

**HB**

**239**

**SB**

**97**

## Let's Adopt A State Insect!

Have you ever been walking beside a stream or lake and had a streamlined, olive and yellow creature dart up to you, pause in mid-air checking you out with its bulgy eyes, then go into reverse and disappear into the willows? What was it? A miniature helicopter? No. A science fiction character? No. The answer is the Four Spot Skimmer Dragonfly, the insect that 3,941 students in schools from the Aleutians to the North Slope voted as their choice to become the official state insect of Alaska. The dragonfly was nominated by Auntie Mary Nicoli Elementary School in Aniak and Auke Bay School in Juneau in the spring of 1993.

Ballots were sent to every public school in the state and the votes came pouring in during the school year of 1993-94. The students of Auntie Mary Nicoli Elementary School counted and tallied the votes, locating each responding school on a map of Alaska and marking the town or village with a dot. The vote was:

Four Spot Skimmer Dragonfly- 3941

Unmarked Slender Mosquito- 3073

Mourning Cloak Butterfly- 2990

Bumble Bee- 1492

Election results showed that students in city schools tended to vote for the mosquito, perhaps because people in urban areas are more impressed by the importance of the mosquito in the food chain, and are not bothered by the pests as much as those living in rural areas. Elementary, junior high, and high school students voted decidedly with a margin of 868 votes for the dragonfly, which preys upon the pesky mosquito. The election returns reflect enthusiastic participation by students all over the state.

The Four Spot Skimmer Dragonfly is an excellent choice for the largest state in America. Its four membranous wings span 2 and 3/4 to 3 and 1/8 inches. It has the ability to hover and fly forward and backward, just like the helicopters that maneuver in and out of otherwise inaccessible areas of bush Alaska.

The body of the Four Spot Skimmer Dragonfly is olive brown with a yellow stripe on each side and a yellow stripe on the leading edge of each wing. The colors represent the long nights of Alaskan winters. The yellow stripes are like the searching headlights of vehicles, and the sure promise of the returning sun over the spring horizon. The face is yellow with two large compound eyes, with which the dragonfly sees kaleidoscopic images, reminding us of the many facets of Alaskan history and culture. From the beginning of its life, the dragonfly is a symbol of strength. The male guards the female from other males while the female rests on a twig or leaf then drops her eggs one at a time into or close to the water. The larvae prey upon water insects, tadpoles, or even small fish. They make lightning fast jabs with their lower lip in order to enjoy a tasty meal.

According to Dr. Mark Oswood, Professor of Aquatic Biology at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, "The dragonfly is an elegant organism. Its beauty puts it right in there with butterflies. It is an incredible aerial acrobat. It probably lives more than one year in the larvae stage and spends the winter in the frozen mud. It emerges as an adult during the second summer."

The fact that adult dragonflies have chewing mouth parts and feed on other flying insects like mosquitoes is perhaps the main reason for the dragonfly's victory over the Slender Unmarked Mosquito. It is a born hunter, a true Alaskan.

No matter how large or small the village or city or the geographical location of the school, students found a new interest in the importance of insects to life in Alaska. They campaigned in their schools, studied the pros and cons of each nominee, and carried out the democratic process by expressing their choice with a vote. 11,496 students across the state are now waiting to see the final result of that election. It is now up to our legislators: Senator Georgeanna Lincoln, Representative Irene Nicholia, and Representative Gene Kubina to present the bill in the House and Senate.

Eight students have been chosen to go to Juneau in April to lobby for the Four Spot Skimmer Dragonfly. They are currently earning their way by making and selling delicious baked goodies and raffling a variety of crafts and items that have been donated.

Can students make a difference in government? Yes! Can students make things happen in the real world? Yes! And we will soon have the Four Spot Skimmer Dragonfly adopted as the official Alaska state insect to prove that students can make changes using true Alaskan diligence!

**LET'S ADOPT THE FOUR SPOT SKIMMER DRAGONFLY FOR ALASKA!**

# Voice of The Times

## Dragonfly will make a nifty state bug

By PAUL JENKINS

Ya gotta hate it when a pesky liberal does something right. It ain't natural. Take this bug deal kicking around in the Senate Resources Committee. At first, it appeared Sen. Georgianna Lincoln was just begging for trouble when she introduced SB97, a measure to make a dragonfly the state insect.

There's tort reform to worry about. There's the looming fiscal crisis. If that's not enough, there's the term limits fracas. And Ms. Lincoln, a Democrat from Rainier, wants to waste time on adopting a state insect? This is the best Democrats can do? A bug bill?

Then, ya find out she's doing it because something like 11,496 school kids from all over Alaska voted to make the four spot skimmer dragonfly the state's official insect. Through oversight or design, Alaska at present finds itself without an official bug, unless you count the Anchorage Daily News.

I submit that no state worth a hoot should be without a real bug on its roster of official stuff. Several states lists grasses, dogs, horses, even nuts. Arizona even has official neckwear, the bolo tie. The only things Alaska can pony up for a list is a flower, a tree, a bird, a song, a gem, a marine mammal, a fossil, a mineral and a sport. But no bug. It ain't respectable.

Apparently kids in schools across the state thought so, too. During a special election that started in 1992, kids sent their votes for a state bug to the Auntie Mary Nicolli Elementary School in Aniak for tabulation. The Aniak school and the Auke Bay School in Juneau nominated the four spot skimmer dragonfly that eventually tallied 3,941 votes. The unmarred slender mosquito, received 3,073, the mourning cloak butterfly, 2,990, and the bumblebee, 1,492.

Frankly, I'd have gone with the mosquito, which lost by a lousy 868 votes. There probably ought to be an Alaska Public Offices Commission investigation or a recount supervised by the Division of Elections. Like every other election in this state. But, hey, the kids apparently wanted the results sometime this year and without the ensuing lawsuit.



Jenkins



In the long run, I suppose, the dragonfly should work out well as a state insect. It can hover, then move forward and backwards, like a lot of our politicians. Additionally, it's strong. It's fast. It's a hunter. It's capable of amazing aerobatics. And it eats mosquitoes. Anything that eats mosquitoes is good. Of course, anything that eats more mosquitoes is even better.

The kids at Aniak sent the vote tallies along to Lincoln, who introduced her legislation in the Senate. They say they hope the bill will "fly" through the Legislature. The Aniak kids, fifth- through eighth-graders calling themselves the Dragonfly Lobby Team, have raised money to visit Juneau in early April, when the measure is scheduled to come up.

And it should pass. Lawmakers should put aside their partisan differences and do the right thing, or risk tickling off herds of kids with fax machines, telephones and computers. Besides, Alaska needs to take its rightful place among sovereign states with official bugs. We will be the only state with a dragonfly. We will have a bug and Texas won't. And we will be the first state to adopt an official bug in the 1990s.

To date, there are something like 17 states with official insects. Most of their bugs, I gotta tell ya, are wumpy. Of the 17, 13 went with honeybees or ladybugs, showing a certain lack of imagination even

if honeybees and ladybugs do good work.

Arkansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont and Wisconsin all went with the honeybee. All adopted the bee between 1973 and 1985, indicating more than a decade of hard lobbying by bee lovers. And, for the record, Utah's state emblem is a beehive.

Delaware, Massachusetts, New York and Ohio went with the ladybug, and they all did it between 1974 and 1989. Connecticut picked the praying mantis in 1977; Illinois, the monarch butterfly in 1975; and, Maryland, the Baltimore checkerspot butterfly in 1973.

Then, there's New Mexico, where men are men and the official vegetable is chili and frijol. I'm not kidding. The official cooler, by the way, is something called a bizcochuto. Its official bug is the Tarantula Hawk Wasp, adopted in 1989. Impressive. I don't know what these critters do, but, just based on the name, I believe I'd buy one a bizcochuto and call it "ur" if it got close.

That aside, when Lincoln's bug bill is a done deal, kids all over the state who took part in the voting will see that people working together actually can make something happen.

And all in all, even if they passed over the venerable mosquito, that ain't so bad.

Paul Jenkins is an editor of The Anchorage Times.

# Buzzword in Juneau is dragonfly

3/24/95  
FBKS Daily  
News-Miner

By KATE RIPLEY  
Staff Writer

**JUNEAU**—This is one bill that's really flying through the Legislature.

The House State Affairs Committee unanimously backed a bill Thursday to make the four-spot skimmer dragonfly Alaska's official insect.

The political buzz in the Capitol's halls is that the measure has an excellent chance of becoming law.

See FLY, Page A-8

## FLY: Official insect

Continued from Page A-1

"I think it's great," said House Speaker Gail Phillips, R-Homer. "It'll pass this year. I'm sure."

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Irene Nicholia, D-Tanana, and Sen. Georgianna Lincoln, D-Rampart, is the result of a three-year effort by elementary school students in Aniak, on the Kuskokwim River in Southwest Alaska.

The students polled nearly 11,300 students across the state, asking them to choose from among the four-spot skimmer, the unmarked slender mosquito, the mourning cloak butterfly and the bumblebee.

The dragonfly beat the mosquito by a handy margin. Next in line was the butterfly, with the bee a distant fourth.

Eight Aniak students testifying via teleconference Thursday said the dragonfly deserves the title of official state insect because it is a major predator of the mosquito. They also noted that such a large bug is fitting for a large state.

"The dragonfly is long, slender

and graceful. It eats mosquitoes and was the choice of most Alaskan students," said sixth-grader Andrea Gusty.

Seventh-grader Derek Aluia gave the dragonfly credit for toughness.

"Winter in Alaska is cold. Any insect as big and beautiful as the dragonfly that can survive Alaska's cold deserves to be the state insect," Aluia said.

Since the bill contained only five lines, there weren't many bugs to work out.

Lincoln said the bill should get its first Senate hearing early next month.

"This is the students' chance to see they can make a difference," Lincoln said.

The students stuffed hundreds of envelopes, counted votes and held bake sales to earn money for the Juneau trip, said fifth-grader Melanie Matter.

"We're not about to stop working until the dragonfly is the official state insect," she declared.

### State Motto

The official motto of the State of Alaska, "North to the Future," was adopted by the legislature during Alaska's Purchase Centennial in 1967. Created by veteran Juneau newsmen Richard Peter, the motto is meant to represent Alaska as a country of promise. According to Peter, the motto "... is a reminder that beyond the horizon of urban clutter there is a Great Land beneath our flag that can provide a new tomorrow for this century's huddled masses yearning to be free."

### The Seal of the State of Alaska

When Congress provided for civil government for Alaska in 1864, the first governor designed, and had made, a seal for the District of Alaska. The seal was used until 1910 when Governor Walter E. Clark decided the design placed too much emphasis on icebergs, northern lights, and Native people. The governor had a draftsman in Juneau sketch a new seal that incorporated the original features, plus symbols for mining, agriculture, fisheries, fur seal rookeries, and a railroad.

The design was approved by the acting attorney general of the United States. A more refined drawing was made by an unknown person in the Department of the Interior, and the new seal was ready for use early in 1911. When Alaska changed from district to territorial status in 1912, the new designation was substituted on the seal.

The Constitution of the State of Alaska provides that the territorial seal shall be the seal for the State of Alaska, with the word "territory" changed to that of "state." The seal is 2 1/8 inches in diameter. The seal appears on the cover of this book.

The seal of the State of Alaska may be used only with the written permission of the Lt. Governor.

### The State Flower

The state flower, the wild Forget-Me-Not, was adopted by the Territorial Legislature in 1917. It is a perennial that is found throughout Alaska, from Hyder to the Arctic coast, and west to the Aleutians.

### The State Bird

The state bird, the Willow Ptarmigan, was adopted by the Territorial Legislature in 1955. It is a small 13-17 inches arctic grouse that lives among willows and on open tundra and muskeg. Plumage is brown in summer, changing to white in winter. The Willow Ptarmigan is common in much of Alaska.

### Other State Symbols

State Fish—King Salmon (adopted by the Alaska Legislature in 1962)

State Fossil—Woolly Mammoth (adopted by the Alaska Legislature in 1966)

State Gem—Jade (adopted by the Alaska Legislature in 1968)

State Marine Mammal—Bowhead Whale (adopted by the AK Legislature in 1963)

State Mineral—Gold (adopted by the Alaska Legislature in 1968)

State Sport—Dog Mushing (adopted by the Alaska Legislature in 1972)

State Tree—Sitka Spruce (adopted by the Alaska Legislature in 1962)

# SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 4/11/95

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED INTO OFFICE: 4-13-95

Resources Committee considered CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 239(STA)

"An Act declaring the four spot skimmer dragonfly as the official state insect."

and recommends:

- be replaced with CS \_\_\_\_\_
- adopt previous CS HB 239 (STA)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by \_\_\_\_\_ Committee
- further referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

Senate Bill:

- same title
- new title
- House Bill:
- same title
- technical change
- new SCR

SIGNING DO PARS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	SR	DSR	AM
<i>[Signature]</i>					
<i>[Signature]</i>					
<i>[Signature]</i>					
<i>[Signature]</i>					
<b>CHAIR:</b> <i>[Signature]</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

**NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):**

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal

**PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):\***

Department	Date	Zero	Fiscal
<i>no item</i>	<i>yes</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

APPROPRIATION -- no fiscal note

\*include fiscal notes accompanying Governor's bill

Auntie Mary Nicoll Elementary School  
P.O. Box 29  
Aniak, Alaska 99557  
(907) 675-4487

Dear Legislators and Committee Members:

We want to thank you for the interest you have shown in the Dragonfly project. We have all learned a great deal about insects, passing bills, running elections, and communicating with our Senators and Representatives.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you about the corrected count of the vote. The results are the same but the specific count is slightly altered from the student hand-counted numbers. We transferred the school totals from the notebook to the computer. These are the corrected electronic totals:

Dragonfly	Beet	Mosquito	Butterfly	Total
3914	1477	3035	2872	11298

A list of the schools and the specific vote is also enclosed.

Sincerely,

*Ruth Bradford*  
Ruth Bradford, teacher and DLT coach

*Laurence Bradford*  
Larry Bradford, science teacher

School	Dragonfly	Bee	Mosquito	Butterfly
Akiachak Elem. School, Akiachak	29	4	4	49
Aktuk Memorial School, Kasigluk	13	12	1	19
Akulai School, Akulan	3	7	0	2
Alakanuk School, Alakanuk	16	5	3	9
Allakaket School, Allakaket	11	9	0	6
Ambler School, Ambler	18	15	20	19
Anguin School, Elkm	19	17	15	26
Arctic Village School, Arctic Village	3	9	3	3
Arviq School, Platinum	9	0	1	3
Aunbe Mary Nicoll Elem. School, Ariak	44	9	10	17
Aurora Elem. School, Elmendorf AFB	74	11	95	58
Ayagyual Elnaurvial, Bethel	2	1	3	3
Bear Valley School, Anchorage	139	45	145	163
Betuga School, Betuga	0	0	5	3
Bethel Regional High School, Bethel	0	0	12	1
Blackwell School, Anva	14	3	0	5
Bowman Elem. School, Anchorage	112	37	112	65
Bruce Hill School, Port Alice	3	0	1	2
Bruns School, Icy Bay	4	0	0	2
Buckland School, Buckland	7	12	14	5
Campbell Elem. School, Anchorage	125	41	99	95
Chenege Bay Comm. School, Chenege B.	7	2	11	6
Chester Valley School, Anchorage	14	15	22	32
Chignik Bay School, Chignik Bay	11	2	2	6
Chignik Lagoon School, King Salmon	11	1	0	1
Chig Ivan Blunka School, New Stuyance	19	14	2	0
Cold Bay School, Cold Bay	4	8	4	4
Cooper Landing School, Cooper Landing	14	0	4	0
Craig Elem., Craig	45	11	7	21
Crooked Creek School, Crooked Creek	17	0	2	8
Crow Village Sam School, Chusitbana	9	4	2	2
Cruikshank School, Beaver	3	0	24	0
Cube Cove School, Juneau	13	0	14	1
Danger Bay School, Kodiak	0	3	15	0
Dick R. Klunys Memorial School, Kongigan	12	27	15	61
Eagle School, Eagle	9	5	3	1
Edna Bay School, Edna Bay	2	1	1	7
Ellin Cove School, Ellin Cove	0	2	3	0
Fred Ipswich Elem., Barrow	22	22	8	35
Gastineau Elem., Juneau	16	5	0	6
Gleacher Valley Elem. School, Juneau	13	1	0	2
Gleady Wood Elem., Anchorage	10	15	20	105
Glennallen School, Glennallen	3	3	20	3
Haines Elem. School, Haines	50	15	33	16
Harcoview Elem., Juneau	108	15	23	45
Healy Lake School, Certe Junction	2	2	1	1
Healy School, Healy	51	9	34	31
Robert Bay School, Juneau	1	4	1	2
Mooshan City Schools, Mooshan	26	27	22	25
Mooser Bay School, Mooser Bay	8	0	0	3
Moungtling School, Ketchikan	22	1	7	8
Muffman Elem., Anchorage	128	24	88	117
Ny Bay School, Icy Bay	4	0	0	0
Ngugi School, Igroig	1	0	4	3

School	Dragonfly	Bee	Mosquito	Butterfly
Jessie Lee School, Anchorage	9	1	7	7
Joan Alexie Memorial School, Almatluck	22	0	19	11
John Fredson School, Venetie	5	7	2	7
Karluk School, Karluk	11	4	0	2
Kayalik Elem., Ne-Aok	18	0	0	0
Ketchikan School, Ketchikan	17	4	1	0
King Cove School, King Cove	24	27	24	24
King Salmon School, King Salmon	3	3	0	1
Kingikmiut School, Wales	12	12	5	22
Kodiak Island Chinik School, Kodiak	10	2	4	2
Kokhanok School, Kokhanok	1	1	1	0
Kotlik Schools, Kotlik	42	22	12	55
Kotzebue Mid. School, Kotzebue	31	4	2	5
Koyuk Malemute School, Koyuk	8	17	4	5
Lead Elem., Fairbanks	75	11	24	52
Leonard Seppala AH High, Nome	0	0	40	0
Lewis Angapak Memorial School, Tuntutulua	13	5	16	23
Main Elem. School, Kodiak	193	36	25	103
Marin L. Olson School, Golovin	19	9	9	8
Mat-Su Alternative School, Wasilla	23	0	55	18
McLaughlin High School, Anchorage	24	3	19	11
McQueen School, Kivalina	5	4	3	5
Meyers Chuck School, Meyers Chuck	9	1	0	1
Miktinguit Elementary, Bethel	44	24	23	43
Minchumina Com. School, Lake Minchumina	3	4	1	0
Mosquito Lake School, Haines	7	4	9	4
Mr. Mottet Middle School, Adak	24	1	1	10
Mr. Spurr School, E.A.F.B.	140	32	108	110
Mr. Village Mid. School, Mountain Village	13	1	0	1
Napaaglugmiut School, Noatak	4	7	0	12
Nenana School, Nenana	10	0	22	20
Nikolskaya School, Nikolskaya	43	11	27	12
Nome Elem. School, Nome	94	101	50	121
North Pole Middle School, Fairbanks	47	21	133	29
Northway School, Northway	1	0	2	3
Northwind Cortes School, Yukon Sch. Dist.	2	1	0	3
Purata Valley Elem. School, Anchorage	13	1	0	3
Paul Banks Elem. School, Homer	25	21	8	33
Pelican School, Pelican	27	12	2	9
Pennell School, Eielson A.F.B.	5	2	9	7
Pilot Station School, Pilot Station	32	20	15	30
Plover's Point Schools, St. Mary's	8	3	4	17
Polk Inlet School, Ketchikan	14	1	0	5
Port Lions School, Port Lions	0	0	2	4
Port Protection School, Ketchikan	3	0	0	1
Providence Heights School, Anchorage	19	0	0	0
Pt. Higgins School, Ketchikan	53	17	9	21
Rapocina School, Frazz Creek	14	4	1	11
Richard Johnson Elem. School, Mediaseta	14	0	0	0
Rogers Park El. School, Anchorage	117	20	112	65
Sand Point City School, Sand Point	33	14	17	20
Scammon Bay Schools, Scammon Bay	32	4	3	5
Scenic Park Elem. School, Anchorage	60	25	20	120

School	Dragonfly	Bees	Mosquito	Butterfly
Selawik School, Selawik	14	13	3	8
Seldovia School, Seldovia	8	2	1	0
Shishmaref School, Shishmaref	89	12	17	36
Sitka Alternative School, Sitka	0	21	21	0
Skwentna School, Skwentna	0	0	10	2
Smith Cove School, Ketchikan	1	0	0	7
St. Mary's Schools, St. Mary's	46	14	9	10
Sterling Elem. School, Sterling	108	33	60	60
Susan B. English School, Seldovia	23	3	15	1
Sutton Elem. School, Sutton	15	0	9	11
Talkeetna Elem., Talkeetna	18	9	14	22
Tenakee School, Port Alsworth	2	2	8	0
Tannana Middle School, Tannana	0	1	8	16
Taylor Elem., Eielson AFB	32	4	71	21
Telida School, Telida	8	1	0	1
Tenakee Springs School, Tenakee Springs	3	0	2	1
Thome Bay School, Thome Bay	35	14	8	13
Ticasuk Brown Elem. School, Fairbanks	0	1	1	5
Togiak School, Togiak	17	0	19	5
Trapper Creek School, Trapper	10	2	23	10
Tustumena Elem. School, Kaslof	16	5	11	14
Unalakleet Schools, Unalakleet	34	19	23	23
University Park School, Fairbanks	121	17	62	78
Upper Katskag Elem., Katskag	26	0	1	3
Valdez High School, Valdez	15	2	21	1
Valley Park Elem. School, Ketchikan	137	8	11	24
Verstovia Elem. School, Sitka	10	3	2	5
Wade Northway School, Northway	2	3	2	10
Wendler Junior High, Anchorage	84	44	255	56
White Cliff Elem., Ketchikan	18	1	2	3
White Mountain School, White Mountain	17	5	2	7
Willow Elem. School, Willow	39	26	34	30
Wunder Park Elem., Anchorage	120	42	74	145
Zacher Levi Elem. School, Lower Katskag	8	2	20	16
	3914	1477	3035	2872
Total	11298			

House State Affairs Committee Testimony on  
HB 239 "An Act Declaring the Dragonfly as the Official State Insect"

Testimony on 3-23-95 from :

Auntie Mary Nicoli Elem. School in Aniak  
P.O. Box 29  
Aniak AK 99557

Teacher: Ruth Bradford

Students: Rainy Diehl, 8th Grade  
Deidre Bush, 8th Grade  
Derek Aluia, 7th Grade  
Bruck Clift, 7th Grade  
Rachael Boelens, 7th Grade  
Andrea Gusty, 6th Grade  
Dana Diehl, 6th Grade  
Melanie Matter, 5th Grade

Thank You very much for this opportunity to testify

*These students will  
testify tomorrow 3-23-95  
at 8:00 AM  
in State Affairs*



## COMMENTS MADE BY STUDENTS ABOUT THE ELECTION

Fred Ipalook Elementary, Barrow: The 5th grade surveyed the whole school to get our total vote.

Chiniak School: Our kids are mostly afraid of bumblebees. Dragonflies are common on our beaches.

Blackwell School, Anvik: Thank you for sharing with us.

Campbell Elementary, Anchorage: We enjoyed participating.

Andreafski High School and Elicarvicuar Elementary, St. Mary's: We enjoyed this project. The students in grades 5 and 6 campaigned for the four different insects. They made a presentation to grades Kindergarten through grade four.

Sand Point School, Sandpoint: We had a nice election. 88% of the student body voted. We made slogans: Vote for the humble bee, just remember where your honey comes from!  
Vote for someone you know, vote for the mosquito!

Glacier Valley Student Council: We held a school vote. Thank you for making us a part of your project.

Port Protection School: I think the Dragonfly should be the state insect because it has compound eyes to see far and it can fly all sorts of directions and can hover. My personal reason is because it eats small insects like mosquitoes. Mosquitoes bug me a lot. Anthony Dallas.

Beluga School, Beluga: Thank you for letting us participate.

Main Elementary, Kodiak: We had almost 100% participation and our students are very excited to find out the results.

Valdez High School: Thanks for letting u. have input.

### Cooper Landing student notes:

I like the dragonfly because they are useful and look neat. Austin

I chose the 4 Spot dragonfly because they eat the nasty bugs and are pretty. Terrin H.

Dragonflies keep the insect population down and they do not hurt people. Jeremy Ellis

**Aniak Schools: Comments by the Dragonfly Lobby Team members:**

The dragonfly has been around since prehistoric times. They outlived the dinosaurs which shows that Alaska has a history of more than just snow and ice.

by Bruck Clift, 7th grade

The dragonfly is quite unique because it is colorful and larger than most flying insects. Unfortunately there are not enough to destroy all the mosquitoes in rural Alaska!

by Rainy Diehl, 8th grade

I voted for the dragonfly because I don't like mosquitoes. During the summer Alaska is a beautiful place to be. It would be even better with **FEWER MOSQUITOES!**

by Dana Diehl, 6th grade

I fly high, I'm a Four Spot Skimmer Dragonfly,  
Watch me soar through the sky,  
I represent Alaska, cause I'm an awesome guy.  
I'll eat mosquitoes, 'til the day I die.

by Deidre Bush, 8th grade

I like the mosquito but it is a pest,  
All it does is bite you.  
I like the dragonfly  
It eats the pests.  
Dragonflies represent Alaska the best.

by Rachael Boelens, 7th grade

The dragonfly is long, slender, and graceful. It eats mosquitoes and was the choice of most Alaskan students. I believe the dragonfly deserves to be our state insect.

by Andrea Gusty, 6th grade

Winter in Alaska is **COLD**. Any insect as big and beautiful as the dragonfly that can survive Alaska's cold deserves to be the state insect.

by Derek Aluia, 7th grade

The committee and I worked hard on this project. We stuffed hundreds of envelopes, counted votes, baked, earned money for postage and the lobby team trip to Juneau. We're not about to stop working until the dragonfly is the official state insect!

by Melanie Matter, 5th grade.

DRAGONFLY LOBBY TEAM  
Auntie Mary Nicoli Elementary School  
P.O. Box 26  
Aniak, AK 99557

Representative Irene Nicholia  
State Capital  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Nicholia:

We are the members of the Dragonfly Lobby Team from Aniak, Alaska. There are eight students on our team, ranging from fifth to eighth grades. Our insect team coach is Ruth Bradford and our science teacher is Larry Bradford. We have worked on this project, along with many other students, since 1992 when we requested nominations, to the present, in our quest for an official state insect for Alaska. As you can see from the enclosed information, we were as busy as mosquitoes, and as determined as dragonflies to work out every detail. Now that the votes are in, we are asking your help in bringing the Four Spot Dragonfly before the State Congress for a vote.

The eight members of our lobby team, coach, and chaperone are planning a trip to Juneau in April or May to lobby for the proposed dragonfly. The members of the team have earned money to pay for the trip and are looking forward to seeing our legislators at work. It is our hope that we could present our proposal to a committee, or watch us it is presented on the floor. We need your help in determining a realistic timeline.

We sincerely appreciate your support.

Sincerely yours;

*Ruth Bradford*

Ruth Bradford, DLT Coach

*Larry Bradford*

Larry Bradford, Science Teacher

*Melvin Mattes*

Claudia Aluia, Chaperone

*Dana Diehl*

*Audrea Jesty*

*Bruce Clift*

*Derek Aluia*

*Rachael Brooks*

*Deeche Bush*

*Rainy Diehl*

enc: Adopt A State Insect  
Student comments

cc: Senator Georgeanna Lincoln  
Representative Gene Kubina