmna.newsletter@gmail.com

Our Website:

<http://www.midlandsmasternaturalist.org>



mark your Calendar

- ☒ Quarterly Meeting:
Aug 3, 2019 at 10AM
See details above.
- ☒ Steering Committee Meeting:
Oct 19, 2019 at 3PM
215 Pickens Street, Columbia, SC.

All members welcome to attend.
Attendance counts as program service.
We work on ideas for upcoming activities or various initiatives. We would love to have your attendance and input!
- ☒ Social Event: Happy Hour
Sep 12, 2019 (tentative)
Location TBD.
- ☒ Butterfly Count at Congaree NP
Sep 14, 2019, 9AM – 3 PM.
details on p.4



Volunteer and Advanced Training Hours



Master Naturalist volunteer service hours are critically important to the SC Master Naturalist program and its many affiliated organizations. The educational, environmental, and other volunteer services you provide help demonstrate the value of the program to the state of South Carolina.

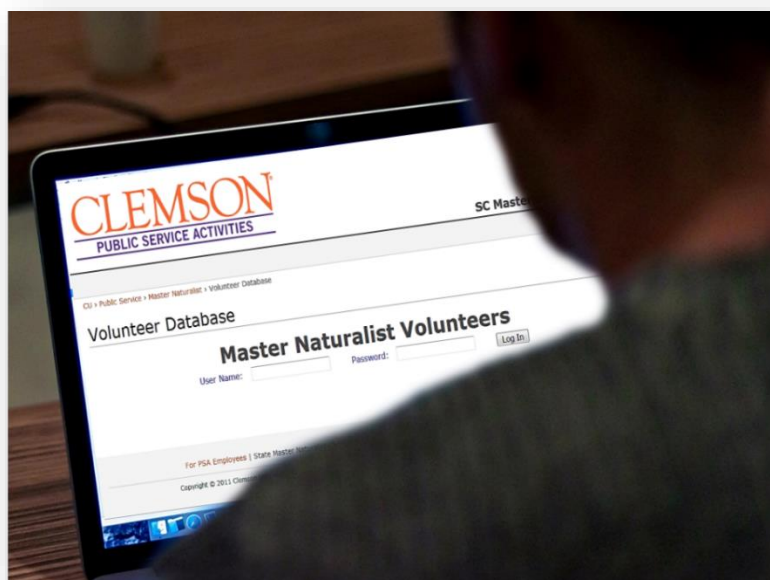
Please keep us aware of the benefits that you provide by reporting your volunteer hours via the [Online Volunteer Hour Reporting System](#). At the same time, report your advanced training hours to keep your certification active and allow you to qualify for the amethyst that goes in your nametag for yearly service.

Go here for more details:

<https://www.clemson.edu/extension/mn/volunteering.html>

And here for a tutorial on how to use the database (it's easy!):

<http://www.midlandsmasternaturalist.org/about-mmn-association/volunteer-links>





Volunteer Opportunity

Wood Magic Forest Fair:

SC Botanical Garden (Clemson) - Oct 8-11, 2019

Harbison State Forest (Columbia) - Oct 28-Nov 1, 2019

Hobcaw Barony (Georgetown) - Nov 19-22, 2019

VOLUNTEERING

Beth Foley has begun scheduling volunteers for this fall's Wood Magic Forest Fair (WMFF) events. To conduct these programs, she needs approximately 28 volunteers each day to serve as guides, instructors, and helpers. Each volunteer is given a t-shirt, lunch, and the satisfaction that they have helped provide the youth of our state an important pro-forestry experience. As a registered forester, you can also receive up to 2 hours of Category 3 CFE credits.

To sign up, first visit the WMFF volunteer page at <http://www.state.sc.us/forest/woodmagic.htm> and look under "Work Schedule" to see what days and positions are available (this is updated once weekly). You can also find lesson plans, driving directions, and other information at this site. Then contact Beth <mailto:bfoley@scfc.gov> to let her know for which days and positions you would like to volunteer. (Please note the above website is not where you sign up, but where you see what volunteer slots are still needing to be filled.)

To learn more about WMFF, please visit this link <http://www.state.sc.us/forest/18wm.pdf> to view last year's annual report.

Volunteer Opportunity

Congaree National Park – Butterfly Count

Sat. Sep 14, 2019, 9 AM – 3 PM



You are invited to learn about butterflies and help collect data as part of a citizen science program at Congaree National Park Saturday, September 14, 2019 beginning at 9 a.m.

This program is coordinated through the Carolina Butterfly Society (carolinabutterflysociety.org), the North American Butterfly Association (www.naba.org), and the NPS Old-Growth Bottomland Forest Research and Education Center (www.nps.gov/rlc/ogbfrec/index.htm). Participation counts as volunteer hours for Citizen Science. You do not have to be an expert to help, and you may come for a whole or half day.

There will be a range of hiking options from easy, family-friendly strolls to backcountry hikes. Some counting groups will be out most of the day (as late as 3 PM), but other groups can accommodate folks who need to return by lunch time. The data will be reported to the North American Butterfly Association, which has been coordinating annual counts since 1975. By compiling this data with other counts from all across the continent, scientists can make maps and measure changes in butterfly populations over time.

Contact David Shelley david_shelley@nps.gov if you are able to help with this important count.



Advanced Training Opportunity

Adopt-a-Stream Workshops

See link below for times and locations

Have you gotten certified yet?

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC), is partnering with the Clemson University Center for Watershed Excellence (CU CWE), to implement the stream sampling design of Georgia Adopt-A-Stream (GAAAS) in South Carolina.

Join many of your fellow MMNA members in becoming certified to assess the health of streams. Workshops at various locations around the state focus on teaching volunteers: habitat assessment, macroinvertebrate monitoring, bacteria monitoring, and physical/chemical monitoring. For more information on workshops, see this link:

<https://www.clemson.edu/public/water/watershed/scaas/workshops.html>

This training will lead to citizen science volunteer opportunities as we partner with local groups to adopt and monitor streams in the Midlands. We recently (6/13/19) had a practice session with the Gills Creek Watershed Association, so get certified and get involved!

Advanced Training Opportunity

Wildcrafting Collective Workshop

Facilitators: *Matt Kip and Emily McCravy*

Saturday August 3rd 9am-1pm

Saturday August 17th 9am-1 pm

Saturday September 7th 9am-1 pm

Saturday September 21st 9am-1pm

Saturday October 12 9 am-1 pm

Saturday October 26th 9am-1 pm



Classes will be outdoors in the Columbia area. Be prepared for the weather!

Cost: \$350 per person for six sessions (price includes all materials).

Contact Matt Kip at: sustainablesouth@hotmail.com Learn more about Matt at: www.matthewkip.com

This six part immersive class is a deeper look at some elemental skills and concepts:

- weaving a wild vine basket and making cordage
- harvesting and preparing a wild fruit jam
- making salves and tinctures from wild and cultivated plants
- digging deeper into the world of wild edibles
- harvesting and preparing wild crafted tea
- learning the core principles of permaculture

While relearning these ancestral skills, we will be talking about how the principles of permaculture relate and overlap. We are limiting this class size to 12 people who will go through the six sessions together and deepen their relationships and sense of community.



Red Fox Family Encounter

by Pam Shroyer

This past spring as I was taking my dog out for his early morning walk, I heard an ear-piercing scream coming from the back yard down by the lake. Not knowing what dangers lurked ahead, I immediately took the dog back in the house and went to investigate. As I approached a row of bushes, I heard rustling and a barking sound, not unlike that of a small dog (I actually called out to it thinking it was a lost pet). As the rustling in the bushes continued, I noticed out of the corner of my eye a Red Fox sauntering along behind the house – it was the source of the screaming noise!



[Scream of the Red Fox](#)

I quickly returned to the house so as not to disturb it. Later that morning, I decided to check out the yard including a shed near the lake. Again I heard a noise, this time a huffing sound. It was then that I realized that the fox must be a mother and her kits were likely sheltered by the structure. They were probably under the bushes I walked past earlier, and their mother was screaming to warn them to take cover! I decided to set up a trail camera to investigate; lo and behold, it captured a mother and at least 5 kits who had taken up residence under the shed.



I was able to watch them with binoculars in the late evenings and early morning as they played and later became emboldened enough to come out to learn to hunt. Most of them moved on after about a month, but I was still able to observe a few stragglers who continued to enjoy the comfort and safety of the shed. I still see some of them as I drive up and down the road, although they have spread out quite some distance and seem to live on their own.

Red Foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) tend to live in small familial groups. While mostly carnivorous, they will sometimes eat fruit and vegetable matter. They maintain territories for hunting small mammals, but these territories shrink if humans feed them. Because the foxes come to rely on this help, it is the responsibility of the human to continue feeding them. This can be dangerous, however, because foxes can carry rabies. As I discovered from the family in my yard, foxes can be very vocal and are known to make at least 12 different sounds. Knowing what I know about red foxes, I was happy to observe them from a distance and appreciate them without interfering with their innate behavior.



Insects of Summer - *photos from your fellow Master Naturalists:*
Lepidoptera

FEATURED
SPECIES

Giant Swallowtail (*Papilio cresphontes*)



photo: Eleanor Eggleston Ellison on Edisto Island

Giant Swallowtail caterpillar



photo: Eleanor Eggleston Ellison

Geometer Moth caterpillar (*Geometridae* sp.)



photo: Dee Dee Williams

Gulf Fritillary (*Agraulis vanillae*)

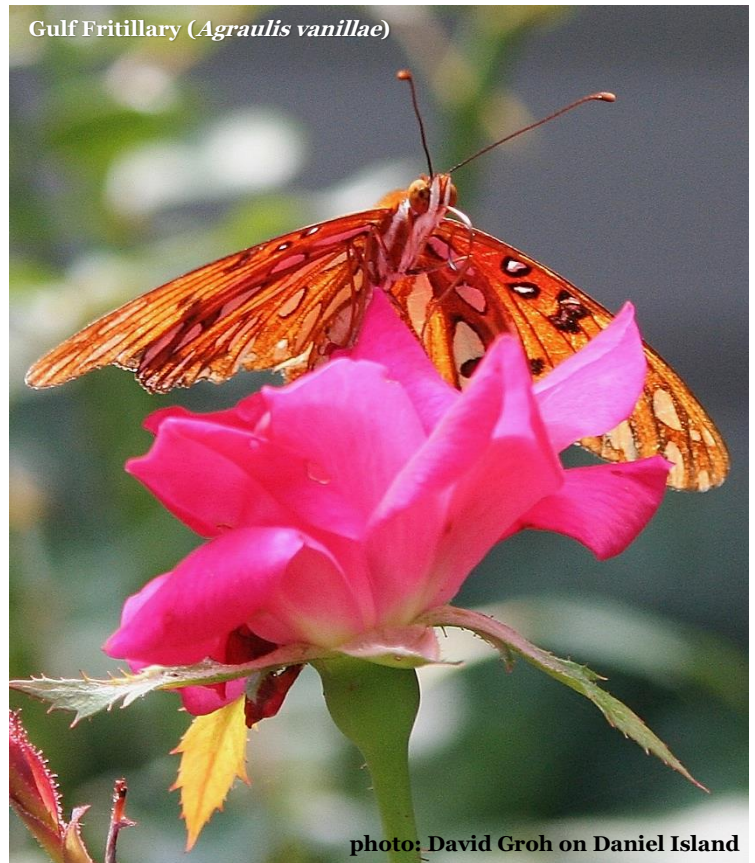


photo: David Groh on Daniel Island



More Insects of Summer - from your fellow Master Naturalists:
Odonata

FEATURED
SPECIES

Banded Pennant (*Celithemis fasciata*), male with exuvia



Ebony Jewelwing (*Calopteryx maculata*), male



Eastern Ringtail (*Erpetogomphus designatus*), male



Elegant Spreadwing (*Lestes inaequalis*), male



Blue Dasher (*Pachydiplax longipennis*), female



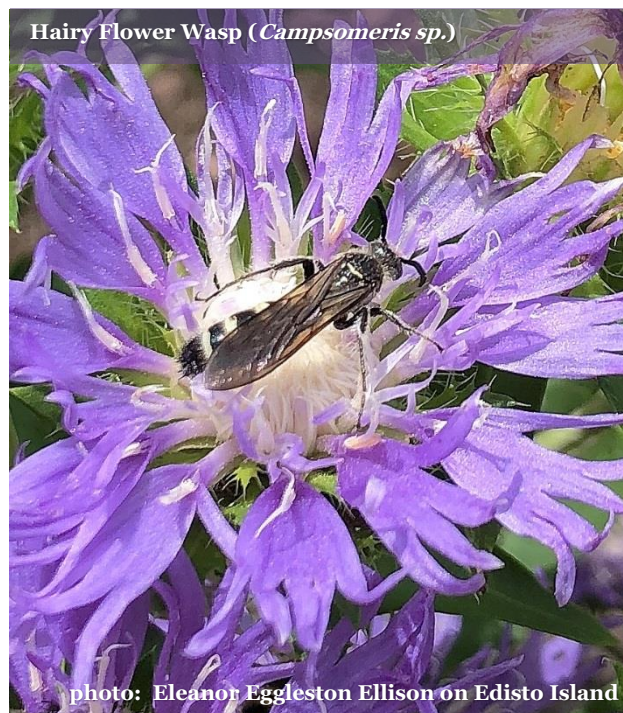
Blue Dasher (*Pachydiplax longipennis*), male





More Insects of Summer - from your fellow Master Naturalists:
Hymenoptera

FEATURED
SPECIES





More Insects of Summer - from your fellow Master Naturalists:
Diptera

FEATURED
SPECIES

Hanging Thieves

Diogmites sp.

Wateree River Heritage Preserve
June 28, 2019



photo: Sharon Watson

Stilt Fly (*Taeniaptera trivittata*)



photo: Lee Morris

Tiger Bee Fly (*Xenox tigrinus*)



photo: David Groh

Virginia Flower Fly (*Milesia virginiensis*)
(a Yellowjacket mimic)



photo: Ed Siggelko on Timmerman Trail

Crane Fly (*Tipula* sp.)



photo: Ed Siggelko

Dance Flies (*Syneches thoracicus*)



photos: Lee Morris



More Insects of Summer - from your fellow Master Naturalists:
Orthoptera

FEATURED
SPECIES

Tree Cricket (*Oecanthus sp.*)



photo: Lee Morris

Bird Grasshopper (*Schistocerca sp.*)



photos: Anne Palyok

nymph



Lesser Angle-winged Katydid (*Microcentrum retinerve*)



photo: David Groh in Lexington

Fork-tailed Bush Katydid (nymph)

Scudderia furcata
Keowee-Toxaway State Park
June 15, 2019

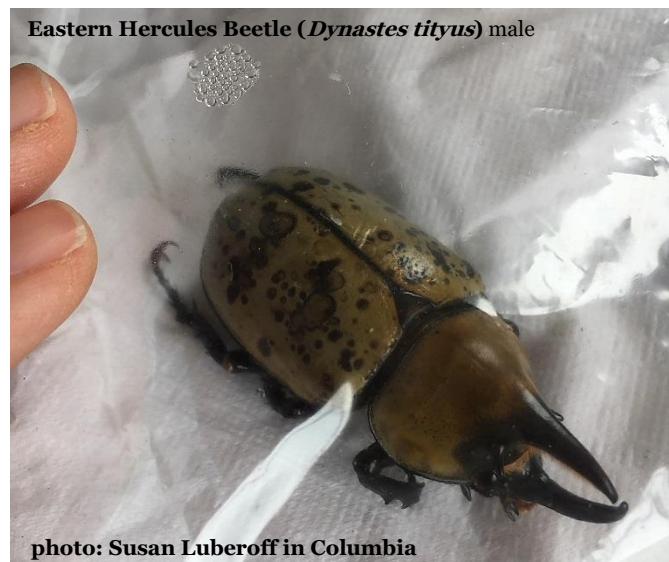


photo: Sharon Watson



More Insects of Summer - from your fellow Master Naturalists:
Coleoptera

FEATURED
SPECIES





More Insects of Summer - *from your fellow Master Naturalists:*
Hemiptera

FEATURED
SPECIES

Eastern Leaf-footed Bug (*Leptoglossus phyllopus*)



photo: Ed Siggelko in Orangeburg County



nymphs

photo: Lee Morris

Leaf-footed Bug (*Leptoglossus oppositus*)



photo: David Groh in Lexington

Water Scorpion (*Ranatra* sp.)



photo: Lee Morris

Swamp Cicada (*Tibicen chloromera*)
aka Morning Cicada



photo: David Groh in Lexington

Large Milkweed Bug (*Oncopeltus fasciatus*)



photo: Anne Palyok



More Insects of Summer - *from your fellow Master Naturalists:*
Other Orders

FEATURED
SPECIES

