

Dragonfly Society of the Americas
2014 Northeast Gathering

FIELD TRIPS

We are planning several guided trips, and also encourage participants to strike out on their own. Our maps are traced from DeLorme originals. The page numbering might vary for different editions of this atlas.

Note that in New York, you should be carrying a copy of the NY DEC permit issued to the group for collecting odes. We have these and will distribute copies to the participants. On guided trips there will be permits in the hands of the trip leaders. For people who want to collect on their own, there will be permit copies to carry.

Friday Field Trips (Rain Date Saturday)

Chenango Valley State Park – Led by Paul Novak. **Binghamton Area** and **Chenango Valley State Park** maps. Our group will be able to enter the park without paying the usual fee. We have submitted a list of participants to the park personnel. The list is the roster as of 10 May.

This park has excellent odonates. Paul Novak found the Spatterdock Darner (*Aeshna mutata*) there a few years ago. This is the most accessible locality for this species in our area. The two good areas are the northern end of Lake Lily and the towpath, which borders the Chenango River. Please realize that golfers play across the towpath in two places; please do not interfere with their games. In 1949 the first NY record of the Ebony Boghaunter (*Williamsonia fletcheri*) was found here by John Gillespie. Nick believes it was found in the area marked "bog" on the map.

When leaving the park, an alternate way to return to Binghamton is to go north on Highway 369, drive a few miles to North Fenton, and turn left here on to NY 79. After about 2 miles, cross the Chenango River and turn left again on to NY 12. At the crossing of the Tioughnioga River (Route 79 turns right) stop at the High School. If the river is sufficiently low, there is wonderful wading here and a great variety of small river odes. You can then continue south on NY 12, which joins Front Street in Binghamton.

Hawkins Pond Natural Area (part of Broome County Parks) – Led by Nick Donnelly. **Binghamton NE** map. This park is an excellent collecting area. This was the first locality for the Arrowhead Spiketail (*Cordulegaster obliqua*) in Broome County. Depending on the height of water in the Susquehanna River, we will make a stop along the way at a suitable river site.

Greenwood Park – Led by Bryan Pfeiffer. **Binghamton NW** map.

This park has yielded several good records in recent years. The lake is only fair; goose dropping have provided excess nutrients. However, the Slender Bluet (*Enallagma traviatum*) was recently found here. This record is of special interest because it appears to represent the eastern subspecies (*traviatum*), whereas the western subspecies (*westfalli*) is found only a short distance to the west.

The main area of interest here is a large bog in the forest at the north end of the park. To reach this bog one circles the lake and finds a path leading up the hill (away from the lake) at the north side. A 20-minute walk up this path (crossing another path) takes one to a large bog, where recently the Ski-tipped Emerald (*Somatochlora elongata*) and Clamp-tipped Emerald (*Somatochlora tenebrosa*) were both taken. The outlet stream has Ocellated Darner (*Boyeria grafiana*). The month-to-month status of this bog is uncertain; beavers dam it regularly, and it is different each time we visit!

Saturday Field Trips

Weirs Pond, near Thompson, Pennsylvania – Led by Nick Donnelly. **Pennsylvania Sites** map

This excellent Nature Conservancy site has yielded many good records, and is the only site in our area where both the Northern and Southern Pygmy Clubtails (*Lanthus parvulus* and *L. vernalis*) have been found together. This locality has three sub-localities: (1) On the north is Krall's Bog (where the Taiga Bluet (*Coenagrion interrogatum*) and Harlequin Darner (*Gomphaeschna furcillata*) have been found together numerous times); (2) On the east is the stream draining this bog; and to the south and east (3) is the pond itself. We will be joined on this trip by a group of local naturalists.

In addition, there are several localities which people can explore on their own. One of the nicest is a loop road near Whitney Point (**Binghamton NW** map). Starting on State Highway 26 at Landers Corners, turn left (west) and drive about a mile. Just beyond a wooded and swampy pond on the right side, the road reaches an evergreen woods, which is state forest. There is a path at the very eastern end of this woods leading to a marvelous kettle-hole bog. Please respect the plants on this bog! The next stop on this drive is the Otselic River, which is a very attractive small river. The road ends at West River Road, where you turn left (south). It then crosses several small streams and eventually meets State Highway 152. Turn left on this road, which again crosses the Otselic River, just west of Upper Lisle.

Fishing Access on state highway 38 several miles north of Owego. **Binghamton NW** map.

This is about 2.5 miles north of Richford (ancestral home of John D. Rockefeller). On a recent visit Nick found that the signpost for the fishing access area is still standing, but that the sign was missing. A dirt road leads to the stream (East fork of Owego Creek). This is probably the best place to find the Riffle Snaketail (*Ophiogomphus carolus*) and Harpoon Clubtail (*Gomphus descriptus*) in our area.

Marsh Pond, in the eastern end of Broome County. **Binghamton NE** map.

This wonderful site, in a state forest, features a large floating bog which is great fun to explore in a canoe. This pond features the largest colony of the Mottled Darner (*Aeshna clepsydra*) in our area, and is the only local site for the Elfin Skimmer (*Nannothemis bella*). This tiny dragonfly has been found in the boggy margin of the pond in its northeast quadrant.

State Game Lands 236 (Fiddle Brook) in Pennsylvania. **Pennsylvania Sites** map.

South of the hamlet of Thompson (DeLorme map 39), turn right (west) from state highway 171 to highway 374, near the hamlet of Herrick Center. Turning right on T588, the dirt road passes through State Game Lands 236. There is a pond and brook here. The Harpoon Clubtail (*Gomphus descriptus*) has been found here in good numbers.

The Starrucca Creek Road, also in Pennsylvania, goes east at Lanesboro (**Pennsylvania Sites** map). A few miles along this creek Nick has found three species of Jewelwings (*Calopteryx*), but he has not visited it in several years. Do not miss the famous Starrucca Viaduct (an architectural treasure!) at the beginning of this road.

North of Binghamton, along Route 12, before you reach Greene, turn left onto County Road 2. This goes along **Geneganslet Creek** (a famous trout stream on the **Binghamton NE** map) and crosses the creek in several places. At one crossing three species of Jewelwing (*Calopteryx*), and two species of *Boyeria* can be found. A side trip to **Long Lake** (on the **Binghamton NE** map) is recommended, especially if you have a canoe.

These sites might also be attractive places to visit on your way home on Sunday.