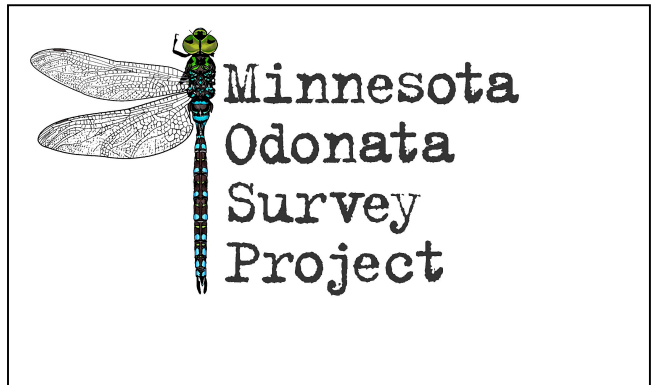


Details About the 6th Annual MDG and the 2011 GLOM

This is the 6th year for the Annual Minnesota Dragonfly Gathering (MDG) and the 11th year for the Great Lakes Odonata Meeting (GLOM). Kurt Mead was nominated (railroaded, as is often the case) into hosting the GLOM and the MDG was going to happen anyways, so they are happening together. Both events are very beginner-friendly outings attended by a mix of people ranging from PhD-wielding Odonatologists to curious children and their parents. These are really nice folks and beginners will learn a lot.



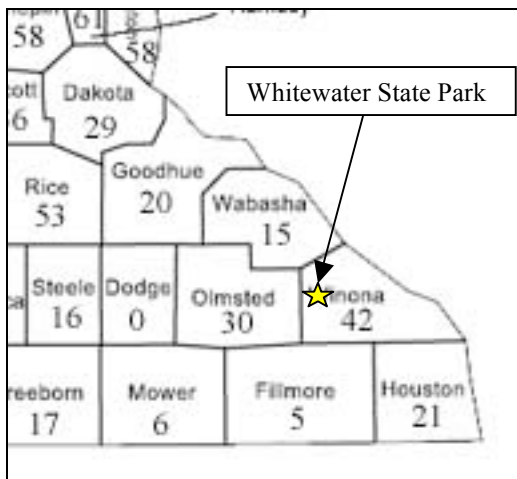
The MDG is a part of the Minnesota Odonata Survey Project (MOSP) and is an opportunity for MOSP volunteers to get to know others with similar interests while surveying an under-surveyed region of Minnesota.

The GLOM has moved around the western Great Lakes states every year since 2001 and all without the benefit of any organization, budget or real leadership. It just seems to happen every year.

In response to some questions about this year's joint meeting of GLOM and the MDG, here are some details about the **June 9-12, 2011** weekend:

Location:

Whitewater State Park is in SE MN. Search Google for "Whitewater State Park St Charles map" to get a Google Map view of the park.



The map, to the left, shows the SE MN counties and the numbers of species recorded for each county in the MOSP Database. The Odonata Central data will soon reflect these numbers as well. KM

At this link, below, is a map of Whitewater State Park, itself.
http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/maps/state_parks/spk00280.pdf

The Group Cabins are located on the west side of the park in the valley between Signal Point and Eagle Point. The Park Office is in the north part of the park. **All vehicles will need a park permit**, which are available at the office.

Proposed Weekend Itinerary (subject to change)

Thursday

Cabin check in time starts at 4pm, but everyone is welcome to come earlier to hike around, trout fish or to look for bugs. Participants staying onsite will arrive in time to get settled in their cabins. Supper will not be provided on-site on Thursday. We will start the festivities at 7 pm with some light-hearted programming (I got me some plans for this!) and a meet-and-greet.

Friday

We are teaming up with the good folks at the US Fish and Wildlife Service (co-funders of the MOSP with the MN DNR) for a day of canoeing and dragonfly-ing on the Mississippi River. Canoes and related equipment will be provided for the day. Bring your own canoe or kayak if you wish. We will be investigating the Odonata of the Mississippi Backwaters, the main river channel and the mouths of some incoming tributaries all in and around the Weaver Bottoms area.

Saturday

Our group will be splitting up into several teams to divide and conquer. The day's focus will be the many spring-fed trout streams of the region. In addition, there are many wildlife ponds to visit down the Whitewater Valley. If there is an audience for it, I will lead a team of beginners, starting off with an introduction to the Odonata at the Whitewater Lodge building followed by the rest of the day in the field.

Sunday

Move out of cabins. Cabins and group areas must be cleaned by us before we leave the facility.

Afterwards we will continue to investigate the unique aquatic habitats of SE MN, ending sometime in mid-afternoon.

Housing:

Our group cost for housing (on-site in the cabins, described, below), plus the use of the kitchen and the lodge will be under \$15 per person per night. We won't know the exact amount until we know how many folks are coming.

We will be headquartered at the Whitewater SP Group Center which includes 8 cabins and can accommodate up to 132 people. The cabins have three separate bedrooms, each, with bunk beds. It is quite likely that you will be sharing space with others. We will make every attempt to accommodate special needs (couples, families, high decibel snorers, etc.) but the cabins are what they are. If you have special needs, please let me know before the weekend starts.

Cleaning of the cabins, bath house and lodge will be a group responsibility. All of the tools will be available for us, but you should come prepared for a communal cleanup at the end of the weekend.

Facilities include centrally-located bath house with showers. There is also a lodge with a modern kitchen and a large dining/gathering space.

Tenting is NOT allowed at the Group Cabin site. If you, for whatever reason, need to stay in a tent instead of the cabins, you should reserve your campsite ASAP, as campsites can fill up quickly on some weekends.

RV's are allowed onsite only "for the elderly, handicapped or for medical reasons". Contact the Park if you have questions about this.

Food:

We plan to provide communal meals at the Group Cabins on Friday (BLD), Saturday (BLD) and Sunday (BL). The meals will be prepared on site and the cost per meal will be reasonable.

For all three days in the field, bag lunches will be provided. Extra water will be toted about, but everyone should come prepared with water bottles and any snacks that they will need for the day.

Special dietary needs should be communicated to me as soon as possible. I will provide both vegetarian and gluten-free options at every meal.

There are several restaurants and bars that serve food within about 10 minutes of the park, if that is your preference.

You can also bring your own food and use the kitchen and refrigerators if you wish.

Telephone:

There is NO cell phone service in Whitewater Valley, however driving south out of the park toward St Charles will get you coverage. There is a phone in the lodge which can receive calls (507-932-4406) from the outside and from which prepaid calls (calling cards) can be made.

Evenings

Whitewater State Park bills itself as 'mosquito-free'. This won't be the situation in the other areas which we will visit this weekend, but it should be conducive to some very pleasant evening bonfires. I have heard from two participants who are bringing instruments so that they can share their talents with us. If you are interested in playing some music, bring your instruments. If not, plan to sing along or just enjoy the music of others.

Support for this project was received from the USFWS State Wildlife Grants Program, the Minnesota Game and Fish Heritage Enhancement Fund, and the Minnesota Nongame Wildlife Fund through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Ecological Resources.