



**Happy 100th Birthday to the National Park  
Service!**

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Your Continued Support is Appreciated



Your tax-deductable gift to DLIA is a gift toward the support of Biodiversity. Not only will you help insure that our important work continues, you'll be supporting the most important conservation work happening in your own backyard.

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### **Know Your Park Life: Reduviids - Assassin Bugs**

The assassin bugs, Reduviidae, are a large cosmopolitan family of the order Hemiptera (true bugs). They are slightly unusual overall, but very common among the order because almost all are terrestrial ambush predators (most other predatory Hemiptera are aquatic). The main examples of non-predatory Reduviidae are some blood-sucking ectoparasites in the subfamily Triatominae.



Though spectacular exceptions are known, most members of the family are fairly easily recognizable; they have a relatively narrow neck, sturdy build, and formidable curved proboscis (sometimes called a rostrum). Large specimens should be handled with caution, if at all, because they sometimes defend themselves with a very painful stab from the proboscis.

There has been recent heightened awareness of members of the group, the kissing bugs, due to cases of Chagas disease in the US.

We believe it important to have a better understanding of this group in the park, not only because of their beneficial role, but also as potential disease vectors.

There currently are 14 species documented in the park, but an estimated 60 species should be expected here. Other common names for assassin bugs are wheel bugs and ambush bugs. Leaf-footed bugs look similar but are in a different bug family (Coreidae).

## DLIA Events 2016

### **Discover Life in America's 2016 Events Calendar**

(Please visit our website at [www.dlia.org](http://www.dlia.org) to stay up to date on happenings and events in 2016)

- **Biodiversity Days with the E.O. Wilson Foundation, March 3 and 4** - Duke University
- **GSMNP Science Colloquium sponsored by DLIA, March 17** -Park Vista in Gatlinburg

The Annual Science Colloquium highlights the groundbreaking work of DLIA and all the scientific work going on in the Smokies with presentations from world renowned scientists

- **Celebrating 100 Years of the National Park Service, Bioblitz 2016, April 22**- GSMNP (NC side)
- **Celebrating 100 Years of the National Park Service, Bioblitz 2016, May 12**- GSMNP (TN side)
- **Fireflies at Norton Creek, June 3, 4, and 5**-Norton Creek Sanctuary outside Gatlinburg

Why don't fireflies in the average backyard synchronize? What makes the fireflies in the park so special? These questions and more will be answered at a DLIA fundraising event that also features the firefly. With exclusive access to the property and a firefly expert on site, attendees will learn the answers to their questions while enjoying the amazing "flashing" display firsthand.



- **Biodiversity Days in the Smokies, June 16-18 – GSMNP**

Biodiversity Days provides the platform for visitors to have a fresh outlook on various obscure species and their importance.

- **Bioblitz 2016, July 16 –TVA**

A BioBlitz is a short (usually one-day), intense team effort to discover as many different life forms as possible in one location. Teams of volunteer scientists, families, students, teachers, and other community members work together to find and identify as many species of plants, animals, microbes, fungi, and other organisms as they can. Discover Life in America (DLIA) has partnered with Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) along with regional scientists to this Bioblitz event at a site to be determined.

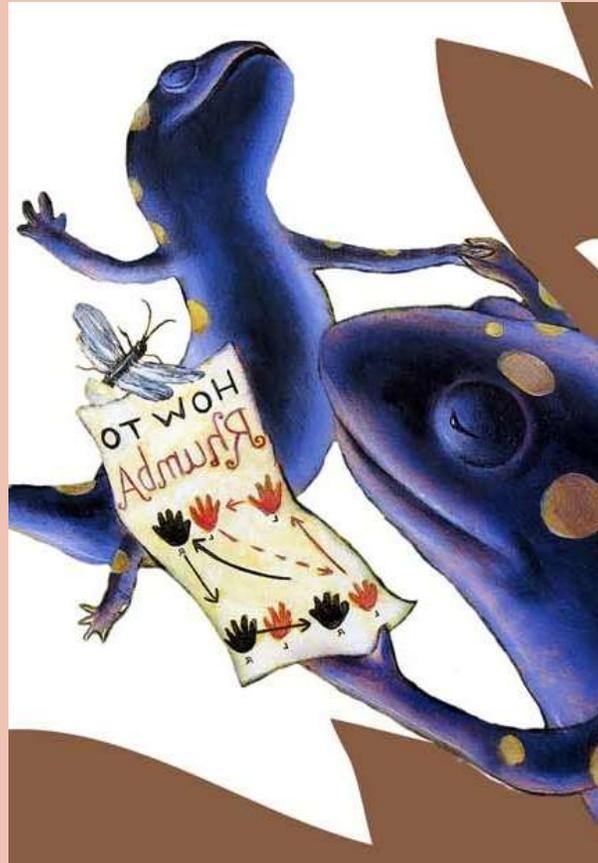
- **Biodiversity Hike to LeConte Lodge, August 5 and 6 -GSMNP**

Ever wonder what it would be like to stay overnight at the highest elevation lodge in the Eastern United States? How about doing so with a guided hike up one of Mt. LeConte's most scenic trails? Join DLIA for all this and more on our annual Biodiversity Hike to Mt. Le Conte.



- **Great Smoky Mountains Salamander Ball, Sunday, September 18- Knoxville Zoo**

If you've ever marveled at the depth, breadth, or beauty of wildlife in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, you are invited to one of the region's premiere fundraising events that directly supports the conservation and science of our most beloved park. This family friendly evening encourages you to dress as your favorite Smokies critter and join the staff and board of DLIA (and a few surprise guests!) to celebrate the wondrous biodiversity in GSMNP.



### Want two easy ways to support DLIA?

1. Kroger shoppers can sign up for "Kroger Rewards" that will contribute to DLIA every time you shop! Click [HERE](#) to sign up.
2. Amazon Smiles program will donate to DLIA every time you purchase from Amazon. Click [HERE](#) to sign up.

There ... wasn't that easy?

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