

2011 HOUSE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

HB 1219

# 2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Political Subdivisions Committee  
Prairie Room, State Capitol

HB 1219  
January 21, 2011  
Job #13225

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to the designation of the ladybug as the official state insect.

## Minutes:

Testimony 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14

Chairman Johnson: Opened the hearing on HB 1219.

Rep. Froseth: (See testimony #1, 2). I was asked by Tamara McNeiley about a year ago to sponsor this bill. They had been researching insects and ND law on what our state trees and state emblems are and they discovered we don't have a state insect. They decided maybe the lady bug to be named the state insect. Read email from Dr. Janet Knodel (See testimony #3).

Rep. Klemin: Your amendment would actually take out the word lady bug completely and I think we all commonly refer to this insect as a lady bug regardless of whether it is actually a lady beetle so I am wondering if we did adopt the amendment as is the word lady bug will not be anywhere in our statute. Could we after the new language that you are proposing add the language such as commonly known as the lady bug? That way we would have the legal and common name on the bill. I noticed one of the documents we received from Dr. Arthur Evans (See testimony #4). He refers to the convergent lady beetle as hippodamia convergent, so I noticed that he too called it by its correct name and its common name. I think the word lady bug actually should be in it.

Rep. Froseth: That is a good idea and an amendment to add to this bill.

Jaden McNeiley: Second grade enrichment class. We are here to make the convergent lady beetle the state insect of North Dakota. You don't want a mosquito or grasshopper or a bee. A mesquite you can't even enjoy a barbeque or baseball game or a nice juicy steak. A grasshopper will just eat all the crops and a bee sting is very annoying. We are going green; we want to save our planet by using fewer pesticides on our fields and gardens. We are saving our planet because we want to live here for awhile and I am very proud of our state, but we need a state insect. I am very lucky to live in ND. Thank you.

Rep. Shirley Meyer: Do lady bug's bite?

Jaden McNeiley: Yes they will if you move too much, but it won't hurt.

Isabel Schwab: 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Class of Kenmare Enrichment Class. (See testimony #5)

Megan Zimmer: 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Class of Kenmare Enrichment Class (See testimony #6).

Logan Redding: 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Class of Kenmare Enrichment Class (See testimony #7).

Jaden McNeily: 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Class of Kenmare Enrichment Class (See testimony #8)

The students from Kenmare did two short songs which were very well done. One called farmers and ND song to urge a vote for a ND needs and insect so vote for a ladybug.

Karli Krantz: (See testimony #9)

Tamara McNeiley: Teacher at Kenmare, ND. Showed a video of topics that had not been discussed earlier by the children. It has been a learning experience with eight year olds when you ask an open ended question. You know how hard that is to do and they are only eight. We found out that ND does not have an insect and 42 states do. We have had positive remarks from all over the country. One in particular was Arthur Evans. His is a doctor of Entomology at the Smithsonian. He has been so helpful in assisting us and I agree with you about the name right so I agree with the term logy right. We have received letters of support from Janet Knodel. Robert Gordon who lives in Willow City is actually the guru of ladybeetles and he worked for the Smithsonian for 30 years and now is retired and living in ND. I called him up and I could use his name and he was very excited about this situation. He is the man who has written a 900 page document that all entomologists in the world look up to. We want a positive condemnation in ND so we are choosing an insect that people will smile when they look at this. We could actually market this and make it a neat thing for ND. Come to ND to live; it is a great place. Feel lucky here and feel part of this community that is what we are looking at. Because of the bug situation and no one knows what bug to have some states actually, 10 states, have a state insect and butterfly so they are already separating it into categories. That is what they are going toward now. This is just not another school introducing a bill. These are four children; we started out this unit that I brought up last year in the first grade. Now it turned into this massive learning experience about the insect itself and we didn't have a state insect and we learned about the governmental process and we proposed the bill so I am just employing you to take them seriously. Isn't this education is about. Isn't this the right of the people if they are eight or eighty to come forward to you and make a statement? This started as a mission and now it has become a dream. I want to introduce Daniel Waldstein.

Rep. Shirley Meyer: I want to thank you for being an outstanding teacher.

Rep. Zaiser: I would like to ask the five young people here if they might consider being honorary ambassadors for the state of ND. I think all five of you been really great.

Daniel Waldstein, Crop Protection Specialist, NDSU Extension Service: (See testimony #10). These students represent the future of ND. Who is to say 30, 40 or 50 years from now that one of these students may set in the seat you occupy today. When someone

asked how did you get your start in politics they can say it all began with the convergent lady beetle.

Rep. Koppelman: One of the children said the ladybug eminent a substance that doesn't smell good. A lot of us have noticed in the last few years that I think it is an Asian version of some sort really stinks when they get squashed. What is the difference? It is a difference response; a multi-colored Asian beetle is an introduced species from Asia and has become a nuisance.

Daniel Waldstein: The mutil-colored Asian lady beetle is an introduced species from Asian and has become a nuisance and that is a good case to be made why this particular species of lady beetle is a good choice. Not only is it native but it doesn't cause the same kind of problems that this multi-colored Asian lady beetle does.

Kari Krantz: They were wearing necklaces and we were going to have live lady bugs here today, but the company could not send them because it is too cold here. We raised them last year. I do apologize for that. This is from our local newspaper; a citizen legislature is only as good as the citizens that participate in it and here are four children who followed the correct procedure. Whether or not this bill passes their experience has a potential to inspire them to pursuits in education, public service and law making. These students are taking an active role in their citizenship all because of their fascination with this small red and black beetle. They have put their names and reputations in the public eyes and are stepping forward to risk making a small difference in their state government. I just want to thank you for your time.

Rep. Heilman: Is this the entire second grade class?

Kari Krantz: This is the enrichment class for higher end learning for reading and math.

Rep. Heilman: When I was young something for me was that I realized early about ND government was first the excess we have to our law makers and the fact that in ND every bill that is introduced gets a hearing and a vote and I think that is the neatest thing and I am so thankful you brought these young people to experience the process so thank you for being involved.

Rep. Beadle: I just want to have a personnel thank you for the fact that with the last name Beatle growing up often got some teasing so I would like to thank you for bringing the word beetle back up in a positive light.

Opposition: None

Neutral:

Rep. Nelson: As the legislative token entomologist I would like to thank the children for bringing this to the state legislature. I thought I would simply testify in a neutral position. I was very happy to see that Jaden's t shirt actually does have the Convergent Lady beetle on it. I was happy that they changed the bill to this beetle because the original thing was the seven spotted lady beetle which is a European species. If you look at the convergent

Lady beetle there are those two white lines that come together and that is the field identification and that is how you tell it. Any artist would have to be carefully to get those lines or it would be a different species. The Lady beetles are all members of the family of Coccinellidae which means scarlet, which comes back to that red color. (See handout #11) The Ladybug does have an advantage because it is a favorite among children and everyone can identify with it and it doesn't bit you but they do give off that bad smell. We do have the Asian beetle which is causing problems in much of the US because they are a predator of the soy bean aphid and after that developed in the US fairly recently and exploded in population then the Asian beetle showed up on its own and it produces a very high population in many areas and it has the habit that we don't like. It wants to move into the house in the winter time.

Rep. Forseth: I think it should be stated commonly known as a lady bug because as you heard there are about 500 species of Lady beetles out there.

Chairman Johnson: I would like to thank the young people from Kenmare for their testimony. We appreciate that and we hope you had a good experience down here at the legislature.

Additional handouts 12, 13 & 14.

Hearing closed.

# 2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

House Political Subdivisions Committee  
Prairie Room, State Capitol

HB 1219  
January 27, 2011  
Job # 13556

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature



## Minutes

Chairman Johnson: reopened the hearing on HB 1219. We have one amendment to put the correct scientific name on the bill.

Rep. Klemin: We had an amendment that was proposed by Rep. Forseth to correct name for the lady bug. What I was proposing to do is at the end of his amendment add the words commonly known as a ladybug.

Motion Made to move the amendment by Rep. Shirley Meyer: Seconded by Rep. Hatelstad:

Voice Vote Carried.

Do Pass As Amended Motion Made by Rep. Hatelstad: Seconded by Rep. Mock:

Vote: 12 Yes 0 No 2 Absent Carrier: Rep. Beadle

Hearing closed.

11.0106.01002  
Title.

Prepared by the Legislative Council staff for  
Representative Froseth  
January 20, 2011

#2

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1219

Page 1, line 7, replace "ladybug, coccinella septempunctata" with "convergent lady beetle,  
hippodamia convergens"

Renumber accordingly

Date: 1-27-11  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. HB 219

House Political Subdivisions Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken  Do Pass  Do Not Pass  Amended  Adopt  
Amendment

Rerefer to Appropriations  Reconsider

Motion Made By Rep Mock Seconded By Rep Hatelstad

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Nancy Johnson			Rep. Kilichowski		
Vice Chairman Hatelstad			Rep. Shirley Meyer		
Rep. Beadle			Rep. Mock		
Rep. Devlin			Rep. Zaiser		
Rep. Heilman					
Rep. Klemin					
Rep. Koppelman					
Rep. Kretschmar					
Rep. Maragos					
Rep. Pietsch					

Total (Yes) \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Floor Assignment \_\_\_\_\_

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

*Change name + lady bug.*

*Voice Vote  
carried!*

January 27, 2011

VR  
1/28/11

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1219

Page 1, line 7, replace "ladybug, coccinella septempunctata" with "convergent lady beetle, hippodamia convergens, commonly known as a ladybug"

Renumber accordingly

Date: 1-27-11  
Roll Call Vote #: 2

2011 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1219

House Political Subdivisions Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken  Do Pass  Do Not Pass  Amended  Adopt  
Amendment

Rerefer to Appropriations  Reconsider

Motion Made By Rep. Hatelstad Seconded By Rep. Mock

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Nancy Johnson			Rep. Kilichowski		
Vice Chairman Hatelstad			Rep. Shirley Meyer		
Rep. Beadle			Rep. Mock		
Rep. Devlin			Rep. Zaiser		
Rep. Heilman					
Rep. Klemin					
Rep. Koppelman					
Rep. Kretschmar					
Rep. Maragos					
Rep. Pietsch					

Total (Yes) 12 No 0

Absent 2

Floor Assignment Rep. Beadle

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1219: Political Subdivisions Committee (Rep. N. Johnson, Chairman)** recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (12 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1219 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 1, line 7, replace "ladybug, coccinella septempunctata" with "convergent lady beetle, hippodamia convergens, commonly known as a ladybug"

Renumber accordingly

2011 SENATE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

HB 1219

# 2011 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Senate Political Subdivisions Committee  
Red River Room, State Capitol

HB1219  
March 8, 2011  
14969

Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

*Mary Jo Wocken*

## Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

Relating to the designation of the ladybug as the official state insect.

## Minutes:

You may make reference to "attached testimony."

**Chairman Andrist** opened the committee hearing on HB1219, relating to the designation of the ladybug as the official state insect.

**Representative Froseth.** District 6, all of Bottineau, Renville, and the north half of Ward County. Prime Sponsor and in support of HB1219. See written testimony.

**Senator Dotzenrod:** In your testimony you said that North Dakota will be the only state that has it right. Are you referring to the scientific name for the beetle that's in this bill, is different than the other states who has just said generic lady bug or something like that?

**Representative Froseth:** Yes. I went to the Legislative Council and said I have a group of students who want to bring a bill in to name the lady bug our official insect. The Legislative Council just went on line and got a name of a ladybug and placed it in the bill. That was not a species that is native to North America and prevalent in North Dakota. The students did some research on it and with the help of couple entomologists they suggested this name was one that is a native species to North America and also found in ND and does a lot of good things for crops. This is an amended version, as we amended the proper name in the bill.

**Senator Olafson:** Was part of your motivation for introducing the bill to help educate the children on the importance of the legislative process? **Representative Froseth:** Yes. This all started about one year ago when Mrs. McNeiley, called and asked if I could come up and visit with their group about a possibility of sponsoring a piece of legislation. I agreed and they had this idea. It's a great idea and I will get the bill drafted and sponsored. He explained the process they would have to go through and this is about the second step in the process. The bill passed in the House in January. I told them it is a long process, to be diligent and have their homework done and they were all fired up and assured us they would. They are definitely ready. It is a learning experience for the students and this is good example of a state insect which is good for the state. It is an adequate item to add to our list of state motto's and species and slogans.

**Jaden McNeiley:** From the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Enrichment class in Kenmare. Support of HB 1219. See written testimony.

**Senator Dotzenrod:** In determining that the state insect should be the ladybug, was there any other competition, that you thought of, that would compete with the ladybug. Was there never any question? **Jaden McNeiley:** We thought someone would compete with it, but other than that, there was nothing else but the ladybug.

**Senator Olafson:** Have you learned something about how bills get passed in the Legislature and are you interested in running for the Legislature someday, perhaps when Representative Froseth retires? **Jaden McNeiley:** Oh yes!

**Isabel Schwab:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Enrichment class, Kenmare. Support of HB 1219. See written testimony.

**Senator Judy Lee:** What do they do in the winter? Do they hibernate or do they fly south for the winter? **Isabel Schwab:** They hibernate. When it warms up, they come out.

**Megan Zimmer:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Enrichment class, Kenmare. Support of HB1219. See written testimony.

**Logan Redding:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Enrichment class, Kenmare. Support of HB 1219. See written testimony.

**Senator Dotzenrod:** The convergent lady beetle is more beneficial. Are all lady bugs beneficial? Don't they all eat aphids and other insects or is there something about the convergent that makes it different than the other? **Jaden McNeiley:** Mostly our lady bugs eat aphids. **Senator Dotzenrod:** Are there some that are native to the area, but this particular species is native to North Dakota. **Jaden:** Yes. **Senator Dotzenrod:** Has the convergent lady bug been harmed or hurt by any of these other ladybugs introduced into the state. **Jaden McNeiley:** No. **Senator Olafson:** Do you and your fellow students feel you've learned a lot more about the Animal Kingdom? Have you learned a lot about the Animal Kingdom in general, and just not about ladybugs? **Jaden McNeiley:** Yes.

**Karli Krantz:** 5<sup>th</sup> grade Bismarck: Support of HB 1219. See written testimony.

Students from Kenmare gave a short presentation of poster material on the lady bug beetle. They also sang a song about the insect written by Megan Zimmer (Farmers, Farmers).

**Tamara McNeiley:** Teacher of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade enrichment class, Kenmare, ND. This all started a year and a half ago. We do units every year, so I always try to find a cute unit to do. We chose ladybugs to do, because they are so cute. We colored them, we learned about them and when we were learning we found out that North Dakota does not have a state insect. We also found out that 42 other states do have a state insect. From all the information that we learned the children decided, that we should venture into looking how to make the state insect the ladybug. From there we contacted Representative Froseth, and talked to him about this possibility. He came and met with our kids at school several times and explained to us what the process would be and he told us you can't just come to the state capital and say it's cute. Nowhere, in our presentation did you realize that we didn't

say that, because of the fact that we're basing this all on fact not our opinion. We found out that they are so vital to our environment. We have had phone calls from entomologists across the United States, one of them being Arthur Evans, from the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.. He is the one that brought to our attention that if North Dakota would get their act together, and get the right name of the species that is native to North Dakota and North America we would be the first state to get a state insect that has the correct name that is native to North America. All of the other ladybugs, 6 states have it, have been introduced from Asia, Africa, or Europe. Some of them are a nuisance. We wanted to make sure in all of our testimony that people understood that we're choosing a lady bug that is good for our environment and good for North Dakota both. I also talked to Robert Gordon who now lives in Willow City. He is a renowned entomologist, who wrote a 700 page document on the lady beetle. A true entomologist knows that the term lady bug is the slang terminology for lady beetle. He thought that the convergent lady beetle *Hippodamia convergens* would be the perfect lady bug to use for our state because of the fact that it is native to our environment and it is helpful to the things that are in our environments like forests and gardens and farming. Eight states do not have state insects, one of them being North Dakota. All bugs have something that people don't like, so we chose a bug that was vital to our environment. One of the things we've learned in this whole process is that we are trying to do a positive thing for our state but some people can turn that into a negative thing. We've had some criticism, so that has been an eye opener. We have also heard that editor's have said this is a waste of taxpayer money. (Example cited). This is just not another school introducing a bill. We all have a voice in our government. We need to listen to that. That's why we're living in America and why we're here. We have a voice in our government. This process allows our children to decide something for their future. Isn't that what education is all about. It sparks their imagination and lets them go from there. A citizen legislature is only as good as the citizens who participate in it. In here are four children who followed the correct procedure. These students are taking an active role in their citizenship all because of their fascination with the red and black beetle. They have put their names and reputations in the public eye, and are stepping forward to risk making a difference in their state government. We had a cute insect unit that turned into a mission, filled with hope, to convince everyone that this would be the right thing to do for our state. This mission now has now turned into a dream of four eight year old children.

**Senator Olafson:** Mrs. McNeiley I just really admire what you've done here. I think your teaching the kids about the legislative process, but you're also teaching them about doing research, getting your facts straight, presenting your case, and I think that will serve them well as they go forward in life. You've given them the basics for becoming leaders, and I commend you for that. **Mrs. McNeiley:** Thank you. **Chairman Andrist:** I like to make this observation. But I really regret that this is the only bill that I have ever heard in twenty years where I really regret that everybody in the body could not have been present for the presentation. **Mrs. McNeiley:** Yes, we have talked about that. **Chairman Andrist:** This is a demonstration for us.

**Senator Dotzenrod:** Mrs. McNeiley, you used the word respect. There is some respect for what this insect does. You should know there is a lot of respect in the farming community for the ladybug. The growth of the soybean crop in this state has been phenomenal; Cass County is now the largest soybean county in the nation. Richland County is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest and aphids have become a real problem. One question is how many lady beetles are out

there. The crop consultants refer to them as 'beneficial', and the lady bug is the leading insect in that group. If the beneficial numbers are high, quite often we will decide not to spray insecticide because you're going to kill the ladybeetles along with the bad bugs. So if you have a large population in the field of these lady beetles, you probably will decide to either put off spraying or not spray because we recognize that these beneficial are working every day while they still are benefiting that crop. You are right about the respect in agricultural for the work the lady beetle does. You made a wise choice.

**Mrs. McNeiley:** That was one of our main concerns is that people don't know that. That is what we are getting at about educating the public. There are five letters of support from the NDSU Extension, entomologists from Bottineau State College, and of course from the Smithsonian Institute. We did have Dan Waldstein from NDSU Extension service in Minot who could not be here today because of such short notice.

**Senator Judy Lee:** But the students should not only be proud of the hard work they have done in a factual way, of course Mrs. McNeiley as their teacher, but I think their parents of these students really need to be commended because we've got kids with good North Dakota values doing good work in school, will be wonderful future leaders no matter what. Kudos to the parents! **Mrs. McNeiley:** And a desire to learn. That comes from home and that is why we say we feel lucky to live in North Dakota. Connotation;" We want to market the state". 3 minute video concluded the presentation.

**Chairman Andrist:** Support, Opposition, Neutral position for HB 1219.

Hearing closed on HB 1219.

Motion for Do Pass: Senator Olafson

2<sup>nd</sup>: Senator Laffen

5 Yeas, 0 No, 0 Absent

Carrier: Senator Olafson



**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**HB 1219, as engrossed: Political Subdivisions Committee (Sen. Andrist, Chairman)**  
recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).  
Engrossed HB 1219 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar.

2011 TESTIMONY

HB 1219



# NORTH DAKOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL  
600 EAST BOULEVARD  
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



#1

Representative Glen Froseth  
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COMMITTEES:  
Finance and Taxation  
Government and Veterans Affairs

## Testimony HB 1219

Chairman Johnson and members of the House Political Subs Committee, for the record, I am Rep. Glen Froseth of district 6. I would like to present HB 1219 in behalf of a group of second graders and their teacher Tammy McNeiley, and I urge your favorable consideration.

HB 1219 will name the Lady Bug as North Dakota's state insect. North Dakota is one of only 5 states that does not have a state insect, so this bill will put our name on record as joining those other 47 states with the distinction of having a state insect.

HB 1219 needs to be amended, however, as when I had this bill drafted, I knew very little about the Lady Bug and later discovered the wrong species is named on the bill. The species named on the bill is not native to North America, and the species named on the amendment (convergent lady beetle, *Hippodamia convergens*), is native to North America and is a common, distinctive, and widespread species also found in North Dakota. I urge the committee to make this change and approve the amendment.

I don't want to take a lot of the committee's time as you will hear excellent testimony from the students and teacher, who have studied and researched this issue for more than a year.

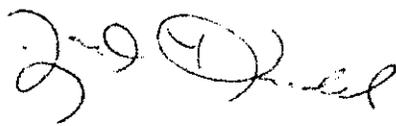
Thank you for your consideration and again, I urge your support for HB1151.

*Entomology*

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To: Legislators of North Dakota  
Subject: Official State Insect of North Dakota  
From: Dr. Janet J. Knodel, Extension Entomologist, NDSU



Lady beetles belong to the beetle family Coccinellidae. Over 450 species of lady beetles are found in North America and 54 species in North Dakota. Lady beetles are among the most visible and well-known beetles. Most lady beetles are beneficial insects that prey on other insects and help control many important insect pests that cause yield losses to agricultural crops grown in North Dakota. Lady beetles are voracious feeders and fed on aphids and other soft-bodied arthropods (caterpillars, thrips, mites), insect eggs, as well as nectar and pollen. Some adult lady beetles can eat up to 200 aphids per day! Although the impacts of any one species of lady beetles may be minor, the combined impact of many ladybeetles, other insect predators and parasitoids can be considerable and help keep injurious insect pests below economically damaging levels.

The convergent lady beetle (*Hippodamia convergens*) is one of the best known and most common lady beetles native to North America. This lady beetle has the typical bright black spots on red wing covers and white lines that converge behind the head. The number of spots can vary from 13 to only a few. Aphids (pea aphids, soybean aphids, melon aphids, or potato aphids) are its favorite food and these aphids are found on pea, alfalfa, potatoes, soybeans, beans, cole crops, and other crops attacked by aphids. Conserving field populations of lady beetles is important and can be achieved by minimizing the use of broad-spectrum insecticides, providing refuges for shelter and overwintering, and following Integrated Pest Management guidelines for insect control.



R. Ottens, UGA, Bugwood.org 1

As the state Extension Entomologist of NDSU, I support the proposed legislation of having the convergent lady beetle as the official state insect of North Dakota. It is a beneficial insect that helps North Dakota agriculture by suppressing harmful insect pests!

Legislative Assembly of North Dakota  
State Capitol  
600 East Boulevard  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0360

#4

January 21, 2011

To the Honorable Members of the Legislative Assembly of North Dakota,

I am an entomologist who specializes in the study of beetles. I am writing in support of House Bill 1219 to designate the convergent lady beetle, *Hippodamia convergens*, as the official state insect of North Dakota. This species is a familiar and conspicuous ladybug that is native to North America and widespread in North Dakota. Its designation as an official symbol acknowledges the importance of all insects to the Peace Garden State's citizens in general and recognizes the positive role of ladybugs and other beneficial insects in particular.

The convergent lady beetle preys on plant-feeding insects considered pests of gardens and crops. The presence of this and other beneficial insect predators and parasites helps to reduce pest populations and lessens our dependence upon the use of insecticides that could potentially harm wildlife and the environment.

Respectfully,

Dr. Arthur V. Evans  
1600 Nottoway Ave.  
Richmond, VA 23227  
arthurevans@verizon.net

Research Associate:

- Department of Entomology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC
- Department of Recent Invertebrates, Virginia Museum of Natural History, Martinsville, VA

Adjunct Professor:

- Department of Biology, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

Author:

- National Wildlife Federation Field Guide to Insects and Spiders of North America

ATTATCHMENTS #5 – 14 AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST (Color Copies)

# Convergent Ladybug Beetle

- While there are many species of Ladybugs, the Convergent Ladybug Beetle is the most common. Sometimes it is called a Ladybird Beetle.
- Although these insects are commonly called "ladybugs", they are members of the beetle order.
- The Ladybird Beetle is commonly called the Ladybug in America.
- This ladybug is native to North America and North Dakota!
- They are found just about anywhere, including forests, fields and garden.
- Convergent Ladybug Beetles eat small insects with soft bodies. Their two most common victims are aphids and scale insects.
- They will sometimes drink nectar from flowers.
- Their larvae are black with orange spots. They immediately begin feeding on insects.
- A female ladybug will lay up to 500 eggs in her life.
- The entire lifespan of this beetle is only a few months.
- This beetle has few predators. Adults will also play dead.
- Convergent Ladybug Beetles are a great help to people. They eat tons of aphids and other pest insects which destroy our crops, trees and garden plants.
- There are many companies that even sell ladybugs to use as a natural pest control.
- Ladybugs are totally harmless to people!

# Good Insects

- Ladybugs are not only cute- they are useful.
- Not only is this insect viewed as pretty but it also functions as a controller of the bug population in our own backyards.
- Ladybugs live in everyone's backyard.
- They live in every state in the United States in many types of places and in any weather.
- In nearly all cultures, ladybugs are considered good luck.
- Most people like them because they are pretty, graceful and harmless to humans.
- Ladybugs would be a good way to market North Dakota.
- I feel "lucky" to live in North Dakota!!
- People link the sight of a ladybug with future luck in love, good weather, a financial windfall or the granting of wishes.
- How many of you are thinking of a ladybug and smiling right now?

# Interesting Facts

- If you filled a gallon jug it would hold about 72,000 ladybugs. This would be enough for about 10 acres of pest control.
- Ladybugs protect themselves by producing a chemical that smells and tastes terrible. This keeps its predators away.
- Ladybugs have some interesting means of protection. Their red or orange and black color warns birds that they would not make a tasty meal. Birds learn that insects that are red and black usually sting or taste bad and usually leave them alone.
- A ladybug can bite you but the bite won't hurt.
- The ladybug's spots fade as they get older.
- Their favorite food is aphids.
- The female is larger than the male.
- Ladybugs are NOT structure damaging pests like termites and carpenter ants.
- Ladybugs do NOT chew or make holes in walls or eat carpet or furniture.
- Worldwide there are nearly 5,000 different kinds of ladybugs of which 400 are found in North America.

# Impact on Farming and Gardening

- North Dakota is primarily a farming state.
- Ladybugs help farmers and gardeners by eating aphids, mites and other pests.
- Plants exhibiting aphid damage can have a variety of symptoms such as decreased growth rates and low yields.
- Farmers have used ladybugs for pest control since 1910.
- They can eat up to 80 aphids a day.
- Ladybugs will reduce the amount of pesticides used by farmers.
- Some people believe that if a ladybug has more than seven spots, then there will be a bad harvest. If it has less than seven, then there will be a good harvest.
- The Convergent Lady Beetle is one of the most useful beetles in its order and family. Since it is so effective for biological control and harmless to our crops, it is a major asset to U.S. agriculture.
- With increasing debate over insecticide spraying, the Convergent Lady Beetle provides a "natural" alternative for pest control, so it is essential that they thrive!

#8#9

Testimony on House Bill 1219  
January 21, 2011

Hello my name is Karli Krantz and I am ten years old. I would like to testify on the lady bug bill. I think the lady bug should be the state insect because there are a lot of lady bugs in ND and Bismarck. I also think the lady bug should be the state insect because it is the prettiest insect in ND. I am called "Bug" so that's another reason.

Here are some fast facts about Lady Bugs:

**Type:** Bug

**Diet:** Omnivore

**Average life span in the wild:** 2 to 3 years

**Size:** just under ½ inch

Here are 2 more facts about lady bugs:

1. Many people are fond of ladybugs because of their colorful, spotted appearance. But farmers love them for their appetite. Most ladybugs consume plant-eating insects such as aphids and in doing so they help to protect crops.
2. Ladybugs are also called lady beetles or in Europe, ladybird beetles.

I found my facts online.

I urge you to pass House Bill 1219. Thank you for your time.

<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/bugs/ladybug.html>

January 21, 2011

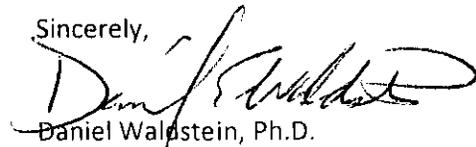
Distinguished Committee Members,

My name is Daniel Waldstein and I am a crop protection specialist working for North Dakota State University at the North Central Research Extension Center in Minot. We're here today to talk about insects. When many people think of insects, they think of bugs, a word with negative connotations. Even in our common vernacular, the phrase, "That bugs me!" associates insects with something that annoys us. As with many things in this world, there is a good side to go with the bad. Without too much effort we can think of some positive examples of insects, butterflies, for example and others that have a generally good reputation in the insect world. Right at the top of this list of beneficial insects is the lady beetle or lady bug as it is commonly referred to. These grade school students have chosen the convergent lady beetle, *Hippodamia convergens*, as a candidate for the state insect of North Dakota. I think they have made an excellent choice.

Many of us here today have ties either directly or indirectly with agriculture. The agriculture sector is the largest of the economic engines that drive North Dakota's economy. Since the days of Cain and Abel, farmers have struggled against crop pests. More recently, in the popular game show Family Feud, a survey said, "Name something that's disastrous for crops." After "cold" the most popular answer was "insects". How does this all relate to the convergent lady beetle? In addition to family gardens, many of the commonly grown crops of our state, wheat, soybeans, corn, alfalfa, field peas, potatoes, and others are attacked by a small green insect called an aphid. The convergent lady beetle is a voracious predator of these and other insect pests that can rob the economic productivity from our agricultural producers.

I've made the case as an entomologist why this bill should be passed. But as a fellow citizen of the great state of North Dakota, this debate is more important than the end goal, namely to make the convergent lady beetle the state insect. This process began with a group of grade school students who were motivated to make a difference. These students represent the future of North Dakota. Thirty, forty, or even fifty years from now, who's to say that one of these students may sit in the seat you occupy today. And when someone asks how did you get your start in politics, they can say it all began with the convergent lady beetle.

Sincerely,

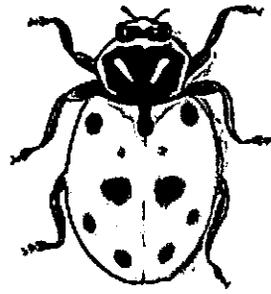


Daniel Waldstein, Ph.D.

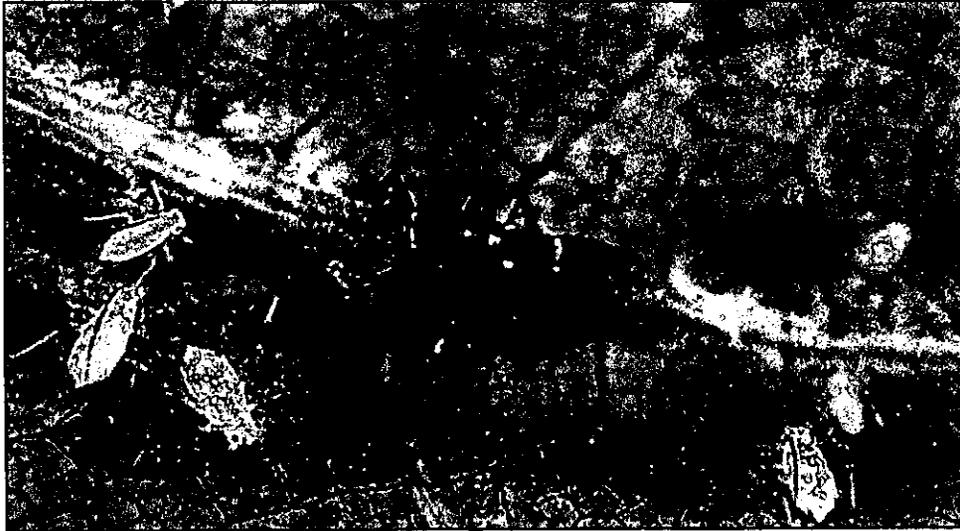
Crop Protection Specialist

NDSU Extension Service

HB 1219 #11



Convergent Ladybug adult (note lines)



larvae with aphids

Coccinellidae family (scarlet) also called Lady beetles or Ladybird beetles.

Ladybird, ladybird, fly away home  
Your house is on fire and your children are gone  
All except one, and that's Little Anne  
For she has crept under the warming pan.

Over 450 species in North America, over 5000 worldwide. Many are not red but are black or brown or grey.

“Lady” is the Virgin Mary in Germany they are “Mary beetles” the seven spots of the seven spotted ladybug (a European native) were said to represent the seven virtues.

Convergent Ladybug is a beneficial insect widely distributed in N. Am.

Both the adult and larvae eat aphids.

Gives off a foul odor when handled to protect itself.

Occasionally found in homes but not like the Asian Lady Beetle.

Could the ladybug be the North Dakota state insect?!

## **Kenmare Elem. 2nd Grade Enrichment Class**

REASONS WHY IT SHOULD BE THE STATE INSECT:

- North Dakota is one of 8 states that do not have an official state insect.
- North Dakota is primarily a farming state.
- Ladybugs help farmers by eating aphids, mites and other pests.
- Plants exhibiting aphid damage can have a variety of symptoms, such as decreased growth rates and low yields. Farmers have used ladybugs for pest control since 1910.
- Ladybugs can help reduce the amount of pesticides used by farmers.
- Ladybugs were sent into space in 1999 on NASA's space shuttle to see how aphids could get away from ladybugs without being able to jump in zero gravity. Ladybugs did very well in space!
- They live in every state in the United States in many types of places and in any weather.
- Ladybugs are well-known and well-liked by everyone.
- Ladybugs would put a "positive" connotation on the state of North Dakota.
- Nearly all cultures believe the ladybug to be lucky!
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- How many of you are thinking of a ladybug and smiling right now?



- Worldwide there are nearly 5,000 different kinds of ladybugs of which 400 are found in North America.
- When it flies a ladybug will flap its wings approximately 500 times a minute.
- In her lifetime a female ladybug will lay more than 1000 eggs.
- People chew up and down but ladybugs chew from side to side.
- If you filled a gallon jug it would hold about 72,000 to 80,000 ladybugs.
- Ladybugs protect themselves by producing a chemical that smells and tastes terrible, therefore, keeps birds and other predators away.
- The Convergent Lady Beetle will live up 1 year if the conditions are optimal.
- A lady bug can bite you but the bite will not hurt.
- The ladybug's spots will fade as they get older.
- When in hibernation, ladybugs survive by eating their own stored fat.
- Their favorite food is aphids.
- Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Tennessee have the ladybug as the official state insect.
- The female ladybug is usually larger than the male.
- If the temperature is below 55 degrees F you will not see lady bugs flying.
- Lady beetles are not structure-damaging pests, unlike insects such as termites and carpenter ants.
- Lady beetles do not chew or bore holes in walls or eat carpet or furniture.
- They do not lay their eggs in homes.

#### Ladybug Lore from Around the World

- At one time, doctors would mash up ladybugs and put them in a cavity to cure a toothache.
- Count the number of spots on a ladybug and that is how many dollars you will soon receive, if you find a ladybug in your house.
- The English believe finding a ladybug means that you will have a good harvest.
- The French believe if you are sick and a ladybug lands on you, when it flies away, it will take the sickness with it.
- You will have good luck if you find a ladybug in your house in the winter.
- The Swedish folks believe that if a ladybug lands on a young maiden's hand, she will soon be getting married.

\* If a ladybug has more than seven spots, then there will be a famine. If it has less than seven, then there will be a good harvest.



## NORTH DAKOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL  
600 EAST BOULEVARD  
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Representative Glen Froseth  
District 6  
P.O. Box 894  
Kenmare, ND 58746-0894  
Residence: 701-385-4811  
Business: 701-385-4275  
Cell: 701-217-0000  
[gfroseth@nd.gov](mailto:gfroseth@nd.gov)

**COMMITTEES:**  
Finance and Taxation  
Government and Veterans Affairs

## Testimony HB 1219

Chairman Andrist and members of the Senate Political Subs Committee, for the record, I am Rep. Glen Froseth of District 6. I would like to present HB 1219 in behalf of a group of second graders and their teacher Tammy McNeiley, and I urge your favorable consideration.

HB 1219 will name the convergent lady beetle, *Hippodamia convergens*, commonly known as the Lady Bug, as North Dakota's state insect. North Dakota is one of only 5 states that does not have a state insect, so this bill will put our name on record as joining those other 45 states with the distinction of having a state insect.

HB 1219 names the species of beetle that is native to North America and is a common, distinctive, and widespread species also found in North Dakota. Of the other states who have named the lady bug as the official insect, no other state has the right one, so by passing this bill, North Dakota will be the only state that has it right.

I don't want to take much of the committee's time as you will hear excellent testimony from the students and teacher, who have studied and researched this issue for more than a year.

Thank you for your consideration and again, I urge your support for HB1219.

*Entomology*  
NDSU Dept. 7650  
202A Hultz Hall  
P.O. Box 6050  
Fargo, ND 58108-6050

To: Legislators of North Dakota  
Subject: Official State Insect of North Dakota  
From: Dr. Janet J. Knodel, Extension Entomologist, NDSU



Lady beetles belong to the beetle family Coccinellidae. Over 450 species of lady beetles are found in North America and 54 species in North Dakota. Lady beetles are among the most visible and well-known beetles. Most lady beetles are beneficial insects that prey on other insects and help control many important insect pests that cause yield losses to agricultural crops grown in North Dakota. Lady beetles are voracious feeders and fed on aphids and other soft-bodied arthropods (caterpillars, thrips, mites), insect eggs, as well as nectar and pollen. Some adult lady beetles can eat up to 200 aphids per day! Although the impacts of any one species of lady beetles may be minor, the combined impact of many ladybeetles, other insect predators and parasitoids can be considerable and help keep injurious insect pests below economically damaging levels.

The convergent lady beetle (*Hippodamia convergens*) is one of the best known and most common lady beetles native to North America. This lady beetle has the typical bright black spots on red wing covers and white lines that converge behind the head. The number of spots can vary from 13 to only a few. Aphids (pea aphids, soybean aphids, melon aphids, or potato aphids) are its favorite food and these aphids are found on pea, alfalfa, potatoes, soybeans, beans, cole crops, and other crops attacked by aphids. Conserving field populations of lady beetles is important and can be achieved by minimizing the use of broad-spectrum insecticides, providing refuges for shelter and overwintering, and following Integrated Pest Management guidelines for insect control.



R. Ottens, UGA, Bugwood.org 1

As the state Extension Entomologist of NDSU, I support the proposed legislation of having the convergent lady beetle as the official state insect of North Dakota. It is a beneficial insect that helps North Dakota agriculture by suppressing harmful insect pests!

January 21, 2011

Distinguished Committee Members,

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Sincerely,

Daniel Waldstein, Ph.D.  
Crop Protection Specialist  
NDSU Extension Service

| Share

# Daniel Waldstein

Area Extension Specialist/Crop Protection



Tel. (701) 857-7682  
Cell (701) 720-0653  
Fax (701) 857-7676  
daniel.waldstein@ndsu.edu

Dr. Daniel Waldstein joined the North Central Research Extension Center September 2009 serving as the Area Extension Specialist/Crop Protection. Dan received his B.S. Degree from Minnesota State University, Mankato and his Ph.D. from Cornell University in Entomology.

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## Rules for Use





Testimony on House Bill 1219  
March 4, 2011

Hello my name is Karli Krantz. I am ten years old and I'm in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade in Bismarck.

I would like to testify on the lady bug bill. I think the lady bug should be the state insect because there are a lot of lady bugs in ND and Bismarck. I also think the lady bug should be the state insect because it is the prettiest insect in ND. I am called "Bug" so that's another reason.

Here are some fast facts about Lady Bugs:

**Type:** Bug

**Diet:** Omnivore

**Average life span in the wild:** 2 to 3 years

**Size:** just under ½ inch



Here are 2 more facts about lady bugs:

1. Many people are fond of ladybugs because of their colorful, spotted appearance. But farmers love them for their appetite. Most ladybugs consume plant-eating insects such as aphids and in doing so they help to protect crops.

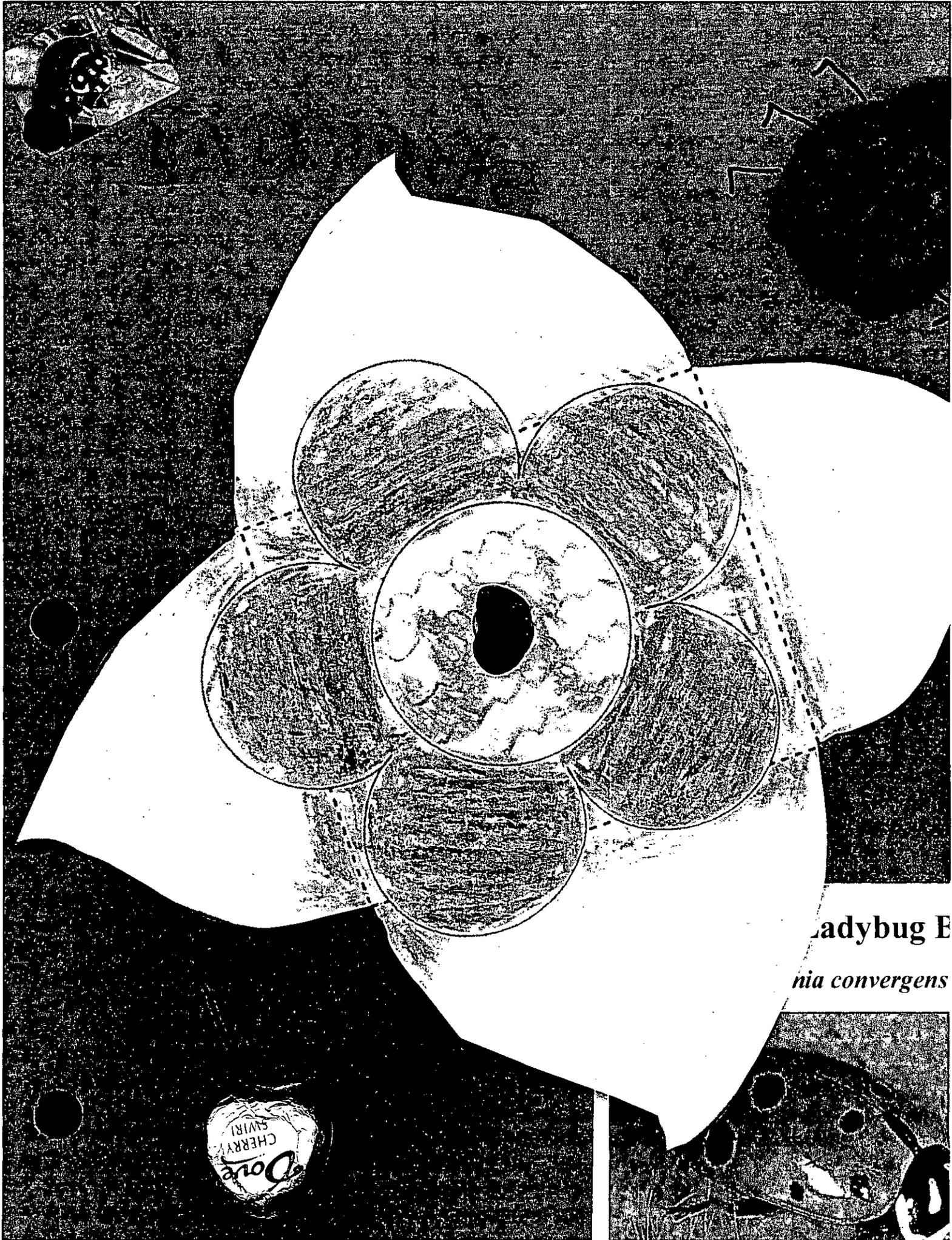
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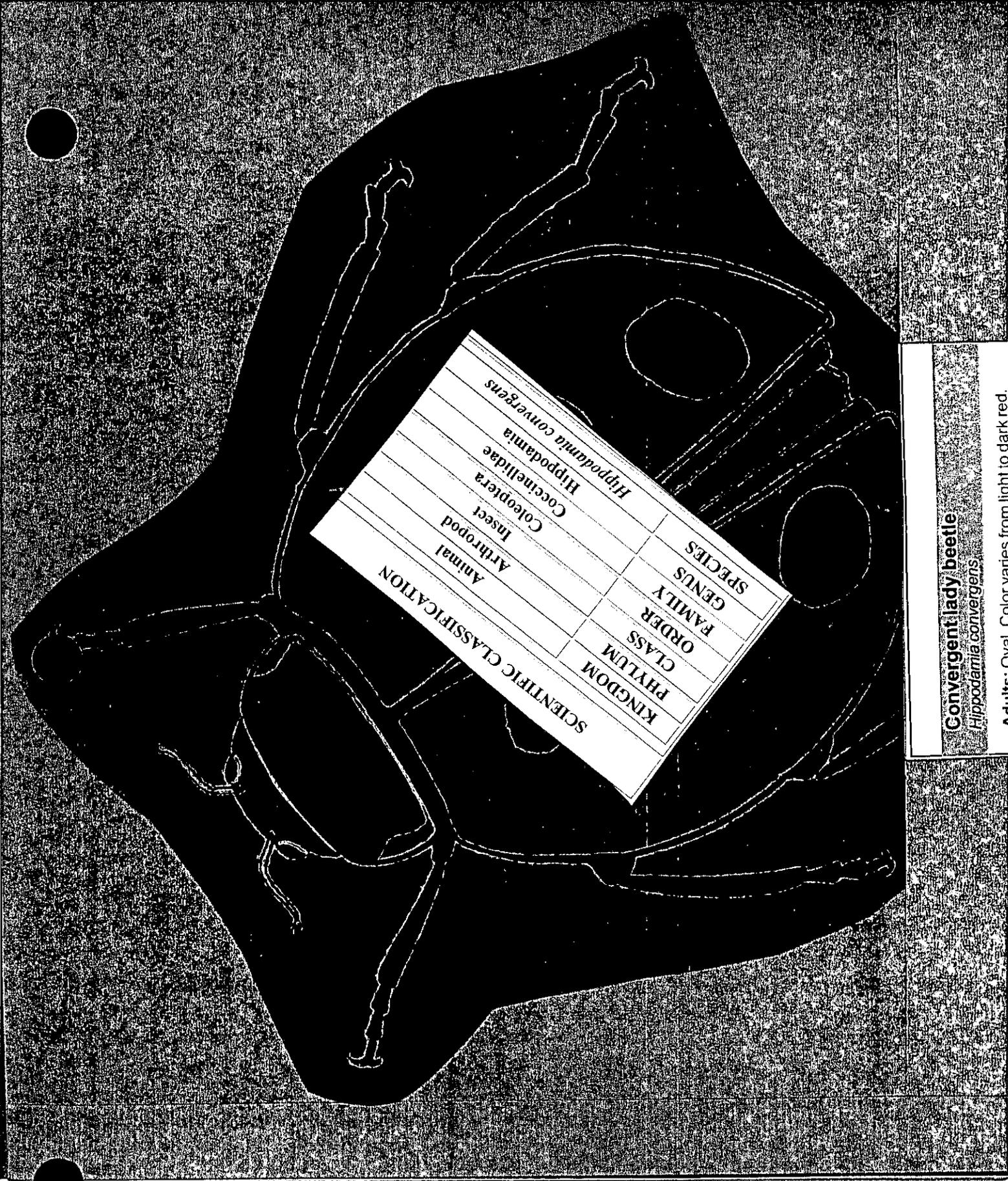
I urge you to pass House Bill 1219. Thank you for your time.



<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/bugs/ladybug.html>



Ladybug E  
*nia convergens*



SCIENTIFIC CLASSIFICATION	
KINGDOM	Animal
PHYLUM	Arthropod
CLASS	Insect
ORDER	Coleoptera
FAMILY	Coccinellidae
GENUS	<i>Hippodamia</i>
SPECIES	<i>Hippodamia convergens</i>

**Convergent lady beetle**

*Hippodamia convergens*

A. Duttle • Oval Color varies from light to dark red.

# Ladybug



Ladybugs, ladybirds, or lady beetles—whatever one calls them—are favored by farmers as voracious pest-eaters.

*Photograph by Raul Touzon*

Many people are fond of ladybugs because of their colorful, spotted appearance. But farmers love them for their appetite. Most ladybugs voraciously consume plant-eating insects, such as aphids, and in doing so they help to protect crops. Ladybugs lay hundreds of eggs in the colonies of aphids and other plant-eating pests. When they hatch, the ladybug larvae immediately begin to feed. By the end of its three-to-six-week life, a ladybug may eat some 5,000 aphids.

Jaden McNeiley

# Impact on Farming, Gardening and Forestry

- North Dakota is primarily a farming state.
- Ladybugs help farmers, gardeners and foresters by eating aphids, mites and other pests.
- Ladybugs are more than just pretty visitors to our backyard gardens. Fields with aphids become a haven for lady beetles because each crop brings a full-course meal!
- In this way, farmers and ladybugs have a mutual relationship.
- Plants exhibiting aphid damage can have a variety of symptoms such as decreased growth rates and low yields.
- Farmers have used ladybugs for pest control since 1910.
- They can eat up to 80 aphids a day.
- Ladybugs will reduce the amount of pesticides used by farmers.
- Some people believe that if a ladybug has more than seven spots, then there will be a bad harvest. If it has less than seven, then there will be a good harvest.
- The Convergent Lady Beetle is one of the most useful beetles in its order and family. Since it is so effective for biological control and harmless to our crops, it is a major asset to U.S. agriculture.
- With increasing debate over insecticide spraying, the Convergent Lady Beetle provides a "natural" way for pest control, so it is essential that they thrive!

Isabel Katherine Schusab

# Convergent Lady Beetle

- While there are many species of Ladybugs, the Convergent Lady Beetle is the most common. Sometimes it is called a Ladybird Beetle.
- Although these insects are commonly called "ladybugs", they are members of the beetle order.
- The Ladybird Beetle is commonly called the Ladybug in America.
- This ladybug is native to North America and North Dakota!
- They are found just about anywhere, including forests, fields and gardens.
- Convergent Lady Beetles eat small insects with soft bodies. Their two most common victims are aphids and scale insects.
- They will sometimes drink nectar from flowers.
- Their larvae are black with orange spots. They immediately begin feeding on insects.
- The wings called elytra, are red or orange with black spots.
- A female ladybug will lay up to 500 eggs in her life.
- The entire lifespan of this beetle is only a few months.
- This beetle has few predators.
- Convergent Lady Beetles are a great help to people. They eat tons of aphids and other pest insects which destroy our crops, trees and garden plants.
- There are many companies that even sell ladybugs to use as a natural pest control.
- Ladybugs are totally harmless to people!

# Megan Zimmer

## Good Insects

- Ladybugs are not only cute- they are useful.
- Not only is this insect viewed as pretty but it also functions as a controller of the bug population in our own backyards, fields and forests.
- Ladybugs live in everyone's backyard.
- There are 54 species of the Ladybug living in North Dakota.
- My Dad is a farmer and he relies heavily on their eating habits. This is because crops are not bug-free.
- While the ladybugs feast on the aphids my Dad has an easy way of protecting his crops, using less pesticide and making money!!
- Ladybugs live in every state in the United States in many types of places and in any weather.
- In nearly all cultures, ladybugs are considered good luck.
- Most people like them because they are pretty, graceful and harmless to humans.
- Ladybugs would be a good way to market North Dakota.
- I feel "lucky" to live in North Dakota!!!
- People link the sight of a ladybug with future luck in love, good weather, a financial windfall or the granting of wishes.
- How many of you are thinking of a ladybug and smiling right now?

# Logan Redding

## Interesting Facts

- If you filled a gallon jug it would hold about 72,000 ladybugs. This would be enough for about 10 acres of pest control.
- Ladybugs protect themselves by producing a chemical that smells and tastes terrible. This keeps its predators away.
- Ladybugs are actually beetles. A beetle is an insect that has biting mouth parts and a special hardened forewing that is called an Elytra.
- This beetle has few predators, because when attacked it releases a foul-tasting chemical from joints in its legs. A bird will try one, spit it out, and never mess with them again. Adults will also play dead.
- Their red, orange and black color warns birds that they would not make a tasty meal.
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[Home](#) / [News](#) / [Bismarck-Mandan News](#)

## Aphids leaving Bismarck in sticky situation

- [Story](#)
- [Discussion](#)

LAURA SCHREIER, Bismarck Tribune | Posted: Wednesday, July 28, 2004 7:00 pm | (0) Comments

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Cars parked under tree branches don't just have bird droppings to worry about this year.

Car owners who park under trees for too long this summer might come back to find their trusty automobiles covered in a sticky brown substance.

It's not syrup-wielding vandals that create the problem, but insects in the tree above. Bismarck's aphid population has been booming this year, said Assistant City Forrester Jeff Heitz.

The insects suck fluids from trees, but when they take more than they need, they secrete the excess sugary substance, called honeydew, dropping it onto sidewalks, cars and other objects below.

Aphids usually attach themselves to elm trees, he said, but this year a variety of tree species are hosting large populations of the insect.

"This year we're seeing them on everything," Heitz said, naming walnut, linden, beech and cottonwood as a few of the trees in question.

Ladybug larvae feed on aphids, usually keeping their numbers in check. But this year's below-average spring temperatures hurt the ladybug population, so aphids are enjoying a summer free-for-all. Adding to the problem is the aphids' quick reproduction rates.

Leonard Bullinger, owner of Bullinger Tree Service, said this is probably the worst year for aphid complaints in the past five summers. It's the honeydew that prompts most calls.

"A lot of them can't walk on the sidewalks because they just stick," he said.

Tree service companies like Bullingers' usually drill a hole in the tree and pump in chemicals to get rid of the insects. The tree's vascular system draws the chemicals up through the branches.

Aphids also can be discouraged through spraying, Bullinger said, but injections are better for the environment and won't wash off. The insects usually don't do much damage to the tree.

Heitz said the honeydew mess usually only lasts until a good rain can wash it away. The aphid problem isn't enough for a massive extermination procedure, merely an inconvenience.

"If we get frequent rains, it's enough," he said.

Home / News / Bismarck-Mandan News

## Sticky 'bug' is in the air

- Story
- Discussion

MARK HANSON, Bismarck Tribune | Posted: Monday, July 22, 2002 7:00 pm | (0) Comments

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The dry conditions burning up south central North Dakota also are making the aphids thirsty. You'll know just how thirsty by the number of times you have to rinse your windshield each day. Or if you touch the tacky sides of your vehicle. Or feel your feet stick to the sidewalk.

The sticky season is upon us as aphids are dripping honey dew from their perches. The fluid they suck from the leaves is primarily sugar, said Jeff Heintz, assistant city forester in Bismarck.

"They suck so much of it that it drips out of their body," Heintz said.

The aphid population is generally kept under control by rain, which knocks the little bugs off the leaves. Once they're on the ground, they generally can't make their way back up the tree.

"A couple of years back it was like this too," Heintz said.

When it's dry, aphids are busy drinking, dripping and reproducing. An aphid can reproduce after being alive for just seven days so numbers build quickly. They're most prevalent on Elm trees, but different types of aphids find homes on many types of trees, which they don't harm.

Heintz said to be patient - that nature will take its course, either with rain clearing off the trees or ladybugs and such reducing the aphid population.

Spraying trees may help a little, but some bugs are resistant to the insecticide and the offspring it produces also will be resistant. And in the process, you'll kill off the predators, such as ladybugs.

If you attempt to control the aphids, Heintz said a systemic insecticide - one that is put in the ground near the tree or injected in the trunk and sucked up the tree naturally - is the best option.

If it stays dry, Heintz said the sticky leaves will turn dark with a "sooty mold." But don't fear, it won't damage the tree.

"It's just a nuisance," Heintz said.

(Reach reporter Mark Hanson at 250-8264 or [mark@ndonline.com](mailto:mark@ndonline.com).)

Thank you for using [bismarcktribune.com](http://bismarcktribune.com) to access your news. To continue reading this and other

Could the ladybug be the North Dakota state insect??

## Kenmare Elem. 2nd Grade Enrichment Class

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- The ladybug's spots will fade as they get older.
- When in hibernation, ladybugs survive by eating their own stored fat.
- Their favorite food is aphids.
- Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Tennessee have the ladybug as the official state insect.
- The female lady bug is usual larger than the male.
- If the temperature is below 55 degrees if you will not see lady bugs flying.
- Lady beetles are not structure-damaging pests, unlike insects such as termites and carpenter ants.
- Lady beetles do not chew or bore holes in walls or eat carpet or furniture.
- They do not lay their eggs in homes.

### Ladybug-lore from Around the World

- At one time, doctors would mash up ladybugs and put them in a cavity to cure a toothache.
  - Count the number of spots on a ladybug and that is how many dollars you will soon receive, if you find a ladybug in your house.
  - The English believe finding a ladybug means that you will have a good harvest.
  - The French believe if you are sick and a ladybug lands on you, when it flies away, it will take the sickness with it.
  - You will have good luck if you find a ladybug in your house in the winter.
  - The Swedish folks believe that if a ladybug lands on a young maiden's hand, she will soon be getting married.
- “ If a ladybug has more than seven spots, then there will be a famine. If it has less than seven, then there will be a good harvest.

Legislative Assembly of North Dakota  
State Capitol  
600 East Boulevard  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0360

January 21, 2011

To the Honorable Members of the Legislative Assembly of North Dakota,

I am an entomologist who specializes in the study of beetles. I am writing in support of House Bill 1219 to designate the convergent lady beetle, *Hippodamia convergens*, as the official state insect of North Dakota. This species is a familiar and conspicuous ladybug that is native to North America and widespread in North Dakota. Its designation as an official symbol acknowledges the importance of all insects to the Peace Garden State's citizens in general and recognizes the positive role of ladybugs and other beneficial insects in particular.

The convergent lady beetle preys on plant-feeding insects considered pests of gardens and crops. The presence of this and other beneficial insect predators and parasites helps to reduce pest populations and lessens our dependence upon the use of insecticides that could potentially harm wildlife and the environment.

Respectfully,

Dr. Arthur V. Evans  
1600 Nottoway Ave.  
Richmond, VA 23227  
arthurevans@verizon.net

Research Associate:

- Department of Entomology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC
- Department of Recent Invertebrates, Virginia Museum of Natural History, Martinsville, VA

Adjunct Professor:

- Department of Biology, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

Author:

- National Wildlife Federation Field Guide to Insects and Spiders of North America

January 21, 2011

Distinguished Committee Members,

My name is Daniel Waldstein and I am a crop protection specialist working for North Dakota State University at the North Central Research Extension Center in Minot. We're here today to talk about insects. When many people think of insects, they think of bugs, a word with negative connotations. Even in our common vernacular, the phrase, "That bugs me!" associates insects with something that annoys us. As with many things in this world, there is a good side to go with the bad. Without too much effort we can think of some positive examples of insects, butterflies, for example and others that have a generally good reputation in the insect world. Right at the top of this list of beneficial insects is the lady beetle or lady bug as it is commonly referred to. These grade school students have chosen the convergent lady beetle, *Hippodamia convergens*, as a candidate for the state insect of North Dakota. I think they have made an excellent choice.

Many of us here today have ties either directly or indirectly with agriculture. The agriculture sector is the largest of the economic engines that drive North Dakota's economy. Since the days of Cain and Abel, farmers have struggled against crop pests. More recently, in the popular game show Family Feud, a survey said, "Name something that's disastrous for crops." After "cold" the most popular answer was "insects". How does this all relate to the convergent lady beetle? In addition to family gardens, many of the commonly grown crops of our state, wheat, soybeans, corn, alfalfa, field peas, potatoes, and others are attacked by a small green insect called an aphid. The convergent lady beetle is a voracious predator of these and other insect pests that can rob the economic productivity from our agricultural producers.

I've made the case as an entomologist why this bill should be passed. But as a fellow citizen of the great state of North Dakota, this debate is more important than the end goal, namely to make the convergent lady beetle the state insect. This process began with a group of grade school students who were motivated to make a difference. These students represent the future of North Dakota. Thirty, forty, or even fifty years from now, who's to say that one of these students may sit in the seat you occupy today. And when someone asks how did you get your start in politics, they can say it all began with the convergent lady beetle.

Sincerely,

Daniel Waldstein, Ph.D.  
Crop Protection Specialist  
NDSU Extension Service

# Daniel Waldstein

**Area Extension Specialist/Crop Protection**



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Dr. Daniel Waldstein joined the North Central Research Extension Center September 2009 serving as the Area Extension Specialist/Crop Protection. Dan received his B.S. Degree from Minnesota State University, Mankato and his Ph.D. from Cornell University in Entomology.

Feb. 18th, 2011

North Dakota Senate Subcommittee  
State Capital  
Bismarck, ND

To Whom It May Concern;

I recently received a letter from the Kenmare Second grade, requesting support for the Lady Bird Beetle (Lady Bug) as their efforts to make it the North Dakota State Insect move forward. My name is Diann Beckman, I am the Horticulture Instructor at Dakota College at Bottineau and would like to encourage you to grant the Lady bug this status. There is really no other insect that has been so universally accepted by mankind as a "good bug"! Lady bugs are one of the most beneficial of all insects for controlling a variety of harmful insects and for that alone they are worthy of recognition. (They are also really fun to play with) We all need to do more to protect them and encourage them to set up residence on our farms and in our gardens. Having a good population of beneficial insects will help lessen our dependency on harmful chemicals.

At the Dakota College Greenhouses, we are currently converting our insect control program to the use of beneficial insects to control any harmful insects that enter our greenhouses. Lady bugs are a major player in our control program along with green lacewings, parasitic wasps and praying mantis. We are proud to say that we have used very minimal chemical control in our greenhouses for almost a year, and have used chemicals only when absolutely necessary for the past two years. Our goal is to become chemical free for the safety of our students and those that come to tour our facilities. Lady bugs will play a major role in this goal and can do the same for anyone if given the chance.

Here's to the Lady Bug!

Sincerely,

Diann Beckman  
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Bottineau, ND

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