



The Wisconsin Odonata News

February, 2014

Volume 2, Issue 1

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A Letter from the President,

This past year saw much growth and excitement for members of the Wisconsin Dragonfly Society! In this, our 2nd society newsletter, we will help get you caught up with many of the developments as well as a few thoughts for the future. Here you will find a [summary of the 2nd WDS annual meeting](#) held this past June at the UW-Waukesha field station, and an [invitation to come to our 2014 annual meeting](#), which will be held in Ladysmith, June 13-15, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Dragonfly Society of the Americas. This is a very exciting opportunity right here in our home state that I hope many of you will take advantage of!

In this issue you will also find summaries of the activity and knowledge gained through the [Wisconsin Odonata Survey](#) (WOS), which had a record-breaking year, and of the public outreach events done by WDS members in 2013. The 2013 field season was again highly productive in terms of increasing knowledge about species distributions and important habitats statewide. A record number of 48 contributors reported a record number of species observations (over 4,000) through the WOS web-site in 2013. These observations included 222 new county records, which was nearly twice the number recorded last year. I want to personally thank and congratulate all who contributed records on a phenomenal year! If you haven't visited the [WOS web-site](#) lately, please do so. It has received a nice facelift and will continue to have the content updated. The WDS-sanctioned [public outreaches](#) were also noteworthy in 2013 with five members leading 13 presentations and field trips that reached over 300 people including at least 90 children. Our budding partnership with the [Urban Ecology Center](#) in Milwaukee is further evidence of our commitment to helping engage youth with nature. Hundreds of field guides were given to prospective cooperators by request, at presentations, and at the State Fair. Further, I was overjoyed to see the kind, thoughtful, and generous interactions that took place on the society [Facebook group page](#), which now has 213 members. This page has matured into a safe learning environment where folks who are relatively new to the incomparable pastime of dragonflying can post photographs and share experiences. My sincere thanks go to Paul Sparks for managing the page and to all of you who have made thoughtful, helpful, encouraging and constructive posts.

(Continued on page 2)

Nominating Committee, 2014

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(Continued from page 1)

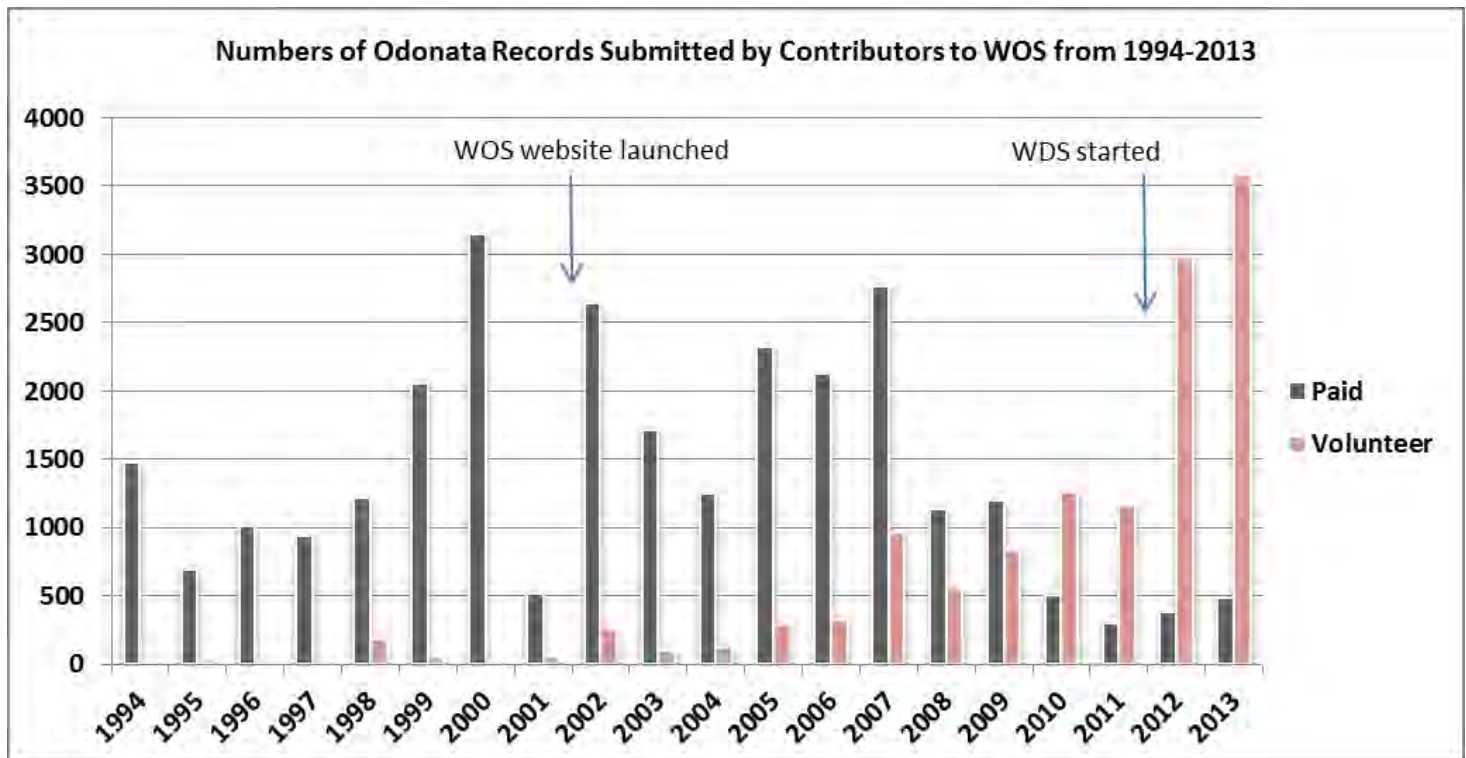
You'll also read about a noteworthy [citizen science award given to Dan Jackson](#), our society vice president, at a citizen-based monitoring conference in April. Other reflections and tidbits of information in this issue include an [update from our treasurer Matt Berg](#), a [beautiful poem by Ken Tennessen](#), plus a captivating [article](#) and challenging [game](#) both created by one of our resident storytellers, Ryan Chrouser. Ryan has a wonderfully mischievous sense of humor and a marvelous knack for taking you out into the field with him, even during the dead of winter! Note also a link in the Resources section to the [society brochure](#) that members can print off, photocopy, and hand to anyone they think might be interested in learning about our group.

I'm looking forward to an even better year in 2014, but I know full well that that can only happen as a result of the dedicated efforts of many people. You should know as I do that the eight other officers and directors of this society are talented, generous and dedicated people who come from diverse backgrounds and have a wide range of skills but share one overarching goal – to help make this society as useful and helpful to you as they possibly can. I have great admiration and appreciation for their service. Please take some time this off season to consider how you might help this society to strengthen and grow. Areas of assistance might include helping with a meeting, leading a field trip, contributing to the Facebook page, assisting with research efforts, or becoming an officer or director (if so, contact a [Nominating Committee member](#)). The opportunities are really limitless and depend only on your time, creativity, and areas of interest.

Don't forget that this is your society, so please share your thoughts, concerns, and any interest you might have in serving, with me or with any of the board members. I again wish you all a peaceful and healthy off season as we await, with much anticipation, another memorable field season to enjoy Wisconsin's dazzling array of dragonflies and damselflies!

Cordially,

Bob DuBois



Dragonfly Society of the Americas Meets in Wisconsin's Northwoods

By Joanne Kline

Whoever heard of an 8-day conference with 7 of those days planned for field trips to scenic odonate “hot spots” led by knowledgeable guides? If this sounds like your kind of event, consider attending all or part of the DSA 2014 Annual Meeting, June 11 to 18, in northern Wisconsin.

DSA coming to Wisconsin this year is a great opportunity to meet odonate enthusiasts from across the US and Canada. Everyone is welcome – beginners to experts – with abundant opportunities for learning and sharing knowledge in the field and the lab, as well as having fun in some beautiful places that are great odonate habitat.

The meeting kicks off June 11 and 12 at Beaver Creek Reserve near Eau Claire, where we'll visit sites along Beaver Creek and the Eau Claire River. The main meeting, June 13-15, which will **coincide with the WDS Annual Meeting**, is based at the Rusk County Library in Ladysmith. Field trips along the Chippewa and Flambeau Rivers will visit some of the best clubtail habitat in the US. June 14 is a full day of scientific presentations followed by a banquet and a silent auction. We'll wrap up with trips to Vilas County lakes and wetlands on June 16-18.

The conference website will be up soon for registration and with program details, lists of species you can expect to see, field trip sites, and lodging options. The Facebook group page will have a link and you'll get an e-mail when it's ready, but mark your calendar now so you don't miss this chance.

If you're interested in presenting a talk on June 14, send your abstract to [Ken Tennessen](#). The silent auction benefits [Odonata Central](#), a clearinghouse for information on dragonflies and damselflies world-wide. Please consider donating an item to the auction that might appeal to someone who likes odonates as much as you do. Contact [Joanne Kline](#) for more information.

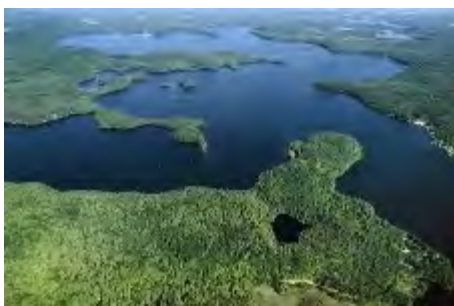


Photo of Tomahawk Lake, site of Kemp Natural Resources Station, a post-meeting venue



Photo of Sioux Snaketail (*Ophiogomphus smithi*), one of many species we're likely to find along the Eau Claire River.

Credit: photo by Troy Hibbitts

Treasurer's Update

Here's where we stand. Following the contribution from DSA, we're at \$600 big ones. A few new members have trickled in, but not many. Note a few of you are still not on the list of 29 members. Let me know if you have any questions,

Matt Berg, Treasurer

Wisconsin Dragonfly Society Board Member Wins Citizen Science Award

Dan Jackson, current vice president of the Wisconsin Dragonfly Society (WDS), won a significant award for Outstanding Achievement in Citizen-based Monitoring, given by the citizen-based monitoring program of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The award was presented at the 6th Wisconsin Citizen-based Monitoring Conference held April 5, 2013, at the Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids. In addition to his service as a society director, Dan contributed over 1,250 Odonata records to the Wisconsin Odonata Survey (WOS) in 2012, which included 52 new county records and one first state record species. In addition to these achievements, Dan frequently helps and encourages beginners with identification and ecological questions on the WDS Facebook group page, and regularly assists several professional zoologists with Odonata-related research projects. Since 2009, Dan has contributed over 5,000 records to WOS. His work has done much to further both scientific knowledge and public appreciation of dragonflies in WI. Congratulations Dan and thank you for your service!



Dan Jackson (holding award) is flanked from left to right by Citizen-based Monitoring Advisory Council members Kris Stepenuck, Nancy Turyk, and Owen Boyle



Editor's note:

To show the important contributions of Dan Jackson and Ryan Chrouser, here is an extract from Bob DuBois' and Bill Smith's article:

"Two particularly active contributors, Dan Jackson and Ryan Chrouser, between them went on nearly 400 trips and were responsible for about 70% of all the records submitted in 2013".

WDS Outreach Events in 2013

By Bob DuBois

Five WDS members gave a total of 12 dragonfly-related presentations (often with associated field trips) that reached at least 300 people including about 90 children. Presentations were held in Bayfield, Door, Douglas, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Lacrosse, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Price, and Waukesha counties. Presentations usually began with PowerPoint presentations to acquaint audiences with the life cycle, amazing behaviors, and stunning beauty of dragonflies, then groups were often led on short field trips to observe actual dragonfly behaviors and learn the basics of identification. WDS members provided a dragonfly workshop at the Urban Ecology Center in Milwaukee and partnered with staff there to start a monitoring program at UEC's Milwaukee County Riverside Park branch. The UEC has received a citizen-based monitoring grant from the Department of Natural Resources to conduct more invertebrate monitoring in 2014.

The WDS board is encouraging members with some knowledge and a lot of enthusiasm to give dragonfly presentations and lead outings in their neck of the woods in 2014. Remember, the goal with talks and outings is not perfection, but to help lead others to find the magic and enjoyment of dragonfly watching! PowerPoint presentations, WDS brochures, and field guides are available for your use. Contact a board member for materials and advice on leading a presentation/outing.

Here's a report of the Urban Ecology Center's Odonata activities:

Report on the Urban Ecology Center's Odonate Study

Contributed by Jenn Callaghan

Research and Citizen Science Coordinator, Urban Ecology Center

The Urban Ecology Center is a three-branch, non-profit environmental organization located in urban parks in three of Milwaukee's most populous areas. Our organization's mission is simply to connect people with nature. We do this by focusing on environmental education, research, outdoor adventures and community programs. Citizen Science makes up a large component of research at the Center. The research department engages in over 20 monitoring or research projects and studies everything from invertebrates to mammals.

A 2012 phone call from Joanne Kline connected me to the Wisconsin Dragonfly Society. As it so happens, I had fallen in love with odonates a decade earlier after taking a field biology class from Bob DuBois, so odonate monitoring at the Center became an easy sell. Joanne and I had our first meeting in late 2012 and ambitiously talked of getting a regular survey up and running by the 2013 field season. The idea fit well with the research department's goal of diversifying our citizen science audience and so we decided to dive right in.

We planned a dragonfly workshop for June 2013 and connected with other WDS members in January 2013. Joanne donated countless hours putting together materials, resources, meetings, etc. This was incredibly helpful considering no one at the Urban Ecology Center was an odonate guru and had never spearheaded a dragonfly project before.

June rolled around and the odonate workshop went unbelievably well. We had a larger than average-sized audience of 18 people and generated a considerable amount of positive feedback and interest. The workshop was co-lead by two members of the research team and two dedicated high school interns. Getting out into the field was the best part of the workshop. It was gratifying watching other people fawn over and carefully handle bugs that are so often misunderstood.

Weekly surveys started in early-July and were led by the same high school interns (Ethan and Humzah) that helped to lead the workshop. While attendance was lower than we had hoped for our

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

first field season (one to two volunteers per survey), the volunteers that attended were highly committed and connected to learning about odonates.

Ethan's and Humzah's skills grew rapidly during the experience. They started the project relying heavily on members of the research team, but by the beginning of September, were able to identify odonates in the field and comfortably lead programs without assistance. Not only did they learn a great deal about odonate biology and behavior, but they were also able to learn skills such as project management and volunteer coordination. By nature, both Ethan and Humzah are a bit shy and the project helped them to improve social and networking skills as well as understand the importance of a positive volunteer experience.

We are excited for the 2014 field season! We plan to expand the odonate project to all three of our branches and expand our audience to new neighborhoods. We are so thankful for the help that the Wisconsin Dragonfly Society provided and continues to provide. We look forward to a lasting relationship with WDS and to spreading the odonate love to the hearts of many more. Please contact me at jcallaghan@urbanecologycenter.org if you are interested in learning more about our surveys or are a skilled local odonate enthusiast willing to contribute your knowledge to our project.

Here is information to contact Jennifer if you wish information on the Urban Ecology Center, especially their programs and volunteering for Odonata work:

Jennifer Callaghan

Research and Citizen Science Coordinator

Urban Ecology Center

1500 E Park Place

Milwaukee, WI 53211

Phone: 414-964-8505 ext. 152

jcallaghan@urbanecologycenter.org

Here's a photo from a 2013 field trip with

Kelsey Cartwright,
Carson Krihwan,
Jennifer Callaghan,
Alexa Hollywood



©Joanne Kline, 2013

Editor's note:

This photo and those on the following page are from Riverside Park on the Milwaukee River which is located on the East Side of Milwaukee. These photos were taken by our own Joanne Kline.

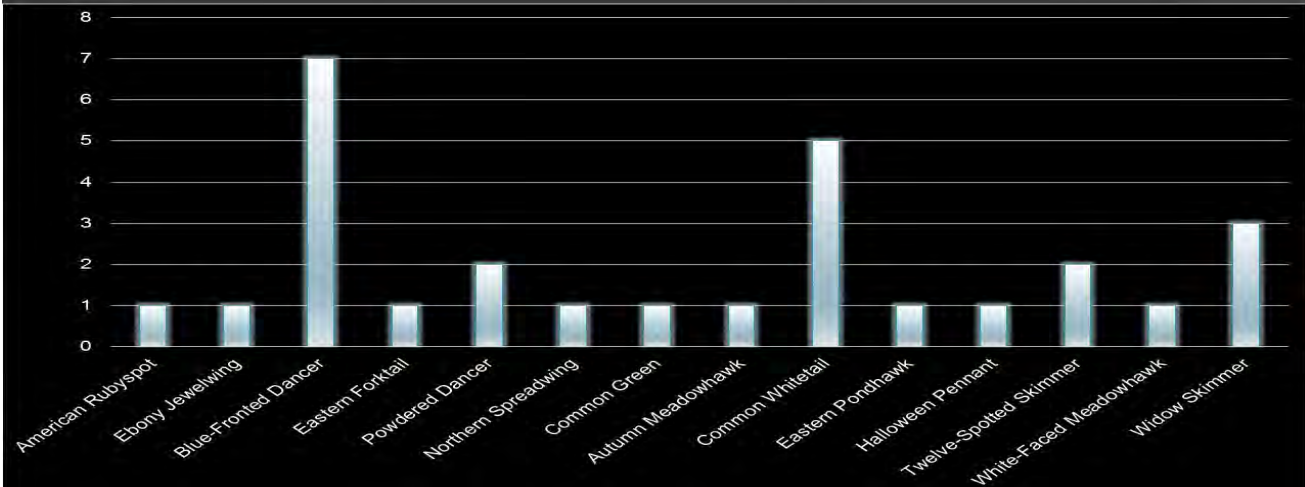
Students of all ages are learning about dragonflies at the UEC Workshop as you can see from these photos.

Right:
Intern Humzah Abdullah
Hunting dragonflies at the Center
©Joanne Kline, 2013



Intern Ethan Bott surrounded by workshop participants and Paul Sparks, photographer ©Joanne Kline, 2013

Summer 2013 Species Abundance



WDS 2013 Annual Meeting and Field Trip

June 8th, 2013

Submitted by Ryan Chrouser

This spring has been a frustrating one for this Odonate enthusiast. So as we pulled up to the UW Waukesha field station just south of Waterville, WI for the 2nd annual WDS meeting, I had some mixed feelings. I had high expectations for the [board meeting](#) on Saturday morning, but the same could not be said for the following field trip Saturday afternoon. The odes have been scarce around my neck of the woods and I was not overly optimistic that we would find many species flying around.

Marlin Johnson, our gracious host, started the weekend with a very informative tour of the three main aquatic habitats on the property. A temporary pond, spring fed Scuppernong Creek, and Henrietta Lake. Marlin has been the caretaker of the property since 1970 and knew the history of nearly everything on it. It was impressive to see how large some of the trees that he had started from seed in 1970 had become by 2013. Only 30 seconds into the tour we spied a Chalk-Fronted Corporal (*Ladona julia*) light on a tree along the prairie trail and my hopes surged a little for what tomorrow might bring. Our night was capped off by a little informal nymph ID training from Bob.

The Board of Directors convened at 8:30 AM on Saturday, June 8th. Our main focus for this meeting was to get our constitution finalized. This would allow us to move forward with the legal creation of the Wisconsin Dragonfly Society as a non-profit, and therefore open a bank account to deposit all the member fees that Matt had been collecting. It took nearly the whole meeting, but the board worked very hard to get the constitution set up to fit our needs. Matt was able to move forward and soon the bank account will be opened. I would call this a success!

We broke for lunch and then came back ready for the [field](#). Bob led a group to survey on Henrietta Lake. The lake had a bog on the far side that could be reached by some canoes that Marlin offered for our use. The lake folks found some of the usual suspects, but the highlight was certainly the [Lilypad Forktails](#) (*Ischnura kellicotti*). This is a rare species in Wisconsin!

The stream group had a good time netting both adults and nymphs. The Springtime Darners (*Basiaeschna janata*) are always fun to watch and net. I was a part of this group and thought the experts (Bill Smith and Ken Tennessen) did a great job of finding nymphs to educate the rest of the group. A personal highlight for me was the impressive Shadow Darner (*Aeshna umbrosa*) nymph that was nearly ready to emerge.

The groups merged back together later in the afternoon to take a trip to a bog lake that Bill Smith has affectionately named “*Rhionaeschna mutata* site #2”. This was a challenging site to survey given the floating bog we were walking on. There was not much flying around at the time due to the overcast skies, but we did manage to find two exuviae from our target species, the Spatterdock Darner (*Rhionaeschna mutata*). Bill also observed several *Lestes* nymphs on emergence perches

(Continued on page 10)

Pictures of Two of the Species Observed on the WDS Spring, 2013 Field Trip

Photos taken from the WOS Site, not from the field trip
No further information available, but are good examples.



Gomphus exilis male (Lancet Clubtail),
unknown user of WOS site



Aeshna canadensis male (Canada
Darner) © Dan Jackson

Waushara County Record



Ken Tennessen took this photo of an *Amphiagrion abbreviatum* male (Western Red Damsel) in Waushara County, 19 July 2006. There is still some question as to the specific identity of our Wisconsin populations, but Ken believes that they appear to fit *A. abbreviatum* more than *A. saucium*.

©Ken Tennessen, 2006

(Continued from page 8)

jump back in the water as he approached; A fascinating behavioral observation. We wrapped up our Saturday with a cookout at the field station hosted by Marlin. Great food and great conversation ensued.

On Sunday before we all went our separate ways, we decided to take one more look at Henrietta Lake. Our goal was to find more Lilypad Forktails (*Ischnura kellicotti*) adults and maybe some nymphs as well. Unfortunately Bob determined that canoes would be needed to get where we needed to go on the lake to see the Forktails. We were reluctant to ask Marlin to haul the canoes back down for us, so we switched our focus to finding nymphs along the boardwalk. We were rewarded with a good deal of *Lestes* nymphs and several Libellulid nymphs as well. We watched a Swamp Spreadwing (*Lestes vigilax*) emerge on a reed and netted a couple more damselfs that we hadn't seen the day before. After a couple of hours we bid our farewells and so ended the 2nd Annual Wisconsin Dragonfly Society Meeting.

Special thanks to Alex Johnson, who set up and arranged for us to host our meeting at the UW-Waukesha field station. Unfortunately Alex could not attend the meeting so we did not get a chance to thank him personally. Marlin filled in admirably and made us feel very welcome. Thank you Alex and Marlin!

(Editor's note: [Ryan's species list](#) for the day is on the next page)



Two-Part Harmony

dragonflies rustle overhead
a pair in tandem
in harmony
sheet music on the wing
pages flipping with
staves a-blur
treble clef in front
bass clef behind
at mid-length a quarter rest
near the tip a semibreve
sharps and naturals
seated long ago
and though missing some notes
in unique chromatic scale
they take
my breath away

– Ken Tennessen 2010

	NAME	STAGE	LOCATION
<i>Aeshna umbrosa</i>	Shadow Darner	nymph	stream
<i>Aeshna canadensis</i> *	Canada Darner	nymph	bog lake
<i>Anax junius</i>	Common Green Darner	adult	field
<i>Basiaeschna janata</i>	Springtime Darner	adult	stream
<i>Rhionaeschna mutata</i>	Spatterdock Darner	exuvia	bog lake
<i>Gomphus exilis</i> *	Lancet Clubtail	adult	field
<i>Gomphus spicatus</i>	Dusky Clubtail	adult	stream
<i>Dorocordulia libera</i>	Racket-tailed Emerald	nymph	lake/bog lake
<i>Epitheca cynosura</i> *	Common Baskettail	adult, exuvia	field/stream/lake, lake
<i>Epitheca princeps</i>	Prince Baskettail	adult, exuvia	field/stream, lake
<i>Epitheca spinigera</i> *	Spiny Baskettail	adult	field
<i>Celithemis elisa</i>	Calico Pennant	adult	field/lake (emerging tenerals)
<i>Erythemis simplicicollis</i>	Eastern Pondhawk	adult	field/stream
<i>Ladona julia</i>	Chalk-fronted Corporal	adult	lake
<i>Leucorrhinia frigida</i> *	Frosted Whiteface	adult	lake
<i>Leucorrhinia intacta</i>	Dot-tailed Whiteface	adult	lake/stream/bog lake/field
<i>Libellula luctuosa</i>	Widow Skimmer	nymph	lake
<i>Libellula pulchella</i>	Twelve-spotted Skimmer	adult	field/stream
<i>Pachydiplax longipennis</i>	Blue Dasher	nymph	lake/bog lake
<i>Plathemis lydia</i>	Common Whitetail	adult	field/stream
<i>Calopteryx maculata</i>	Ebony Jewelwing	nymph	stream
<i>Amphiagrion saucium</i>	Eastern Red Damsel	adult	stream
<i>Coenagrion resolutum</i>	Taiga Bluet	adult	lake
<i>Enallagma antennatum</i>	Rainbow Bluet	adult	lake
<i>Enallagma boreale</i>	Boreal Bluet	adult	bog lake
<i>Enallagma ebrium</i>	Marsh Bluet	adult	lake
<i>Enallagma vesperum</i>	Vesper Bluet	adult	lake
<i>Ischnura kellicotti</i> *	Lilypad Forktail	adult	lake
<i>Ischnura verticalis</i>	Eastern Forktail	adult	lake/stream
<i>Lestes vigilax</i>	Swamp Spreadwing	adult	lake

*county record

Site notes:

Henrietta Lake: Swamp spreadwing was observed emerging on Sunday 06/09/13 around 10:30 AM. Lilypad Forktails were observed and photographed 06/09/13 Saturday afternoon from canoe. An abundance of nymphs were observed and collected from the Lestidae, Libellulidae, and Coenagrionidae families.

Stream at UW-Waukesha Field Station: Cordulegastrid (Spiketail) was observed but was not confirmed.

Rhionaeschna mutata Site #2 (Bog Lake): Two exuviae of Spatterdock Darner found. *Lestes* nymphs observed jumping back into the water from emergence perches as Bill approached their location. Possible *Epiaeschna heros* (Swamp Darner) siting made but not confirmed. Ken collected a nymph that emerged a couple of days later that turned out to be *Aeshna canadensis*.

Wisconsin Dragonfly Society
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
8 June 2013, UW-Waukesha Field Station

DRAFT

Present: Matt Berg, Ryan Chrouser, Ellen Dettwiler, Bob DuBois, Dan Jackson, Joanne Kline, Julie Pleski, Bill Smith, Ken Tennessen

1. Call to Order, 8:40 am

2. Constitution & Bylaws

Dan presented a draft Constitution and Bylaws based on those of Coulee Region Audubon Society. Directors discussed various changes and additions regarding term of membership, membership types, annual meetings, and terms of office and reached consensus on these documents for WDS.

MOTION: The President's term shall be two years. The President shall be succeeded by the current Vice-President following a confirmation vote unless another candidate is nominated and elected at the Annual Meeting. Ellen, Joanne second. MOTION CARRIES UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: Director terms of office are effective January 1 following the Annual Meeting. Matt, Joanne second. MOTION CARRIES UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: Approve the Bylaws as edited. Dan, Ellen second. MOTION CARRIES UNANIMOUSLY.

Matt agreed to circulate the final draft copy of the Bylaws for review and final approval.

3. Incorporation

Matt explained the incorporation requirements necessary for WDS to operate as a non-profit organization.

MOTION: Matt Berg is authorized to file the Articles of Incorporation on behalf of Wisconsin Dragonfly Society, Inc. as a Nonstock Corporation registered in Wisconsin under Chapter 181 Wis. Stats. Dan, Ken second. MOTION CARRIES UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Other Items

a. Ken announced DSA will consider having its next annual meeting in Wisconsin next June in the Chippewa area. If this occurs DSA will request assistance with planning and field trips.

b. Ellen announced the next newsletter is in the works. Topics include WDS incorporation, DSA events, profiles of Dan & Julie. Ellen requested we send info, photos & other suggestions for articles to her at erd@msn.com

c. Julie suggested WDS look into umbrella liability insurance. Item for future discussion via e-mail.

d. Bob suggested WDS improve its interface with the public including e-mail distribution, Facebook pages, & other venues for posting events. Item for future discussion via e-mail.

MOTION to Adjourn. Dan, Ellen second. MOTION CARRIES UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Kline

(prepared for Ellen Dettwiler, Secretary)

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

Wisconsin Dragonfly Society
 Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
 10 June 2013, Electronic Communication Among All Directors
 DRAFT

Dan Jackson reviewed and proposed several changes to the Constitution and Bylaws as approved on June 8.

MOTION: Accept the proposed final version of the Constitution and By-laws as amended. Dan, Ryan second. MOTION CARRIES.

DRAFT

Respectfully submitted,
 Joanne Kline
 (prepared for Ellen Dettwiler, Secretary)



★ Collecting spots
 ©Google Map of Field Station



Ischnura kellicotti male (Lilypad Forktail)
 Henrietta Lake, UW-Waukesha Field Station,
 Oconomowoc, Wisconsin_130608_003
 ©Ryan Chrouser, 2013



Arigomphus cornutus female
 (Horned Clubtail)
 © Ryan Brady

The New Sport of Canodonating

By Ryan Chrouser

Over the last couple of years, it seems that catching odonates has just become too easy. To increase the challenge, my wife and I decided to bring up the difficulty level by canoeing and odonating at the same time. We have dubbed this sport Canodonating (pronounced kah-NO-doh-nate-ing).

To properly canodonate you will need an insect net, a canoe, paddles, and a teammate. You may want to wear life jackets as well, just to be on the safe side. Points are awarded based on level of difficulty of the odonate caught, technique, and rarity of the catch. Points are deducted for certain things as well; like getting your partner wet while swinging the net, falling in, etc.

As this sport is new, the scoring system is still quite dynamic and open to interpretation but here are some proposed rules:

Difficulty

- Likes to perch in conspicuous areas (i.e. a Blue Dasher) = 1pt
- Perches in difficult to net areas (i.e. Lilypad Clubtail) = 2pts
- Rarely perches but has regular patrol routes (i.e. Common Baskettail) = 3pts
- Rarely perches and is erratic patroller (most Darners) = 4pts
- Add bonus points for fast current or rough water netting

Technique

- Forehand swing = 1pt
- Backhand swing = 2pts
- Open technique = this is really up to your partner to decide how many points are awarded based on their observations.
- Net toss technique = 42pts (the Douglas Adams score for the improbable success of such an attempt)

Rarity

- Common = 1pt
- Uncommon = 2pt
- Rare = 4pt (add bonus points for any threatened or endangered species, but only for photographing them, not collecting, and the photos must be posted on WOS for all to share)

Here is an example of a Canodonate netting from 2013 to demonstrate the scoring system. The team observed a darkly colored large dragonfly patrolling in a calm bay of the lake. The target was on a regular back and forth flying patrol (worth 3pts). A first basic netting attempt was unsuccessful and the target adjusted its patrol farther down the shoreline. A second approach was made and again a failed attempt. On the third attempt, the netter decided to attempt the net toss technique to maximize the score. To do this the netter simply clicked the button on the net that allows it to detach from the handle before swinging. A forehand swing (1pt) led to the net flying from the handle, but successfully netting the dragonfly (42pts). Unfortunately the net needs to be recovered from the bottom of the lake at this point. The depth was about four feet and the net was visible un-

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

derwater about 15 feet from the canoe. The net was retrieved and the target was in fine shape despite the brief swimming trip (-5 pts. for dunking the target). The specimen was a Cyrano Darner (Uncommon = 2pts). This netting led to a net score (pun entirely intended) of 43 points, which was a new single attempt record.

Disclaimer: It is entirely probable that this “tossed net” technique may not have been “planned” per se, but was indeed completed. It is also quite probable that the button that unlocked the net from the handle was unintentionally pushed prior to swinging the net. I really don’t condone throwing your net in the drink. I also don’t condone sending any odonate for a swim as most would rather not return to the water from which they came. I actually felt quite bad for the Cyrano, though he was robustly angry when retrieved and seemed quite healthy. But since I did manage to net him in this fashion, we (my wife, who is also my Canodonating partner) decided that it would make for a good scoring example. Also please keep in mind that this sport is entirely made up and I really don’t think netting odonates has gotten too easy (it remains quite difficult). I really don’t want anyone putting themselves in danger by following my improbable, but entirely true, example. So in summary, don’t try this at home; or anywhere else for that matter.

Chasing the Blue-Eyed Darner

By Ryan Chrouser

I was conscious of the fact that this may very well be my last chance of the year to net the targeted dragonfly. I stepped out of my car at Truax Prairie on the northern outskirts of Eau Claire and began equipping my gear. The wind was strong enough to ruffle the surface of the small pond and I didn’t notice any immediate dragonfly activity. My time was limited and I needed to move quickly.

The target was *Rhionaeschna multicolor*, the [Blue-Eyed Darner](#). Although it is a common species west of the Mississippi, it is rare in Wisconsin. I happen to live in the epicenter of Blue-Eyed Darner activity in Wisconsin and I was hoping to confirm a late season siting. So far the latest netting I had was toward the end of August from this same year, but just having turned the corner into October, I was running out of time. I was fairly confident that I had observed a couple of *R. multicolors* last week at the eastern-most pond of Truax but I wanted absolute certainty.

Truax Prairie is a grouping of prairie ponds with cattail borders in Eau Claire County just south of the Chippewa county border. I had started surveying the ponds this year after searching for places to find birds. The place was well known to the local birders, but had not been surveyed for odonates. It turned out to be a fantastic odonate site having provided me with several county records. As far as Blue-Eyed Darners go, the place had seen good activity in July and August, but the sightings had died down until my probable sighting in the last week of September.

The east pond is where I had seen the likely target last week, so after a very quick look around, the larger west pond revealed four different *Sympetrum* sp. and several Spotted Spread-

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

wings, . I began trekking east across the prairie. In my quarter mile journey across the field I flushed a Common Green Darner (*Anax junius*) and Lance-Tipped Darner (*Aeshna constricta*) but kept my mind on my goal.

I arrived at the west shoreline of the small pond and pushed through the circling cattails to the muddy shore. I did a quick naked eye scan and observed a myriad of Autumn Meadowhawks (*Sympetrum vicinum*) but my target was nowhere to be found. I carefully made my way south along the shoreline keeping my eyes half on the far shoreline and half on my feet hoping to avoid slipping in the exposed mud. I made it to the more open area on the southwest edge of the pond and noticed a larger shape on the far side shaded in the cattails. I quickly raised my binoculars and was able to get the object into focus. I saw blue, brown, and silver and knew that I had found what I was looking for. Now I just had to catch it.

I put down my binoculars and readied my net with my eyes remaining on the target. My quarry seemed to be patrolling the southeast edge of the pond and would not come near me. I had to get closer. I retreated up the bank to skirt around the cattails to the south of the pond and pushed through them yet again. The footing was even worse here, but mud wasn't going to stop me today. As soon as I emerged at the edge of the pond, the sun was eclipsed by a thin cloud, and I could not locate what I was looking for. I waited for several minutes, the sun eased back out and the quarry was sighted again. This time the dragon remained on the east bank and after a few minutes of impatient observation, I decided to move again. I retreated another time through the cattails, only to push through them once again on the west side of the pond. The sun had taken this opportunity to find another cloud and again my sun-loving friend was nowhere to be found.

After a few minutes the sun again came forth and with it the dragonfly, this time on the south shore I had been standing on only minutes before. After watching it for a few more minutes I decided to return to my previous station. I carefully made my way through the south cattails to emerge at a small muddy flat on the edge of the pond. My quarry was there only ten feet away. I watched, and I waited. After several minutes I was growing impatient with the wary dragon. He seemed to know how far my net could reach. I was reluctant to swing at the edge of my range, as I knew from experience that Blue-Eyed Darners would often disappear after their patrol was interrupted by a clumsy netting attempt.

With my patience thin, I decided to take a chance. He circled back over the water to begin his patrol anew on the east shore. I waited knowing that his last few runs had taken him nearly to my position on the south shore. He patiently made his way through the cattails, with short bursts of speed followed with brief hovering respites. Finally he was at the edge of my range, and I swung the net. I knew immediately that I brushed the dragon with the ring of the net, I watched him elevate in a dazed flight, but instead of darting away he retreated back to the east shore and landed on a cattail. I pulled up my binoculars and found him, trying to mark his location in my mind. Ignoring the slippery footing I ran south through the cattails to emerge on the sloped prairie, turned west and

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

sprinted on the treacherous slope, hoping to avoid the several potholes and the twisted ankle that would come with discovering one.

Luckily avoiding any damage I arrived at the east shore location after several seconds. I picked a spot about ten feet north of where I thought him to be and pushed through the cattails as quietly as I could. I emerged at the edge of the pond and looked north but did not see him immediately. Then the sun revealed a glimmer on a cattail several feet away right along the shoreline. I slowly approached the cattail. As I was contemplating the best way to approach, the dragonfly flushed. He went immediately up and out away from the shore but then angled back toward me. This time I did not miss.

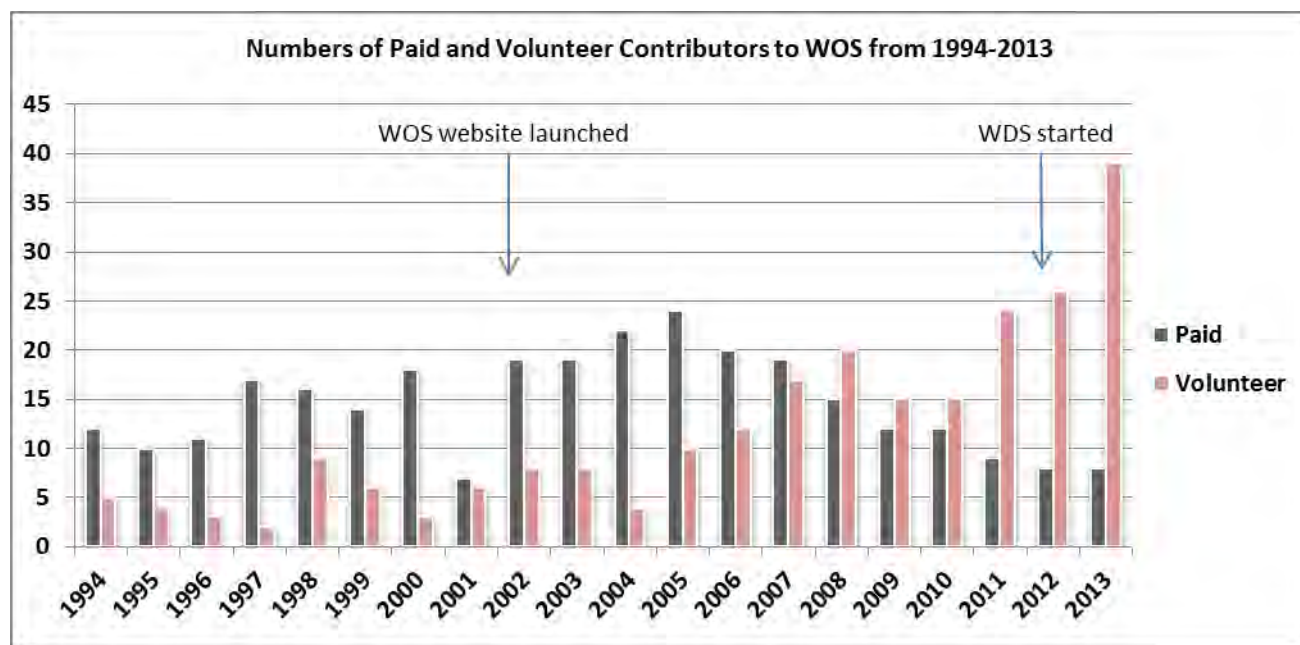
It was a thrilling chase with the reward being the first October Blue-Eyed Darner recorded in Wisconsin. And though he probably didn't appreciate it at the time, the beautiful male I netted that day became a valuable scientific observation. I released him after taking several photos and wished for a couple more warm autumn days so he could enjoy another hunt or two. And I was thinking a couple more hunts would be good for me as well. The winter will be long but the dragons will return in the first warm days of spring, and I will be here to celebrate them.



Growth and Value of the Wisconsin Odonata Survey (WOS)

R. B. DuBois and W. A. Smith

In Wisconsin we've had a long history of volunteers contributing records of dragonflies and damselflies that have augmented data collected by paid resource professionals (mostly state employees with the Department of Natural Resources, scientists with the University of Wisconsin system, and the contract workers they had hired). A "record" is simply the verified observation of a species of odonate (any number) at a specific location, on a specific date, by a specific observer. In 2002 we gave the dragonfly and damselfly program a name (WOS) and launched a website. In the early months of 2012 the Wisconsin Dragonfly Society (WDS) was initiated. In the graph below we've totaled the numbers of individual contributors in the "paid" and "volunteer" categories for each of the last twenty years. Initially, paid contributors outnumbered volunteers and this trend continued until 2008. The number of paid contributors peaked in 2005, but has declined since as state government budgets have tightened. But not to worry – volunteers came to the rescue! Since 2008, volunteer contributors have outnumbered paid contributors each year and the margin has increased dramatically in the last few years. In 2013, more people contributed Odonata records to the survey than in any previous year!



Well, how many Odonata records have these contributors submitted? There were over 4,000 records submitted in 2013, the highest annual total to date (the totals for this year are under-estimates because we are still identifying some specimens). In the [graph on page 2](#), we've totaled the numbers of Odonata records submitted by individual contributors in the "paid" and "volunteer" categories for each of the last twenty years. You may notice that paid contributors submitted a greater proportion of records per individual than did volunteer contributors during most of the time frame, but in recent years that trend has been reversed. Since 2010, volunteers have submitted a much greater proportion of records than the resource professionals. This is good news for any citizen science endeavor because it means the data being collected by volunteers are both accurate and of sufficient quantity to be very useful. For the Wisconsin Odonata Survey it means we have some very dedicated and conscientious volunteers and that efforts to help people with their identification skills are paying off. Over the last two years a generous financial contribution from one of our

(Continued on page 19)

(Continued from page 18)

members, along with funds supplied by the WDNR Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation, have made it possible for the WDS to provide field guides to volunteers at no charge. Further, the WDS Facebook group page has created a wonderful opportunity for folks to post photographs, get feedback from others, and thereby hone their identification skills.

The 48 contributors who submitted records through WOS in 2013 went on a total of 633 site visits (hereafter trips). Some of these folks were very dedicated, with 8 contributors going on 15 or more trips. However, more than half of the contributors (28) went on 5 or fewer trips. Two particularly active contributors, Dan Jackson and Ryan Chrouser, between them went on nearly 400 trips and were responsible for about 70% of all the records submitted in 2013.

The value of the records submitted through WOS has been considerable. Since one of the major goals for WOS has been to increase scientific knowledge of species distributions throughout the state, one way to measure progress toward the goal is a simple tally of the number of new county records documented each year. A new county record (NCR) is a record of a species of dragonfly or damselfly that had not previously been recorded in that county. In 2013, 222 NCRs were established (between them, Dan and Ryan recorded 153 of these). This was just the 7th time since 1994 that the number of NCRs has exceeded 200 and the only time in the last 5 years. This year's NCR total is particularly noteworthy because as knowledge of the distributions of our species has increased over the years, it has become increasingly difficult to find NCRs (at 72 counties times about 165 species, there are only so many possible NCRs). This past April, Dan Jackson received a citizen science award for his dedicated efforts in 2012 (see article p. X). This season Ryan Chrouser (with Carey's help) submitted 1,897 records and established 111 NCRs (half of the yearly total) for which he certainly deserves some serious kudos! But it must be stressed that folks who can't get out very often still make very worthwhile contributions to the survey. The 28 contributors who went on 5 or fewer trips nonetheless established 24 NCRs. By any accounting, it was a very good year!

Because of your efforts as volunteer contributors, scientific knowledge of the distributions and critical habitats of our 164 species has increased by leaps and bounds. These data have allowed the Bureau of Natural Heritage Conservation to make much more informed rarity designations that are based on data, not guesses. Let's all continue this good work in 2014!

WDS Facebook Group Page

Paul Sparks has set up a Facebook group page. This page will allow a much larger audience to share our passion.

The address is:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/wisconsindragonflysociety/>

Take a look — it's fantastic!

Paul reports that "As far as the Facebook page, we are at 213 members with people from all around the country participating in discussions. Things are a bit slow right now, but I expect that we will see a lot more people join as we get closer to a new season and to the DSA annual meeting".

This is really wonderful — shows how interested in nature people really are. And how we can reach many of them through this group page.

Excerpts from Bryan Pfeiffer's Article

"I Survived the Polar Vortex Among Millions of Dead Insects"

©Bryan Pfeiffer, January 9, 2014

Note from the Editor: I followed one of my links to Bryan Pfeiffer's site and found this amazing article. Bryan is a blogger and naturalist primarily interested in Dragonflies and Birds. He is based in Vermont where he not only watches the natural world, but teaches. He is currently writing a book, PANTALA: What a Dragonfly Tells Us About Sex, Evolution and the Human Condition. Here's some excerpts from his blog:

"On November 9, 1909, at a banana plantation in eastern Costa Rica, Philip Powell Calvert, a legend in American entomology, swung his net and landed a dragonfly with clear wings and a golden body. As he would innumerable times at sites around the planet, Calvert dispatched the insect, placed it in a folded triangle of paper, noted the date and location, and then went on swinging for more.

"But this wasn't just any dragonfly. It was the most adventuresome insect on Earth, a ruler of air and water, a predator and opportunist, but more than anything a world traveller, able to cross oceans and visit new lands with the tenacity of conquistadors. Calvert caught a Wandering Glider (*Pantala flavescens*).

"More than a century later, here in Gainesville, Florida, I'm hot on Calvert's trail, holding his *Pantala* specimen with the humility due any artifact, as if this dried insect were one of Darwin's finches or a ring from Tutankhamun's Tomb. The treasures here are indeed vast. I am among one of the world's great scientific collections of dragonflies – more than 600,000 specimens housed at the Florida State Collection of Arthropods (FSCA), which itself holds more than 8 million specimens from nearly every corner of the planet."



©Bryan Pfeiffer, January, 2014

Photograph of actual specimen in the Florida State Collection of Arthropods

Nominating Committee News

In accordance with the Constitution of the Wisconsin Dragonfly Society, Inc. (Article V) a nominating committee has been formed to nominate candidates for the nine Officer and Director positions to succeed those who terms will expire. Members of the Nominating Committee are Bob DuBois, Ellen Dettwiler, and Dan Jackson.

Officers and Directors of WDS are elected to two-year terms at annual meetings and their terms expire at the end of a calendar year. The terms of the current board members will expire at the end of 2014.

The election to replace them will be held at the 2014 WDS annual meeting, which will be held on the morning of 13 June at the Rusk County Library in Ladysmith (time of meeting will be announced). Voting can be in person or by proxy.

Board positions elected at this years' annual meeting will take effect on 1 January 2015. This includes all board positions except the Vice President, who will become President following a confirmation vote unless another candidate is nominated "from the floor" at the meeting and elected.

Any WDS member can present candidates to the nominating committee. But to vote at the annual meeting, you do need to be a member, so please use the [form on page 23](#) to begin or renew your membership.

If any member would like a copy of the WDS Constitution, contact Bob DuBois (robert.dubois@wisconsin.gov) or go to the website:

http://wiatri.net/inventory/odonata/WDS/Images/WDS_ConstitutionBylaws.pdf



Leucorrhinia frigida Male Frosted Whiteface. © Mike Reese

These are photos of *Leucorrhinia frigida* (Libellulidae). This same species was observed on our 2013 field trip, which was a first observation for Waukesha County.



Leucorrhinia frigida Female Frosted Whiteface. © Mike Reese

Resources

One of our goals as a group is to share information and resources for our study. Here is a list of some of them.

Links

- http://wiatri.net/inventory/odonata/WDS/Images/WDS_ConstitutionBylaws.pdf — our constitution and by-laws
- http://wiatri.net/inventory/odonata/WDS/Images/WDS_Brochure.pdf — brochure which can be printed out
- <http://wiatri.net/inventory/Odonata/> — The major resource for citizen participation
- <http://wiatri.net/inventory/Odonata/Resources.cfm> — list of resources from Bob DuBois
- <http://www.facebook.com/groups/wisconsindragonflysociety/> — our group on Facebook — it's a joy to see these contributions from many people and our members helping them identify their Odos.
- www.facebook.com/WisconsinDragonflySociety/photos_stream — our Facebook page photos. You can go to this link even if you are not a Facebook member.
- <http://bryanpfeiffer.com/2013/12/31/the-year-in-flight/#gallery/4056/264/0> — Bryan Pfeiffer is a blogger who enjoys dragonflies as well as birds. This slide show has several beautiful pictures of Odos. "Follow" him and you get lots of good reporting of the habits of Odos.
- <http://bryanpfeiffer.com/2014/01/09/surviving-the-polar-vortex/> — This is an amazing story of the early collecting of Philip Powell Calvert in Costa Rica.
- <http://bryanpfeiffer.com/> — The home of Bryan Pfeiffer's site — many pix here and news of GLOM, etc.
- <http://www.odonatacentral.org/> — OdonataCentral hosts the official website of the Dragonfly Society of the Americas. The journals *Argia* and the *Bulletin of American Odonatology* are online and searchable.

Books, Guides

- Legler K., D. Legler, and D. Westover. 2013. *Color Guide to Dragonflies of Wisconsin*. Edition 5.1. Karl Legler, Sauk City, Wisconsin (this new version has been expanded to include all WI species of dragonflies; available from robert.dubois@wisconsin.gov).
- Lam, Ed. 2004. *Damselflies of the Northeast*. Biodiversity Books, Forest Hill, New York. 96 pp. (very useful for WI, having all but one of our species) <http://www.edlam.net/book.html>.
- DuBois, R. 2005. *Damselflies of the North Woods*. Kollath-Stensaas Publishing, Duluth, Minnesota. 128 pp. (Omits several species found only in the southern-most counties — out of print but useful if you can find a copy at a reasonable price (Amazon has it from \$149, used *era*)).
- Mead, K. 2009. *Dragonflies of the Northwoods*. 2nd Edition. Kollath-Stensaas Publishing, Duluth, Minnesota. 193 pp. <http://www.dragonfliesofthenorthwoods.com> (available on Amazon from \$8.99 *era*).
- Paulson, D. 2012. *Dragonflies and Damselflies of the East*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ. (the most complete reference for eastern North America).
- Garrison, M. 2011. *Damselflies of Chicagoland: A Photo Field Guide*, version 2. 135 pp. ([Free PDF download](#)).
- Rosche, L., J. Semroc, L. Gilbert. 2008. *Dragonflies and Damselflies of Northeast Ohio*. 2nd Edition. Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Ohio. 300 pp. <http://www.ddneo.info>.
- Tennessee, Ken. 2010. *Waushara County Dragonflies and Damselflies*. 32 pp. (available from the author: tennessen@centurytel.net).

Supplies

Nets, vials, pins, etc. can be purchased from BioQuip Products, Inc., website: <http://www.bioquip.com>

Collecting envelopes can be acquired on-line from: <http://bellsouthpwp.net/b/i/billmauffray/envlopes.htm>

Wisconsin Dragonfly Society (WDS) Membership Application

Membership in the WDS is open to any person in any state

The WDS dues are as follows: \$5 annual single member, \$7.50 for family membership. Members must opt-in before WDS will share their e-mail address or other contact information with other members of WDS. Please check the renewal box if that applies, too.

Send check or money order to:

Matt Berg

572 N. Day Rd.

St. Croix Falls, WI 54024

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Postal Code _____

Email _____ Share? _____

Check membership category that applies:

Single member \$5 ☐ Family membership \$7.50 ☐ Renewal ☐

Total enclosed \$ _____

DSA 2014 Membership Dues

http://www.odonatacentral.org/index.php/PageAction.get/name/DSA_Membership

Membership in the DSA is open to any person in any country.

The DSA dues (including a subscription to Argia) are as follows:

Argia in digital form (PDF).....\$15.00 US

Sustaining membership, please add \$5 US to the above values. Thank you!

*Argia in digital form is available to anyone who has an e-mail address and a broadband Internet connection. Argia is available for download from this site.

Volume 11 of The Bulletin of American Odonatology (BAO) is currently in progress (second issue published). If you need to renew your subscription or if you would like to start one, please indicate below, but we are not accepting subscriptions for future volumes of BAO at this time.

The BAO subscription rate (printed and shipped) is as follows:

(Please NOTE: Only subscriptions for the current volume of BAO (11) are accepted at this time).

New World private members.....\$20.00 US

**Remember — 2014 Annual Meeting of WDS is with the DSA Meeting
June 35-15, 2014**

[See the article](#) for more and watch your inbox as we get closer to those dates)

Mission Statement

The Wisconsin Dragonfly Society fosters appreciation, study and enjoyment of Wisconsin dragonflies and damselflies and the aquatic habitats on which they depend.

Adopted October, 2012

Table of Contents as Links

- ⇒ [Officers; A Letter from the President; Nominating Committee](#)
- ⇒ [Graph -- Numbers of Odonata Records... from 1991-2013](#)
- ⇒ [Dragonfly Society of the Americas Meets in Wisconsin's Northwoods](#)
- ⇒ [Wisconsin Dragonfly Society Board Member Wins Citizen Science Award](#)
- ⇒ [WDS Outreach Events in 2013](#)
- ⇒ [Report on the Urban Ecology Center's Odonate Study](#)
- ⇒ [Report on WDS 2013 Annual Meeting and Field Trip June 8th, 2013](#)
- ⇒ [Waushara County Record](#)
- ⇒ ["Two-Part Harmony" A Poem by Ken Tennesen](#)
- ⇒ [Species List from June 8th, 2013 Field Trip](#)
- ⇒ [Wisconsin Dragonfly Society](#)
- ⇒ [Draft Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting 8 June 2013, UW-Waukesha Field Station DRAFT](#)
- ⇒ [Picture of *Ischnura kellicotti* male \(Lilypad Forktail\)](#)
- ⇒ [The New Sport of Canodonating — a game invented by Ryan Chrouser](#)
- ⇒ [Chasing the Blue-Eyed Darner — an article by Ryan Chrouser](#)
- ⇒ [Picture of *Rhionaeschna multicolor* male \(Blue-eyed Darner\)](#)
- ⇒ [Growth and Value of the Wisconsin Odonata Survey \(WOS\)](#)
- ⇒ [WDS Facebook Group Page](#)
- ⇒ [Excerpts from Bryan Pfeiffer's Article](#)
- ⇒ [Nominating Committee News](#)
- ⇒ [Resources](#)
- ⇒ [Wisconsin Dragonfly Society \(WDS\) Membership Application](#)
- ⇒ [DSA 2014 Membership Dues](#)

