

1 March 2019

Hi everyone,

I want to begin by sending my sincere apologies for allowing last year to mostly go by without an update. Been busily writing the book summarizing Oklahoma Odonata. Michael Patten and I hope to have it out next year in time for the *Dragonfly Society of the Americas* annual meeting that we will be hosting in Oklahoma. All of that writing left little energy for other activities. I hope that this coming field season we will be better at communicating.

The field season is quickly coming upon us. As such, I wanted to alert you to a couple of projects that I hope some of you can help out with this spring. One is to survey for the Ouachita Spiketail (*Cordulegaster talaria*), a species endemic to the Ouachita Highlands of Arkansas and southeastern Oklahoma. There are two records of the species for Oklahoma, both from McCurtain County. The first was encountered by Berlin Heck (along with Pat and Greta Heck) on 18 April 2011 in the Ouachita National



Forest, 13 km WNW of Hochatown (Odonata Central record #327732; photo, left). The second was last year when Michael Patten captured an adult female at Pine Mountain Spring on the east side of Broken Bow Lake (Odonata Central record #479444). We suspect this species occurs throughout the Ouachita Highlands in McCurtain and Le Flore Counties, which is where I'll be in the spring. If anyone would like to join me, please contact me. Otherwise, if you are in the Ouachitas and find a seep along a woodland edge, keep your eye out for this elusive critter.

The second project I wanted to let you know about is, alas, not for a dragonfly but rather a butterfly. The Oklahoma Natural

Heritage Inventory, for which I am one of the zoologists, is conducting surveys for the Frosted Elfin (*Callophrys irus hadros*), a butterfly of conservation concern. This species is known to occur in south-central and southeastern Oklahoma, from the area around the town of Sulphur in Murray County, east to the Arkansas border (see map on attached flyer). Adult Frosted Elfins fly from late March through April. Its larvae persist for a few weeks longer. Both adults and larvae are known to be hosted by the yellow and Nuttall's wild indigo (*Baptisia sphaerocarpa* and *B. nuttalliana*). Generally by the time the yellow wild indigo starts flowering in late-April, the adult Frosted Elfins have stopped flying. If anyone is out and about during this time frame and you find wild indigo in the range of the Frosted Elfin, please look for the butterfly and alert me or Bryan Reynolds (nature\_photo\_man@hotmail.com) as to where you found the plant. You are also welcome to join Bryan or myself during surveys. Attached is a flyer for the project and on the following page are some promo images that Jena Donnell kindly produced in support of the project.

With both of these projects, if you know any landowners who might have suitable habitat and would allow us to survey their property, please let us know.

Hope everyone is doing well and staying warm,

Brenda "Bee"

# Where Have You Spotted Yellow Wild Indigo?

This plant grows in south-central and southeastern Oklahoma and begins blooming in late April.

Your sightings will help shape follow-up surveys for the frosted elfin, a small butterfly that uses yellow wild indigo as its host plant.

**Join the Frosted Elfin Project by sharing your indigo sightings with**

Bryan Reynolds:  
nature\_photo\_man@  
hotmail.com

or

Brenda Smith-Patten:  
argia@ou.edu; 405-325-7819



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# Join the Frosted Elfin Project

Share your sightings of this butterfly or its host plant, yellow wild indigo. Flight season is limited to a few weeks in March and April.

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