Minutes from the 558th Meeting of the Connecticut Entomology Society

October 16, 2020

Zoom

Social pre-meeting began at approximately 18:30.

**Business Meeting:**

-President Raymond Simpson called the meeting to order at approximately 19:30.

**Reports:**

-Meeting minutes were posted on the website and approved.

-The treasurer’s report was read by Mike Montgomery and approved. Donations down. Paid members have drastically fallen from 46 last year (2019-2020) to 7 this year (2020-2021).

**Old Business:**

-Webmaster and archivist appointed by president.

**New Business:**

-Draft of 2020 revisions to the CES constitution are available for review.

-Possible change in web host to lower webpage costs.

-President solicited ideas for talks when it comes to the next semester in 2021.

**Announcements:**

-November 20th: Laura Bizzarri

-No December meeting.

-Student symposium in March 2021.

-Other meetings TBA.

-”What about Bugs?” talk in November.

-November 2nd: President will talk about findings from Fresh Meadows Preserve.

**Exhibits:**

-Lukas Keras’ three collected cicadas.

-Leonard Munster’s story of collecting Nicrophorus argutor and Nicrophorus dauricus beetles in Mongolia near the Siberian border using rotting meat.

-Video of a mantis laying an ootheca.

**Evening Presentation:**

-Prof. Robert J. Gegear presented on pollinator cognition and behavior to develop better conservation methods for species at risk. Using the study of various bumblebee species, he found that some specialize on certain plants for nectar collecting, while specializing on meadow-weed for pollen collecting. In another experiment, it seems like Monarch butterflies have impressive memories, especially the male specimens. Note: bumblebees cannot see red; they will visit red flowers but prefer lewisii flowers, as they prefer a combination of a particular color and orientation of a given flower. (Red flowers are red to deter bumblebees who aren’t as efficient pollinators?) Prof. Gegear also states that even small changes to forager behavior can notably increase plant diversity as well as bee population. He also says he developed an app called Beecology, used for citizen scientists to better-collect data on various bees and their pollinating behaviors. He also showed an example of a success story at Breakneck Hill, where he was able to introduce certain plants to increase bumblebee diversity in the area. He’s also been planting research and education gardens across Massachusetts.

Meeting ended at 21:10.

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