

MEA Abstract Submission Guidelines

Abstracts should be less than 300 words and submitted as a word document (.docx) using 10-point Arial font. Title is bolded and left aligned. Authors are on the next line and left aligned. First author should be listed by last name and first initial, other authors are listed by first initial and last name. Skip a line and begin abstract text with .5" indent, text is justified. Please see reference example below.

It Swims! Reviving Aquatic Entomology at Mississippi State University

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Aquatic Entomology is a higher-level course that is fairly common at state universities. Bridging the gaps between fisheries, entomology, and hydrology, these courses introduce students from various interests and backgrounds to entomology as both a basic and applied science. At Mississippi State, this course has not been taught in over a decade, as the faculty member that once taught it retired and was not replaced. The ethanol collection dried in storage. Pinned specimens collected dust and dermestids or were reallocated for other, more current, classes. In spring 2025, Aquatic Entomology joined the ranks as an official class again. With a persistent enrollment of 8 undergraduate and 2 graduate students, the taxonomy, ecology, and conservation value of aquatic insects was discussed and tested, and field trips to various habitats introduced students to the value of systems from wetlands to rivers to the simple roadside ditch. By making the content heavily applied and asking questions like "how does this impact farmers? What if a beaver comes along? And how would you tell a child what you know about mosquito hawks?" the students engaged with the content beyond the dated resources we had to work with in the teaching collection. The teaching collection is currently in restoration, aided by this semester's student projects and field trips, but a focus on why aquatic science matters will persist in future semesters.