Minutes from the 567th Meeting of the Connecticut Entomology Society

January 21st, 2022

Zoom

Members: 28

Guests: 2

Social pre-meeting began at approximately 18:30.

**Business Meeting:**

-Meeting called to order at 19:31 by president Ray Simpson.

**Reports:**

-Only about half of the members have paid their dues, so if members haven’t paid them already, please do. Expenses are down, though.

**Old Business:**

-Thanks for voting on the CES 2022 calendar photos! The winners were displayed. Each calendar is $20, too.

**New Business:**

-2022 March Student Symposium is looking for volunteers! There will be prizes. Any students can enter, from high school to grad students.

-There’s a student looking for local lepidopteran caterpillars for a project. Anyone want to donate?

-There’s an outreach opportunity at a school in Coventry, regarding the impact of insects on our lives 20-50 years into the future.

-Potential in-person meeting in April at the CT Agricultural Station, depending on how things are going by then.

**Exhibits:**

-None.

**Evening Presentation:**

-Dr. Steven Whitebread joined the meeting from Switzerland to talk about Massachusetts moths. He’s part of a team of twelve other researchers, all from the area. The project they all are working on is called Mass Moths, which has the goals to make a systemic list of moths in the state, gather a database of historical moth records, and present the summarized data on an accessible website.

-Dr. Whitebread has been interested in moths since he was a young adult, possibly as early as six. He worked on a similar project in the early to mid-2000s, except instead of Massachusetts, it was in regards to the region around Basel, Switzerland. He moved to Switzerland in ‘76.

-The Mass Moths project begun in 2015. They tried using data from iNaturalist, but some information – such as growth stage – wasn't included when the data was downloaded. As a result, the MassMoths project allows for more information to be listed and downloaded.

-380 species of moths were known to be in Massachusetts in 1833, but only 105 were named, and only 93 have names that are the same as today. In another report slightly over a century later in 1934, 1253 species of moths were mentioned as being in Massachusetts. Today, we’ve recorded 2922 species of moths, out of over 229,000 records. Of those species, over a hundred are introduced species, and over forty have yet to be described.

-The MassMoths Project is on iNaturalist, too!

-Interestingly, most species recorded only had one to ten records. Meanwhile, the inverse also seemed true, where a few species had many records.

-You can contribute either through iNaturalist or through the website (data@massmoths.org).

Meeting adjourned at 21:15.

**Note: corrections and additions to the minutes are welcomed. Please email** **maxengel1@gmail.com****.**