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Tracey Anderson's photo chosen for North American Benthological Society calendar

Summary: The associate professor of biology captures photos to enrich the classroom experience for her students.

(June 15, 2010)-Tracey Anderson, associate professor of biology, captures photos wherever she goes in the field—wetlands, sloughs, rivers, ponds—to enrich the classroom experience for her University of Minnesota, Morris students. While the main purpose may be academic, Anderson’s photographs also illustrate an appreciation and respect for nature and an artistic eye. Her colleagues in the North American Benthological Society (NABS) and American Society for Limnology and Oceanography agree (ASLO). They judged Anderson’s mayfly photograph as one of the best in their annual photo contest. It will be included in the organizations’ new calendar as the illustration for the month of June 2011.

“Many of the topics that I teach about—insects, lakes, streams, other aquatic habitats—can be better understood if there is a good picture to go along with the information,” says Anderson. “I look more closely at things if I’m also thinking about how to get a good picture. I got a good digital camera a few years ago, and that made it a lot easier to take lots of pictures and keep the shots that I like. I’m still a beginner, but I definitely enjoy having my camera along when I’m outside. Some of my favorite pictures are the result of a lucky encounter with an insect, a bird, or a really cool lighting condition.”

Anderson, whose areas of expertise are aquatic entomology and odonates, like dragon or damselflies, has been a member of NABS since graduate school. It is an international scientific organization that promotes understanding of aquatic ecosystems, including habitat assessment, conservation, and restoration, and fosters the exchange of scientific information. NABS and ASLO will use proceeds from the calendar to create student awards.

Anderson earned a doctorate at Oregon State University, a master of arts at the University of Kansas, and a bachelor of arts at Gustavus Adolphus College.

Photo above:

Mayfly subimago by Tracey Anderson
Subimago of *Hexagenia* (Ephemeroptera: Ephemeraeidae)
near Lake Kabekona, Hubbard County, Minnesota
July 2008

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