



The glowworm



31 January 2006

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Hey, it's time to begin to think about 'butterfly gardens.' If you're gonna do one this year, now is the time to get it ready! Delay means you will not see many butterflies during the first half of the season. If you already have a butterfly garden, and you have butterfly bushes in it, it's time to cut them back. *Buddleia* sop (butterfly bush) begins to put out new growth about this time every year and should be cut back to about 18 inches tall if they are to be maintained as healthy vigorously growing plants which are manageable. Milkweed seeds are very hard to 'start' so it's best to start them in cups early by planting seeds and HOPING! Some of the nurseries have begun carrying *Asclepiads* (milkweed), but they are hard to find. Buy your seed and plant your own, NOW! Get your garden ready, you can plant parsley, in fact I have some which has already come up and is quite healthy. Hollyhock has also begun to green back up, as well. I'm really hoping the ground hog misses his shadow this year and we go right into spring, but we can count on some cold days and possibly even snow between now and true spring.

Bee Essays are all in and currently being judged. Hopefully you'll know who the Mississippi Winners are by the next *Gloworm*. The Official Linnaean Questions will be out by mid-March. Dr. Scott Stewart, Tennessee, is the game Master this year at the Mid South Fair this year, so he will be working on these for the Mid South Area. Linnaean Teams should continue to study last year's material and also to submit new questions for the games. Get your collections ready for contest. Now is the time to be working on them.

Dr. David Held has agreed to continue the *Gloworm* since I am retiring as of January 31. He will work in tandem with Dr. John Guyton to continue to get 'buggy' information out for your use. Please support them in the effort and if you have contributions to add send them in. I'll bet they will still use them.

FEATURE CRITTER: Skipper



Silver-spotted Skipper

© Paul Opler

The Skipper has a knob on its antennae but in addition there is a small hook on the end of the knob, making them distinctive; there are a number of skippers which make up the Hesperidae. They are common in many of our summer gardens and are often quite entertaining to watch. One of the most common we see is the Silver-spotted skipper. Adults perch upside down under leaves at night and on hot or cloudy days. To seek females, males perch on branches and tall weeds, and occasionally patrol. Females lay single eggs near the host trees, and the caterpillars must find their proper host. Young caterpillars live in a folded leaf shelter; older ones live in a nest of silked-together leaves. Skippers hibernate as a chrysalis.

Silver-spotted skippers have two broods from May-September in most of the East, a single brood to the north and west, three-four broods from February-December in the Deep South. The caterpillars can be found on many woody legumes including black locust, honey locust and false indigo. Adults are peculiar about their food; Silver-spotted Skipper almost never visits yellow flowers but favors blue, red, pink, purple, and sometimes white and cream-colored ones. These include everlasting pea, common milkweed, red clover, buttonbush, blazing star, and thistles.

The long tailed skipper caterpillars may be found on vine legumes including various beans, hog peanuts, beggar's ticks, blue peas, and wisteria. Adults nectar on bougainvillea, lantana, and shepherd's needle. Females of the longtailed skipper lay eggs under leaves in clusters of up to 20. Caterpillars feed on leaves and live in shelters of rolled leaves.



Long-tailed Skipper

© Doug Johnson

There is also a group of skippers which prefer grass as hosts. These are generally smaller, but just as active. The Fiery Skipper is one of these (see back page.)

Information and pictures taken from **USGS - Butterflies of North America**
<http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/distr/lepid/bflyusa/ms/toc.html>

Happy buggin'

Michael R. Williams, PhD
Extension Entomologist

**ATTENTION: YOUNG PEOPLE –
TEACHERS – PARENTS ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN ENTOMOLOGY!!!!**
THE MISSISSIPPI STATE ENTOMOLOGY DEPARTMENT PRESENTS:
Entomology Camp #1 on June 18-22 – Wall Doxey State Park, Holly Springs
Entomology Camp #2 – July 16-20 –Newton County

This camp is for **adults and youth** (over age 10) who want to learn about insects from experts. The camp will be taught by professors from the Entomology Department at Mississippi State, and will be educational and fun!!!!

- _ Learn how to collect, identify, and preserve insects!
- _ Learn about unique critters you've never seen, yet they live all around you!
- _ Make an insect collection with help from the experts!

Adults are encouraged to enroll for the camp!!! Out of state campers are also welcome!!!!
Enrollment is limited and will be on a first come basis.

Mail individual applications along with **\$60.00 deposit** to reserve your place to:

Entomology Camp
MSU Entomology Department
Box 9775
Mississippi State, MS 39762

5 day Entomology Camp costs: \$160.00

Charges include room/board, t-shirt and miscellaneous supplies - deposit is not refundable after May 1, 2006 for camp #1 and June 15, 2006 for camp #2, deposit is applied to camp costs.

I will be attending CAMP Session #_____. Indicate 1 or 2, please!

Indicate t-shirt size: Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ XL _____ Other _____
All shirt sizes are measured in adult sizes, the vendor does not handle children's sizes

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____ Age: _____ Gender: _____

Telephone _____ email _____

email address is very helpful in quick communication

4-H rules and guidelines apply.

Please submit a **separate copy of this form for each camper** - be sure to indicate the session the camper will be attending.

Certification of health is required - so camp physicals are in order

2006 4-H Entomology Calendar

15 March – Linnaean Questions

Question booklets will be released for games preparation

April – May County contests

Insect collections

Visual Presentations

Judging and Id

Linnaean Games

30 May – 1 June – 4-H Congress

Insect collections

Visual Presentations

Judging and Id

Linnaean Games

13 – 16 June Project Achievement Days

Insect collections

Visual Presentations

Judging and Id

Linnaean Games

18-22 June Entomology Camp

Wall Doxey State Park

15 July Linnaean Superbowl

Jackson Horse Show

16 – 20 July Entomology Camp

Christian Services Camp, Newton County



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Male
Fiery Skipper



© Corel

Female