



The Midlands Naturalist

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Great Blue Skimmer (*Libellula vibrans*) on Trumpet Honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*)

David Groh

Message from our MMNA Chair

Hi Naturalists! I hope you are holding up under this summer heat and taking some time to enjoy the nature that is unique to summer. Maybe you are hearing the Yellow-billed Cuckoos calling or seeing the Summer Tanagers. Maybe you are noticing all the dragonflies flying above the bodies of water near your house. I love to notice the calls of cicadas and frogs in my neighborhood in the evenings.

In early June, a new class of Master Naturalists graduated from the Midlands class. I'd like to wish all the graduates congratulations and say welcome to the Association. We hope that we can provide activities that keep you engaged in learning about nature and provide interesting opportunities for group volunteer service. Please let us know if there is anything you'd like to do that you are not seeing on the schedule.

During our August meeting, we established a nominating committee to recommend a slate of officers. Elections are every other year and will occur at the November meeting. If you'd like to be considered for an officer position, please let me know via email to hwflamholtz@gmail.com.

Also, if you'd like to be the Chair of the Activities Committee, please let me know. That person is responsible for helping us think of and plan 3-4 activities/year. Activities generally either offer an educational aspect or allow us to give back some service to nature.

Hope to see you all at our November quarterly meeting!

Hilda



August 2018 Quarterly Meeting

Our thanks to Matt Johnson, the Director of Bird Conservation and Engagement for Audubon South Carolina, for being the featured presenter at our August 4 meeting. He did a great job covering the bird conservation work Audubon does in S.C.

Matt focused on two citizen science projects that he is leading, namely Climate Watch and the Plants for Birds initiative. In the photo here, he was covering the bluebird counts they do across the state and the need for more volunteers to help with those: <http://sc.audubon.org/birds/community-science>.

mark your Calendar

- ☑ Steering Committee Meeting:
September 15, 2018 at 1PM,
215 Pickens Street, Columbia, SC.

Everyone is 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!

- ☑ Fall Get-together
Friday, October 12 at 5PM,
Hunter-Gatherer - Hanger location,
1402 Jim Hamilton Blvd.
(more details on p.5)

- ☑ Quarterly Meeting:
November 3, 2018 at 10AM.
Location and speaker TBD.
Elections for officer positions will be held.

Midlands Master Naturalist Association

Hilda Flamholtz	Chair
Ed Siggelko	Vice Chair
Anne Palyok	Recorder
Ellen Blundy	Treasurer
Dee Dee Williams	Activities Committee
Ed Neunlist	Activities Committee
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>



Openings on the MMNA Board

We have upcoming openings for: Chair, Vice-Chair and Recorder, along with Activities Committee Chair.

A Nominating Committee is currently working to provide a slate of candidates to be considered for election at our November Quarterly meeting. They will complete their work by early October.

If you are interested in serving in an officer position or as Activities Committee Chair, please contact Dawn Catalano at dwwraycat@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Descriptions of the positions can be found in our bylaws, Article 5, Section 1
<http://www.midlandsmasternaturalist.org/about-mmna-association/by-laws>.

Terms of office begin on Jan. 1 and last for 2 years. Meetings of the board are held 6 times annually. Meetings count as volunteer service. Please consider volunteering to serve!



Volunteer Opportunity

Moth Night 2018 – Fri. September 14 at 7PM.

MMNA volunteers will set up lights and sheets in **Granby Park**, a City of Columbia Park by the Broad River. We'll also have some educational/fun materials for the public. No particular expertise with moths is required to volunteer. We'll have some handouts with silhouettes of bugs that tend to come to mothing sheets. You can just welcome people and direct them to the sheets/displays. Be ready to learn and to talk about what you are seeing with the public. Please contact Hilda Flamholtz to sign up: hwflamholtz@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteer Opportunity

Brookland Brunch each Sunday from 10AM – 2PM

We are grateful to Palmetto Outdoors who let us use their building for our August meeting. Their main business is offering tube and kayak rentals downtown. They would like to partner with our group to offer some opportunities for the public to learn about nature.

There is an on-going event called Brookland Brunch each Sunday 10-2 around the amphitheater for the **Cayce/West Columbia Riverwalk**. They would like to have a couple of naturalists to bring out some items for show and tell to educate the public about nature. Dee Dee Williams did this by herself for one event and it was very well-received.

If you have any interest in doing this one day, let Hilda Flamholtz know, hwflamholtz@gmail.com. You can pick the Sunday that works for you and you don't have to be there the whole 4 hours. They provided Dee Dee with a covered tent and tables. We have some show and tell items we can loan you.



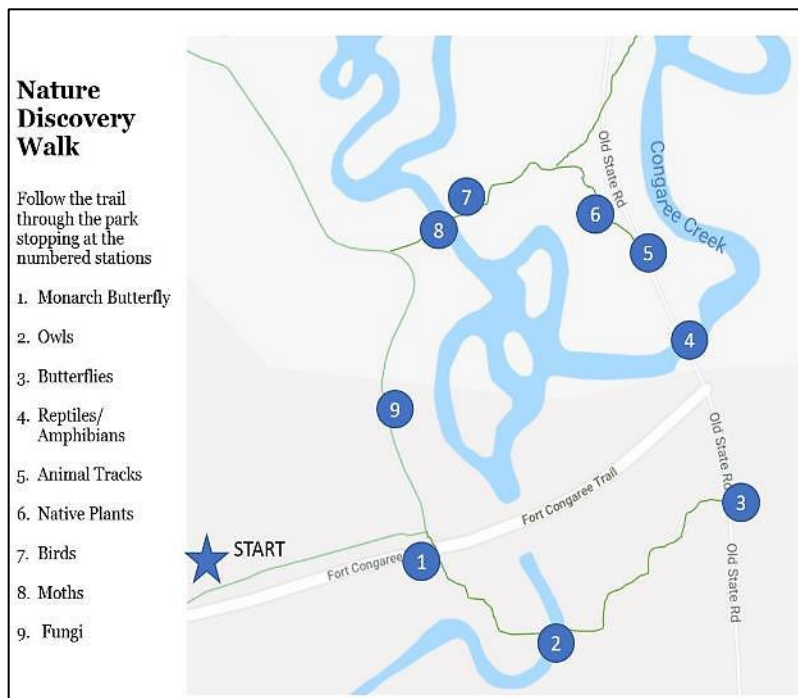
Volunteer Opportunity

Nature Discovery Walk

Sat. October 20 from 1PM - 4PM

The **12,000 Year History Park** in Cayce, SC would like to repeat the Nature Discovery Walk that we did last Spring. The idea is that there are stations to learn about nature placed along the trail, and the public flows through on a short trail walk.

See the adjacent map from the Spring event. If you are available to help, let John Jameson know: jhameson@yahoo.com. Materials exist for all the stations on the map. You can volunteer to help with one of those or suggest a new one.





emily mccravy photography

Advanced Training Opportunity

Introductory Edible Plant Walk with Matt Kip

Saturday September 22, 10AM

Meet at the N. Avenue entrance to the **Cayce Riverwalk**. For more information about what Matt covers, check out his website: www.matthewkip.com. Space is limited to 20 attendees. Contact Dee Dee Williams to sign up: cwilliams@sc.rr.com.

This training is free for MMNA 2018 members; \$15 for non-members who have taken Master Naturalist training (covers annual membership cost).

If there is space available 2 weeks prior to the event, it will be opened to family and friends who would also be interested. Suggested donation for them is \$10.

MMNA Event

Fall Get-together

Friday, October 12, 5PM

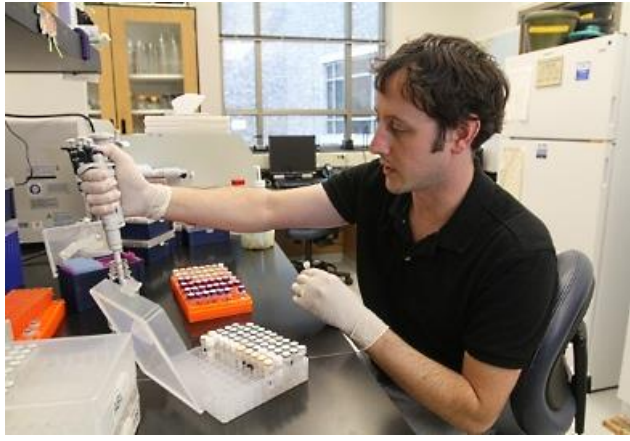
MMNA will meet for fun on at the **Hunter-Gatherer Hanger location**, 1402 Jim Hamilton Blvd. in Columbia.

From there, we'll walk over to City Roots and/or the public garden at Owens Field for a little wildlife observation.

Then, we'll return to Hunter Gatherer to socialize. MMNA will buy some appetizers and you can purchase beverages and dinner as you like. Please plan to join us!



Join Us!



Blackbanded Sunfish Study

A recent DNR News article by Kevin Kubach, SCDNR Fisheries Research Biologist, details a fascinating study in which DNA evidence helped researchers locate the elusive blackbanded sunfish.

“In South Carolina and other eastern states, an investigation is underway to find evidence of the Blackbanded Sunfish, a silver dollar-sized boldly barred fish of blackwaters and backwaters in the coastal plain. This fish is getting harder to come by, especially in other portions of its historic range such as Georgia and Maryland, where biologists searching in former locations are coming away empty-handed.”

To reduce the amount of effort and risk to actually capture the fish, biologists make use of trace amounts of DNA evidence.

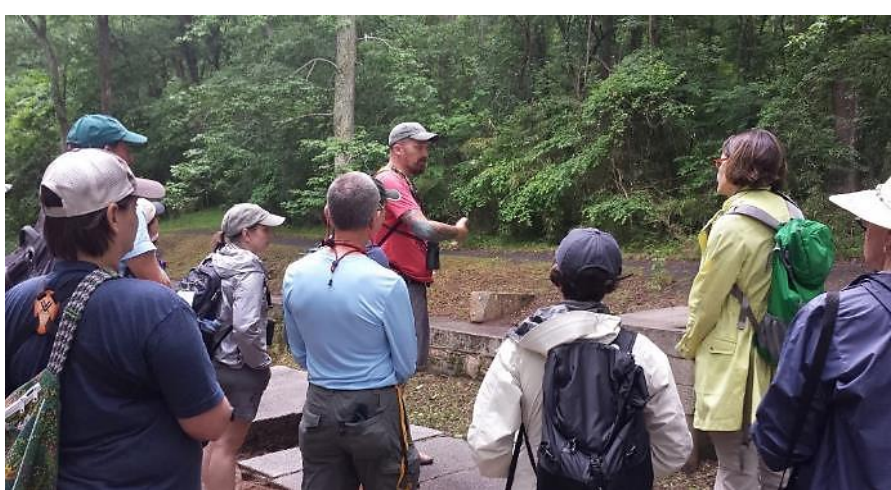
“Evidence in the form of environmental DNA (“eDNA”) - that which has left the organism but persists in its surroundings for some time, carrying the unique genetic signature of the species. In the case of fish, DNA enters the water from scales and slime flushing off or waste and gametes being excreted. Water samples can then be taken and analyzed for DNA to detect the presence of a target species.”

Read the entire article to learn how eDNA protocol was developed at the Hollings Marine Laboratory in Charleston, the amazing results of the study in SC and GA, and the next steps.

http://www.dnr.sc.gov/news/2018/jul/jul3_researchers.html

To learn more about the Blackbanded Sunfish, visit the SC State Wildlife Action Plan:

<http://www.dnr.sc.gov/swap/supplemental/freshwaterfish/blackbandedsunfish2015.pdf>



Welcome MMN Class of 2018

photos by Ed Siggelko

