

*"To injure no invertebrate,
but to bless all bugkind"*

BOSCAWEN · FRIDAY
DECEMBER 19, 2008

THE CRUSTACEAN SCIENCE MONITOR



Fannie Mae fly bail-out ineffective:
"No fixed retreatowners will benefit"
ECONOMY, 2-16

LATEST NEWS: MERRIMACKRIVER.ORG

Barack Odonata transition nearly complete: team assembled to hit the water swimming

By Corey Dalliday
CORRESPONDENT

Hydroptilidae Clinton leads an instar-studded cast of "frennemies" that will be faced with the toughest governmental and economic conditions since the great depression. President-elect Barack Odonata expects to butt head capsules with his new team but will lay down the law when necessary.

"I wanted the very best for my team," he said today. But the prospect of serving with invertebrates as well as those with spines is troubling to Odonata.

"There has always been some conflict among those without skeletons but tradi-

tionally, vertebrates have been predatory toward invertebrates."

Sorting out squabbles and differences between those with backbones and exoskeletons are the least of Odonata's worries. Left with a legacy of two terrorism wars and a crumbling economy, the President-elect's support in November may erode when he cannot fix by February all of the Bush administration's mistakes.

"He's between a rock and a hard place," said Sven Ahdaj, his transition leader, "Odonata has to See **ERODE** page 3

SPECIAL REPORT

Crack team may not be able to produce more prey or relieve shredding pressures.

Wall Street woes in all habitats —retired invertebrates make their case

By Annie Soptera
STAFF WRITER

Brother, can you spare a pebble? Times are tough and getting tougher for retired invertebrates.

"For the entire few days of my life, I saved my detritus knowing that I would retire in a few hours," said one Mayfly who didn't want her name used, "Now I will be impoverished for the last seconds of my life."

Those bottom dwellers who thought that their retirements were secure are now questioning their frugal New England ways.

"I should have lived for today and enjoyed my nymph time," said Simon Ulid, a Blackfly, "With no hope of hatching to a better blood-sucking life, what was the point of my scrimping and saving through another cold New Hampshire winter?"

There doesn't seem to be any relief in sight. Biologists agree that flooding, warmer water, and a dramatic shift in community composition means that fewer invertebrates will be prepared to coast though their retirement minutes.

The Mayfly's advice? "Eat, swim, and be merry because today, tomorrow, and the day after tomorrow is all there is."

WORLD
Cricket match mêlée
Losing team fans in feeding frenzy. 5

War and no peace
The struggle for survival in flooded rivers in western Europe: all is fair in water wars. 7



The Perfect Storm: climate change + a challenged economy = no food

By Pearl A. Dae
STAFF WRITER

Putting worms on the table is harder than ever—even if you can find or afford them. Climate change is causing increasing floods and extreme fluctuations in temperature, stressing the food chain. Predators may no longer rule the river bottom.

Rising food prices and less food for those with no money

"It's the end of an era," mourned Megan Loptera, "I could get worms, flies—anything I wanted for my family and now we can barely find a few midges: I hate algae!"

Prey are feeling less fear from predators and there is more algae for their food but there is far more competition for it.

"I used to be the only scraper on these rocks," said Elle Midiae, "but now there are dozens of dipterans and worms scraping them clean before I can even get to them, it's maddening." See **MADDENING** page 6

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Upper Merrimack River
Local Advisory Committee
PO Box 3019
Boscawen NH 03303

Help for hard times: free heat and complimentary mints on your stereoscope!

the Thirteenth Annual

BUG NIGHTS

Since 1995, volunteers including anglers, students, teachers, paddlers, and others interested in the health of the Upper Merrimack River and general river ecology have enjoyed learning about these fascinating creatures and what they tell us about water quality.

Your work as a citizen scientist helps determine the health of the Upper Merrimack watershed.

Training is free, fun, and a great way to spend quality time for an evening with family and friends as well as an opportunity to make new acquaintances—and stay warm.

The adventure begins on Wednesdays with friends, family, and bugs!

Upper Merrimack Monitoring Program Bug Nights 2009 sessions are held on Wednesdays at St. Paul's School, start at 6:00 PM, and end promptly at 9:00 PM.

An instructional training and refresher class will be conducted at the first session on January 21, 2008.

Refresher and additional training will be provided at each session.

All equipment and alcohol (denatured preserving) are provided—just bring yourself and a friend.

UPPER MERRIMACK MONITORING PROGRAM BUG NIGHTS 2009 SCHEDULE

January 21*	February 11	March 11	April 15
	February 25	March 25	April 22

*instructional training and refresher class

Directions to St. Paul's School from Interstate 93 North: Take I-89 north from Concord to exit 2 to Clinton Street. At the end of the ramp turn right onto Clinton Street. Follow signs and take left onto Langley Parkway. Continue to end to intersection of Pleasant Street (across from Concord Hospital). Turn left onto Pleasant Street. Go about a half mile and turn left at the St. Paul's School sign onto Dunbarton Road. Payson Hall will be on your right (same parking lot as Memorial Hall) across from athletic fields. Enter building from lot and go up one floor.

STORM CANCELLATIONS WILL BE POSTED ON MerrimackRiver.org.

Questions? Contact Michele Tremblay or Steve Landry at 603.796.2615 or mlt@naturesource.net or visit the Upper Merrimack Monitoring Program at merrimackriver.org.

If you wish to keep receiving a hard copy, email MLT@naturesource.net with your mailing address.
You can also receive an electronic notice when this "Flyer" is posted—just send your email address to MLT@naturesource.net

About the Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee

For nearly twenty years, UMLAC has represented its six communities of Boscawen, Bow, Canterbury, Concord, Franklin, and Northfield in a variety of studies and planning activities. It serves as the area's advisory board on its designation in the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program and conducts several of projects and programs,, including the Upper Merrimack Monitoring Program and Bugs Nights, in the upper Merrimack watershed.

Visit us at MerrimackRiver.org.