

The Ohio Dragon-Flyer

Newsletter of the Ohio Odonata Society

December 2020, Volume 29: Number 1

Greetings Ohio Odonata Society (OOS)! And now for something completely different...

Perhaps you've noticed, but it's been nearly two years since we had an OOS Newsletter. Needless to say, this wasn't the plan, but here we are after a couple well-intentioned starts, and then stops. Reboot! It's still not clear where this will end up - so please be patient as we move ever sideways. This newsletter will be an update, minutes from the Rio Grande meeting, and some short news items.

Our last gathering - in Rio Grande seems like a time long ago, and a world far away. The official Ohio Dragonfly Survey ended (2017-2019), CoVid arrived (with an impact on nearly everything), our 2020 Ohio conference (and annual meeting) was at first put on hold, then pushed back until 2021. The same happened with Dragonfly Society of the Americas (DSA) national meeting in Oklahoma. Countless 2020 field days, meetings, trips, and outreach efforts were cancelled.

Without an annual conference, our officer slate has stayed the same. OOS memberships are also extended.



Current OOS Board -

President - MaLisa Spring, spring.99@osu.edu

Vice-President - Kyle Bailey,
kbailey@richlandcountyoh.us

Past-President - Shane Myers,
srmyers429@gmail.com

Member-at-Large – Dave McShaffrey,
mcscaffd@marietta.edu

Treasurer - Bob Restifo, rarestifo@yahoo.com

Looking Back

Thank you, Steve Chordas III for your years of service as OOS Newsletter Editor (you don't really appreciate the work involved in something until you try to do it).

Thank you, MaLisa Spring for your work over three years as State Coordinator of the official Ohio Dragonfly Survey, you were instrumental in our success.

Odonata Ohio Facebook

Some OOS members participate in and enjoy Facebook, others run screaming. Regardless, be aware that there is a relatively safe place on Facebook that helps Ohio Dragon-people communicate and stay in touch. Kim Smith is an OOS member who is a volunteer manager of the page. (kimcsmith79@gmail.com)

This from Kim:

The Odonata Ohio Facebook group has been consistently active and growing over the past couple years, perhaps due in part to the interest generated by the Ohio Odonata Survey.

Odonata Ohio has grown from 866 to 945 members so far in 2020. Unsurprisingly, about a quarter of our group membership is centered in the five largest cities: Columbus (100), Cleveland (44), Cincinnati (33), Dayton (22), and Toledo (21). The majority of members are females, an interesting contrast to the underrepresentation of women in the professional entomology world.

The group's active participants are a mixture of those who speak in scientific names only, and those who have no idea what the scientific names are, but somehow it all works out. We're trying to encourage the more experienced group members to help new ode enthusiasts up the learning curve as they identify their photos and talk about behaviors. So instead of just telling a newbie, "That's a female calico pennant," the more useful response would be to tell them why that's the correct identification. We all learn from those kinds of discussions.

[Odonata Ohio](#)

iNaturalist

Many of you are aware of iNaturalist – or are contributors. If not, iNaturalist is a global on-line information system that collects information on all aspects of what we call the natural world. The Ohio Dragonfly Survey was very dependent on iNaturalist, and OOS will be continuing to use iNaturalist as the system to acquire and vet Odonata in Ohio. If you want to contribute, you'll need a digital camera and internet connection.

[Take a look.](#)

There will be more details to come, but we are now over 95,000 submitted dragon and damsel observations in iNaturalist. We received over 20,000 in 2020. This is tremendous citizen-science.

Looking Forward

Help Needed! Do you think you can create and edit a newsletter that doesn't suck? Interested in a largely thankless job? Please consider being the new OOS Newsletter Editor.

Proposal – we are in a new world due to changes in technology (see previous two items), CoVid-19, the end of the official survey, changing demographics.

I think there would be some advantage in OOS having an Outreach Committee that focuses on best ways to communicate with the OOS membership – involving email, news, Facebook (or other social media) and iNaturalist. Content and coordination would be goals. Think about it and if you would like to contribute in some way.

Help Needed! In the past, OOS had a Photo Records Committee (PRC). As of the end of 2020, all existing appointments to the PRC will have

expired. We are only getting photo records through iNaturalist – and there are a number of people (from Ohio and elsewhere in the world) that actively review and approve IDs – which is good, and acceptable for a high percentage of the observations. I would like to note that PCR member Sally Isacco has put in countless hours reviewing iNat submissions – both during the survey and in 2020 – thanks Sally. A high percentage of iNat submissions are acceptably vetted by the iNat community – with a high comfort level for the data manager. But we have a number of species, genera, or families where the ID really should have a little more rigor. These would be Odes that are uncommon or easily misidentified. This was all going to be discussed at our cancelled 2020 conference. If you have interest in any of this, please let me know.

Minutes 2019 Ohio Odonata Society Annual Business Meeting

*Submitted by Bob Restifo, Secretary/Treasurer
June 2, 2019*

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by President Shane Myers. We were meeting at the University of Rio Grande.

Minutes from the 2018 meeting were published in the newsletter. It was moved that they be accepted as submitted, seconded approved by voice vote.

Treasurer/Secretary Bob Restifo

Balance as of 6/21/2018	\$ 4,408.23
Expenses during the year	\$ 1,679.26
Income during the year	\$ 2,466.44
Balance as of 6/1/19	\$ 5,195.41

Old Business: none

New Business:

Officers: Tenure for officers follows the calendar year. Traditionally, each position moves up one position. Following that, President Shane Myers becomes “Past President”, VP MaLisa Spring becomes President, Member-at-Large Kyle Bailey becomes Vice-President, Bob Restifo remains as Secretary/Treasurer. Dave McShaffery was nominated as Member-at-Large. It was moved to accept the Board, seconded and passed.

2021 DSA/OOS Meeting: Dave McShaffery announced that the Dragonfly Society of America (DSA) will combine with the OOS for the meeting. It will be held in Marietta, OH.

Donation: Bob Glotzhofer moved that OOS donate \$300 to the University of Rio Grande EcoMonitoring Program in thanks for the use of the University facilities. It was seconded and passed.

OOS Small Grants: Dave McShaffery mentioned that the OOS Small Grant has never been granted Dave moved that the OOS allow the Ohio Biological Survey to advertise and administer the grant. He described the OBS decision-making protocol. The motion was seconded and passed.

OOS Web Site: MaLisa Spring asked about moving the OOS Web site off the Ohio State University web server, as her tenure as coordinator will terminate May. 2020. Brian Zake described what would be involved for such a move. Jim Lemon asked that Brian draft a proposal and present it to the Board. Jim moved to accept the proposal, it was seconded and passed. It was also discussed to pay Brian for his time in preparing the proposal.

2020 OOS Meeting: Kyle Bailey proposed to host the 2020 meeting in Richland County at the Park District. Jim Lemon moved to accept the proposal, it was seconded and passed.

Bob Glotzhofer moved to adjourn. It was seconded and passed. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Treasurer's Report

June 1, 2019

Balance in checking account \$ 4408.23
as of June 21, 2018

Expenses

OBS membership	\$ 125.00
Keynote Speaker	\$ 700.00
Guest Speaker	\$ 379.32
Supplies & Food	\$ 204.94
Donation to Hancock Parks Foundation	\$ 300.00
TOTAL	\$ 1679.26

Income

Registration and Dues	\$ 2466.44
TOTAL	\$ 2566.44

Balance as of June 1, 2019 \$ 5195.41

Robert A. Restifo, Secretary/Treasurer

Upcoming

Next Issue – Focus on Survey Results – we're waiting patiently (not) on news of the NEW Ohio Dragonfly Field Guide! Stay tuned.

After that issue – Focus on 2020 Field Season.

We're hoping for an Ohio Dragonfly Conference this year in Richland County, stay tuned for dates and places – Kyle Bailey organizing.

Also hoping for the 2022 DSA meeting at Marietta College. The 2022 OOS meeting will be concurrent with the DSA meeting – Dave McShaffrey organizing.

Input for the Dragon-Flyer are welcome – please send submissions to jlem@woh.rr.com

Take it easy – Stay Safe

I'm on page 4, so probably enough for this issue.

A couple things come to mind –

1 You've probably heard of the supposed Chinese curse "may you live in interesting times" – turns out this is apocryphal. Wikipedia tells me there is no known equivalent expression in Chinese. The nearest related Chinese expression translates as "Better to be a dog in times of tranquility than a human in times of chaos." Either way, we are certainly living in the most interesting time of my measure.

2 A good, aware, and right-thinking friend asked me this summer why I'm "effing" around with all this Dragonfly business when our natural world is disappearing before our eyes. A valid point.



Well, handwringing doesn't help anybody, and there are large forces in play – much has been lost, or soon will be. As a biologist and naturalist every day out is part of a "great goodbye." But we aren't to the end yet. Wetlands (and trees) will need to be a large part of our "work" in securing a habitable planet for coming generations. Odonates can be a key indicator of wetland health and progress. Basic survey work is the foundation for understanding change in our world. Data contributes. Perhaps not enough, but it's what I do and enjoy. Maybe, in small part, we can provide information to help people think through the problems and reconnect with the world.