Connecticut Entomological Society
Minutes from the 588th Meeting
17 January 2025

Hybrid Zoom held at Connecticut Agricultural Experiment station, Jones Auditorium.

Members met for a pre-meeting social at the Experiment Station approx. 6:30pm. Refreshments were served.

Business meeting:

President Richard Cowles called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Old Business:

- CES merchandise available: T-shirts.

New Business:

- Treasurer Mike Montgomery presented the Treasurer's report. The largest fee is for Wix; our Zoom account costs $200 per year.
    - While funds remain quite constant from year to year, their uses are changing. In past years, funds were used to support science-fair prizes for entries with an entomological theme. Now, income from the funds is used for prizes for the Student Symposium
- President Richard Cowles mentioned the need for an executive meeting to discuss CES officers and the future of the Society

Announcements:

- Former CES president Bridget Zacharczenko requested funds for providing scholarships to insect-themed summer programs at the Talcott Mountain Science Center

Exhibits:

- Ray Simpson brought a box of pinned moths from Massachusetts

Attendance:

- Guests: 1
- Members: 14

The evening presentation started at 7:50 pm.

Evening Presentation:
Ripples of Invasion: Understanding the Spread and Impact of Aquatic Invasive Plants

Dr. Jeremiah R. Foley, IV

With increased connectivity between bodies of water, aquatic invasives are becoming more prolific. In 2016, a genetically distinct strain of hydrilla, a highly invasive aquatic plant, was located in the Connecticut River. A two-year survey from Agawam, MA, to a few miles north of Long Island Sound aimed to quantify the Hydrilla's distribution and abundance. Additional sites of infestation not connected to the Connecticut River were found, raising concerns about potential spread through contaminated boat hulls. This could threaten native plant communities in uninvaded water bodies. An Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategy using insects to supplement herbicides (whose exclusive use is both damaging to the ecosystem and expensive), shows potential for controlling the Hydrilla. Such a method has already been implemented against the highly invasive Water Hyacinth. Release of a South American Curculionid into the infested area allowed for significant reduction in herbicide applications. A Hydrilla-feeding Dipterid native to northern China shows promise for integration into management strategies in the Connecticut River. Dr. Foley plans to make the first releases in 2026.

The presentation ended at **8:30**.

Respectfully Submitted,
Secretary Lukas Keras