



2019 Eagle Hill Natural History Science Field Seminars...

... on the Coast of Maine, just east of Acadia National Park

DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES: FIELD TECHNIQUES, IDENTIFICATION, AND NATURAL HISTORY

July 21 – July 27, 2019

This seminar will emphasize practical skills for locating, identifying and enjoying members of the order Odonata and is suitable for beginning and advancing odonatologists. We will cater to those who wish to observe, collect, and/or photograph. Although it is fine to attend this seminar solely on dry land, as odonatologists like to say, “Good things come to those who wade. Morning lectures will feature, taxonomy, identification, biology, and ecology. In the lab, we’ll practice identification using prepared specimens, so that students will easily see and learn the essential characteristics for identifying various odonate groups in the field. During field excursions, students will visit rivers, wetlands, lakes and ponds for a broad odonate diversity. Evening sessions will for the most part cover specimen preparation, photography and students’ particular aspirations.



About the instructor

As is true with many field naturalists, **Dr. Michael Blust** (blustm@greenmtn.edu) has been a birder for most of his life. An entomologist by training, he enjoyed 25 years of teaching a variety of biology courses at a small college in Vermont before taking an early retirement to join the Peace Corps and spend two years in Mexico working on sustainable harvesting of edible insects. Having done research on a dragonfly species for his MS, in 2000 he again turned to dragonflies as a research topic in Vermont. As the state with the lowest recorded Odonate diversity in the northeast at that time, Mike and a handful of other enthusiasts have brought the average number of species per county from around 30 to above 95. But as with birding, it is all mostly an excuse to enjoy the great outdoors. He is the lead author of the monograph “Odonata of Vermont”.