



Natural History Society Newsletter

August 2025



Seeking Insects by Richard Lewis

Insects are among the most diverse and abundant organisms on Earth. They play critical roles in maintaining ecological balance and function. Their services include pollination, decomposition, nutrient cycling, food sources, pest control, soil aeration, seed dispersal, maintaining biodiversity, and environmental health indicators. In addition they also provide significant contributions to science, technology, art, and economics.

Despite their immense importance, insect populations are under threat due to habitat loss, pesticide use, climate change, and pollution. Protecting and appreciating insects is not just an environmental necessity but a moral imperative to ensure the stability and health of our planet.

On an August day in Fort Townsend, we can expect to see numerous adult and immature insects including representatives from the orders Coleoptera (beetles), Lepidoptera (moths and butterflies), Hymenoptera (bees and wasps), Heteroptera (true bugs), Diptera (flies), Dermaptera (earwigs), and Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies). Most will be in the adult stage, but we should also see some immature stages. We will employ different ways of finding and viewing insects and their signs—including nests, galls, tracks, webs, feeding damage, and by association such as predation from non-insect vertebrates—while we stroll around beautiful Fort Townsend.

Outing: Insects of Fort Townsend

Join the Natural History Society on **Sunday, August 17**, for a hike in Fort Townsend to look for insects. Entomologist Richard Lewis will lead our walk from 10:00am to 12:00pm. Please bring your lunch if you'd like to join us for a picnic afterwards. Wear sturdy walking shoes for uneven terrain, and dress for the weather. A State Parks parking pass is required. Please RSVP to Marcia for details, location, and signups: marciaschwendiman@gmail.com

Book Club Selection

The Natural History Book Club will meet at the Land Trust's Illahee Preserve on **Monday, August 25, from 3:00 to 4:30** to discuss *The Serviceberry* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Find more information about the Book Club at: olympicnature.org/book-club/ Directions and information about the Illahee Preserve: <https://saveland.org/protected-properties/illahee-preserve/>

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Photo credits: *Ochlodes sylvanoides* (Woodland Skipper) and *Libellula forensis* (Eight-spotted Skimmer) in August © Wendy Feltham