

Dragonflies, damselflies: they are different

OK, it's time to clarify a subject with which a lot of people are confused.

How many of you saw the photo on page 5B of the August 3 edition of the *Morning Sentinel*, where it showed, according to the caption, numerous "dragonflies" trying to land on a single flower. First of all, those were not dragonflies, but were damselflies.

What's the difference?

Actually, there are a few differences, but on the other hand, a lot



Damselfly, top, and dragonfly, above.

of differences.

A couple of weeks ago I did a column on dragonflies, and did mention the damselflies,

but didn't give enough information on the latter.

Damselflies are similar to dragonflies, but the adults can be differentiated by the fact that the wings of most damselflies are held along, and parallel to, the body when at rest. The dragonflies hold their wings out perpendicular to their body.

Furthermore, the hindwing of the damselfly is essentially similar to the forewing, while the hindwing of the dragonfly broadens near the base, caudal to the connecting point at the body. Damselflies are usually smaller, weaker fliers than dragonflies, and their eyes are separated.

Damselflies can fold up their wings, and dragonflies cannot. But, like dragonflies, damselflies have six legs, can land on objects, but are unable to walk.

Damselflies undergo incomplete metamorphosis, with an aquatic nymph stage. The females lay eggs in water, sometimes in underwater vegetation, or high in trees in bromeliads - a flowering plant - and other water-filled cavities. They use their ovipositor - a specialized organ of female insects for depositing eggs, often capable of piercing animals or plants to deposit eggs inside them - to cut a slit in the plant tissue into which they lay their eggs. Nymphs are carnivorous, feeding on daphnia, mosquito larvae and various other small aquatic organisms, using extendable jaws similar to those of dragonfly nymphs. The gills of damselfly nymphs are large and external, resembling three fins at the end of the abdomen. After molting several times, the winged adult emerges and eats flies, mosquitoes, and other small insects. Some of the larger tropical species are known to feed on spiders, hovering

near the web and plucking the spider from its nest.

Dragonfly sequel

A couple of weeks ago, in the column about dragonflies, I described an episode that happened a couple of years ago while my wife and I were fishing on the lake, and were rescued from swarming mosquitoes by a squadron of dragonflies. Well, it happened again last Saturday night. While sitting on our deck, my wife and I noticed an extraordinary number of dragonflies in the area. They circled overhead for a considerable amount of time at dusk. We enjoyed a beautiful evening, mosquito-free, and have not seen a mosquito in our proximity since that evening. Dragonflies and damsel flies are extremely effective mosquito population controllers.

As a matter of fact, it is known that some campgrounds purchase thousands of dragonflies and release them on their grounds to control the mosquito population. That method is much more ecologically safe than spraying insecticides. If you go online, they even give you websites to go to that will tell you where you can buy dragonflies, or raise them, if you so desire.

So, when you see dragonflies, or damselflies, they will not harm you. They are actually on your side when it comes to those pesky mosquitoes.

Roland's trivia question of the week:

In MLB, what is a four-game series that begins on Friday and ends on Monday called?

Answer on page 15.

SCORES & OUTDOORS

by Roland D. Halle

Registration time for Central Maine Eagles football

The Central Maine Eagles football team of the China lakes region are presently accepting registration for the fall program for both the football team and cheerleading.

The Eagles compete in the Central Maine Football League, a nonprofit Maine corporation established in 2009 to coordinate and administer a youth football and cheerleading program for the children of the China lakes region.

The league is run by an elected board of directors, composed of volunteer parents, coaches and community sponsored.

The group will be present at the Palermo Days parade. Registration forms are also available on-line at www.centralmainefootball.com/CMFC%202010%Registration%20Form.pdf.

The group is also currently raising funds to finance the league and bottles and cans can be left at Tam's Rte. 3 Redemption Center specifically designated for the league.

China Area Co-ed Softball League

Standings as of Aug. 9

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Southier Chiropractic	9	1	.900	1
Top of the Line Drywall	13	3	.812	-
Fernald's Chiropractic	12	6	.667	2
N.E.I.	10	6	.625	3
I.W.S.	9	7	.563	4
D.P. Industries	8	8	.500	5
TAM's Redemption	6	10	.375	7
Tobey's Grocery	3	13	.188	10
Turner Ridge Rdmpn.	2	10	.167	9
Pat's Pizza	2	12	.143	10

Submitted by Mary Lockhart, league secretary.

O'Brien Oil Oilers finish successful season

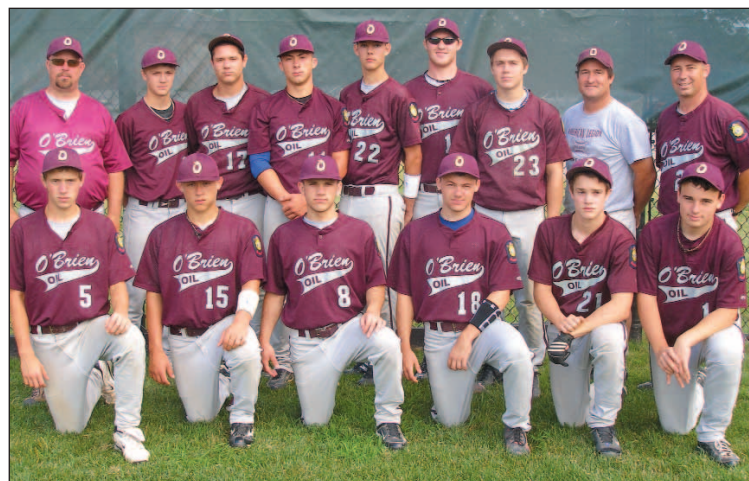
The O'Brien Oil Oilers baseball team finished the regular season with a 10-8 record which earned them fourth place in Zone Two. The team is composed of players from Erskine Academy, Winslow High School and MCI.

American Legion baseball is for players up to age 18 and is sponsored by the local community businesses and American Legion Post #179 in South China. Teams in Zone Two include Augusta, Gardiner,

Franklin County (Farmington), Waterville, Messalonskee, Rockland, Boothbay, Madison and Monmouth (Oak Hill High School).

Highlights this year were doubleheader sweeps of Franklin County and Monmouth and wins over Waterville, Messalonskee and Madison.

Next season the Oilers will lose two players: Nick Grady (USM) and Casey Egerton (Lyndon State).



The O'Brien Oil Oilers. Front row, left to right: Casey Egerton, Tom Grady, Jordan Holt, Donald Camp, Brendon Wood, and Nate Burns. Back row: Coach Lacey, Ryan Pulver, Jory Humphrey, Nick Grady, Schyler Scates, Tyler Belanger, Caleb Grady, Tom Belanger (scorer), and Coach St. Amand. Absent from photo are Justin Marcelino and Darrel St. Jean.

Contributed photo

Advertise in The Town Line

Diane • Marlene

445-2234 • townline@fairpoint.net

Shop For A New Car

TURN TO THE CLASSIFIEDS



O'Brien Oil Oilers American Legion Baseball Team Thanks the Following Sponsors:

AMERICAN LEGION POST 179

O'BRIEN OIL

THE MARKET & DELI

LAKEVIEW LUMBER

LEGACY HOME IMPROVEMENTS INC.

TOBEY'S GROCERY

BALLANTYNE SERVICE CO.

FIELDSTONE QUICK STOP

ADAMS REALTY

CAYOUILLE FLOORING

Ray Haskell Ford

BOOTHBAY FLOOR CRAFTERS

WINDSOR FAIR

INNOVATIVE WORKSPACE SOLUTIONS

THE CHINA DINE-AH

JEFFERSON MARKET

RAY WEEKS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC.



189 Mills Rd., Whitefield, Me 04353

Driveways ■ Septic Systems ■ Sand ■ Loam Gravel ■ Winter Sand ■ Excavator ■ Bulldozer

OTHER SERVICES AVAILABLE

"JUST ASK"

Call Mark or Linda 207-549-3922

ERSKINE ACADEMY

Fall Sports Tryout/Practice Schedule

All candidates for the fall sports programs at Erskine Academy should report to the following venues at the following times on Monday, August 16:

Boys Soccer	5:00-8:00 pm	Game Field
Field Hockey	8:00-10:00 am and 5:00-7:00 pm	Team Field
Golf	12:00 noon	Natanis Driving Range
Girls Soccer	5:00-8:00 pm	Practice Field
Boys and Girls Cross Country	6:00 pm	Gazebo in Front of School

All Field Hockey and Soccer Athletes should bring cleats and running shoes.

For More Information Call Erskine Academy at:



445-2962

