

Discover Life in America, Inc.  
3rd Quarter, 2006  
(July—September)  
Jeanie Hilten



Scenes from Karst Quest and Lepidoptera Quest

Highlights:

- The latest “Taxa Tally” is 625 species new to science plus 4,4680 new records for the Park.
- We feature a different plant or animal regularly on the DLIA website. Be sure to meet our “Species of the Month” under the highlights on the home page: <http://www.discoverlifeinamerica.org/index.shtml>
- Plans are well underway for the 10<sup>th</sup> DLIA/ATBI Annual Conference, December 6-8 at the Holiday Inn Sunspree. “Ten Years and 5,000 Species”! Several prominent speakers will be featured, including Mike Soukup, Paul Sloan, and Tom Kiernan. There will also be a meeting on December 4-5, “Biodiversity Data Interaction for an Alliance of ATBIs”. To find out more and to register, go to: [http://www.discoverlifeinamerica.org/dlia/conference/annual\\_conference\\_2006.shtml](http://www.discoverlifeinamerica.org/dlia/conference/annual_conference_2006.shtml)
- 2005 DLIA grants are almost all complete with reports on the web at [http://www.discoverlifeinamerica.org/atbi/science/grant\\_program/final\\_report\\_2005\\_sum.shtml](http://www.discoverlifeinamerica.org/atbi/science/grant_program/final_report_2005_sum.shtml) and data is being put into the ATBI database with the help of Chuck Cooper, Michael Kunze, and Chuck Parker.
- In-kind support from the 2005 grants totals \$145,546 and leverage support totals \$447,200, for a total of \$592,746.
- The ATBI Database is now online at its own domain: [www.atbidatabase.org](http://www.atbidatabase.org)
- The DLIA Board met Friday—Saturday, August 18-19 at the home of John and Suzanne Morse at Balsam Mtn. Preserve. Superintendent Dale Ditmanson, Assistant Superintendent Kevin Fitzgerald, and Chief of Resource Management and Science Nancy Finley also attended and spoke with Board members.
- A website for the ATBI Alliance project is now established. [www.atbialliance.org](http://www.atbialliance.org) is hosted by the University of Tennessee and supported by NBII/SAIN and DLIA.
- The first “Karst Quest” was conducted in July, with the help of experienced cavers, Park staff, scientists and volunteers. New records for the Park and species new to science were found inside caves as well as around the surface limestone areas of the west end of the Park.
- A Myxo Blitz was held at Purchase Knob in July and scientists collected slime molds with the help of 14 volunteers, Park staff, and teachers.
- Purchase Knob also hosted a Fungi Foray in August, with 21 people from the Asheville Mushroom Club, and Bird Banding demonstrations involved over 45 people.
- The fourth Lepidoptera Bio-Quest took place in August, bringing two dozen scientists and graduate students and concentrating on DNA sequencing.
- September’s Fern Foray for 2006 drew over 30 people.

- **The George Wright Society publication “Forum” will feature ATBI activities in an upcoming issue.** Becky Nichols edited articles submitted by Park and DLIA staff as well as by ATBI scientists.
- **The DLIA website receives about 1.4 million hits per year.**
- **At the three ATBI houses, DLIA hosted researchers and volunteers for a total of 205 person/nights from July—September.** DLIA pays rent to GSMNP for the houses and also pays the phone/internet, and utilities.
- **The ATBI Quarterly is now mailed to over 3,200 people, plus it is available online at <http://www.dlia.org/atbi/quarterly.shtml>**

### Progress in Science:

**DLIA Grant recipients for 2006** are at work in the Park investigating an array of taxa from beetles to water mites. Find out more about this year’s research at:

[http://www.discoverlifeinamerica.org/atbi/science/grant\\_program/awards\\_2006.shtml](http://www.discoverlifeinamerica.org/atbi/science/grant_program/awards_2006.shtml)

**In-kind support from the 2005 grants totals \$145,546 and leverage support totals \$447,200, for a total of \$592,746.** This includes multi-year National Science Foundation funding obtained by several researchers, along with other grants obtained due to their work on the ATBI. **The 2005 grants totaled \$52,000, so the return is from three to ten times the investment, depending on the number of years of the NSF grants.**

**The most current taxa tally is 625 species new to science plus 4,480 new records for the Park.** See: [http://www.discoverlifeinamerica.org/atbi/new\\_science/discoveries.shtml](http://www.discoverlifeinamerica.org/atbi/new_science/discoveries.shtml) for the table that is posted on the website and updated periodically.

**To illustrate ATBI progress so far and to set plans for the next few years,** Keith Langdon and Jeanie Hilten, with input from the Park and DLIA Board, are developing a powerpoint presentation: “ATBI 2010, Accomplishments and Prospectus”.

**Information from the Fern Forays has been included in a database** and detailed reports can be generated. Contact Dr. Pat Cox, [pbcoc@tva.gov](mailto:pbcoc@tva.gov) or Chuck Cooper about the data and what it reveals about the distribution of ferns in the Park.

**The “Karst Quest” in July resulted in findings of interest in and around caves at the west end of the Park.** Funded by a DLIA grant, and centered out of Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont, the investigation involved two dozen volunteers, cavers, and Park and DLIA staff. Dan Dourson identified **60 species of snails from one fairly small area.** Litter and debris from caves has yielded a variety of arthropods, tiny snails, and worms. A Tennessee blind cave salamander was found, and more creatures will be identified in the near future. Thanks to GSMNP’s Dan Nolfi, to Jonathan Mays, Ernest Bernard and his staff, and to Park Curator Adriean Mayor for conducting this survey of little known parts of the Park. Now cave conservation will have more scientific knowledge to back it up, and some experienced and well-informed people to assist with a possible cave management plan.

### Progress in Education, Outreach, and Volunteer Action:

**Over two dozen DLIA Volunteers were a big help with this summer’s Karst Quest and Lepidoptera Blitz 2006.** Be sure to check out the volunteer opportunities at

<http://www.discoverlifeinamerica.org/dlia/volunteer/index.shtml>

**Chuck Cooper is managing our DLIA Volunteers database.** Please send volunteer hours and activities to [Chuck@dlia.org](mailto:Chuck@dlia.org) 2006 volunteer hours so far are 3,089.

**To be invited to join the new DLIA Volunteers Yahoo! Group, please send a request to [Jeanie@dlia.org](mailto:Jeanie@dlia.org)** This method of contacting volunteers about projects and events will be more efficient and allow everyone to stay in touch and keep email addresses current.

**The Education section of the DLIA website is growing.** Check out the offerings at <http://www.discoverlifeinamerica.org/dlia/education/index.shtml> and feel free to contact us with suggestions.

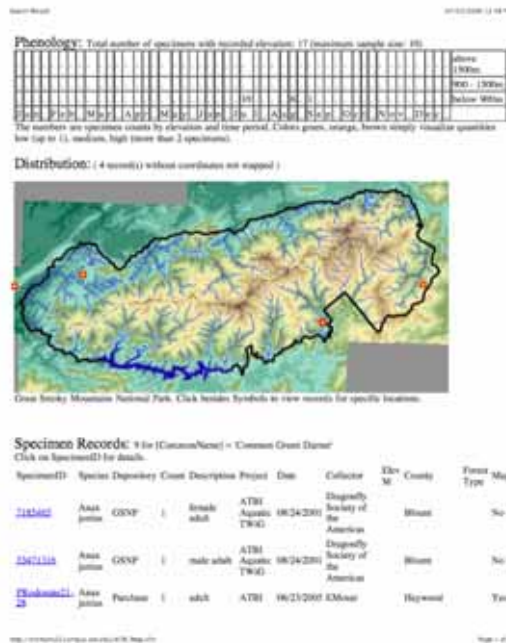
**Volunteer Carol Cranford is coordinating the “Beetle Wranglers of Dead Wood”,** a 2 year study of PhD candidate Mike Ferro of Louisiana State University. Carol and other volunteers Lyn Neilans and students from the University of Tennessee’s Educational Talent Search collect organisms every month from the study site at Twin Creeks.

**Volunteers are busy planning the 10<sup>th</sup> DLIA/ATBI Annual Conference: “Ten Years and 5,000 Species”.** To help with the event (December 6-8, 2006), contact Jeanie.

## Progress in Information Technology & Communications:

A special workshop funded by NBII/SAIN will be held December 4-5, 2006, "Biodiversity Data Interaction for an Alliance of ATBIs". We hope that the people who have participated in previous meetings about an ATBI Alliance will attend, as well as others who are interested in ways that data can be contributed and exchanged by many different reserves conducting biodiversity inventories. Stipends are available to pay for travel to the meeting. Please find out more at: [http://www.discoverlifeinamerica.org/dlia/conference/biodiversity\\_data\\_2006.shtml](http://www.discoverlifeinamerica.org/dlia/conference/biodiversity_data_2006.shtml) and contact meeting coordinator Shelaine Curd-Hetrick at [Shelaine@iiaweb.com](mailto:Shelaine@iiaweb.com)

A "Beta" version of the ATBI Database is now available on-line at: <http://www.atbidatabase.org>  
Sensitive records have been edited by NPS. Thanks to Tremont, to the University of Tennessee, and to DLIA and NPS staff for making this possible. Please take a look and send your comments to Chuck Cooper, [Chuck@dlia.org](mailto:Chuck@dlia.org) or 865-430-4756.



**Visits to the DLIA website are increasing. Webmaster Charles Wilder notes:** "Visits are currently running at 1.5 million annualized and hits are at 21.2 million annualized. Visits are on the upswing now that school is back in session. There is a well defined pattern in the visits that corresponds directly to the school year. Birds, mammals and reptiles continue to be the most visited areas on the web. The photo gallery is also a popular destination."

**Chuck Cooper has now cataloged 5,184 images in the DLIA image database.** These include digital pictures, scanned slides, high resolution scans, artwork, video, of a great variety of ATBI people, creatures, and activities. Metadata is being acquired and included in the database.

**Remember that the ATBI Quarterly is available online** and in color at <http://www.dlia.org/atbi/press/quarterly.html> Go to this page to subscribe to be notified when a new Quarterly is available. **Deadline for submissions for the Fall Quarterly is October 20! Contact Jeanie or Ruthanne Mitchell, [ruthanneandcwm@comcast.net](mailto:ruthanneandcwm@comcast.net)**

**For "What's New on the Web" see:**

[http://www.discoverlifeinamerica.org/dlia/whats\\_new\\_web.shtml](http://www.discoverlifeinamerica.org/dlia/whats_new_web.shtml)

**The ATBI desktop database is now available for ATBI researchers to download from the DLIA website at:** [http://www.discoverlifeinamerica.org/atbi/science/desktop\\_database/index.shtml](http://www.discoverlifeinamerica.org/atbi/science/desktop_database/index.shtml)  
Or, it can be mailed on a CD. There are other ATBI data entry formats available for Mac users. Contact Chuck Cooper at the DLIA office, [Chuck@dlia.org](mailto:Chuck@dlia.org)

**Great Smoky Mountains Association's website now features an ATBI "critter of the week".** See: <http://www.smokiesstore.org/page.htm?PG=critter%20of%20the%20> Thanks to Carolyn Jourdan, GSMA webmaster.

### **Development/Marketing/Fundraising:**

**Individual monetary donations to DLIA from January--June, 2006 amounted to \$5,170.50. Thank you, DLIA and ATBI supporters! To donate, go to [www.dlia.org](http://www.dlia.org) and click on "Support".** We welcome all kinds of contributions, and remember that you can also sponsor a species in honor of someone! There is also a "wish list" for items that we need.

**We are seeking sponsors for the 10<sup>th</sup> DLIA/ATBI Conference.** Individuals and businesses can be a break sponsor for \$100, a speaker reception sponsor for \$500 and a conference patron for \$700-\$1,000. Contact Jeanie Hilten, [Jeanie@dlia.org](mailto:Jeanie@dlia.org) or 865-430-4752. **We are also looking for contributions to the "Bids for Biodiversity" auction.** Contact Heather MacCulloch at [Heather@dlia.org](mailto:Heather@dlia.org)

**Be sure to support the Friends of the Smokies!** They are another major contributor to ATBI activities and Discover Life in America. See: <http://www.friendsofthesmokies.org/>

**Products for sale on the DLIA and GSM Association ([www.smokiesstore.org](http://www.smokiesstore.org)) websites include T-shirts, pictures, books, and wristbands.**

**Jeanie and Pat Cox attend the Alcoa Foundation luncheon August 1 at Maryville College.** DLIA has received two \$10,000 grants from Alcoa.

**The firefly plush toy has arrived and is on sale at several retail outlets and on the DLIA website.** You can purchase the cute toy from the Great Smoky Mountains Association stores, including Tremont, Rainforest Adventures in Sevierville, and Ijams Nature Center.

**The Knoxville Garden Club is making a monetary contribution and will provide volunteers** to plant native wildflowers and shrubs around the new Twin Creeks Science Center.

**It is time for the Discover Life in America "Annual Appeal".** Be watching for the flyer on our website at <http://www.discoverlifeinamerica.org/dlia/funding/index.shtml> and also by mail. **Give generously** to help the ATBI learn more, involve more volunteers, and generate the knowledge needed to take care of the Smokies!

### **Finances/Budget:**

**The DLIA budget for 2006 includes contributions of \$59,500 each from Friends of the Smokies and Great Smoky Mountains Association. There will also be \$106,000 for ATBI taxonomic, data, and web projects, administered by DLIA, from the National Park Service's ATBI Base Increase.** For details about the budget, contact Treasurer David Scanlon, [jtdhs@yahoo.com](mailto:jtdhs@yahoo.com) or Jeanie Hilten.

**Other sources of DLIA income include individual donations, grants from Alcoa Foundation and NBII/SAIN, housing donations, and sales of promotional items.**

**The quarterly financial statements of DLIA are produced by Millstone Accounting.** These reports are kept by David Scanlon, the DLIA Executive Committee, and Jeanie Hilten. The finance committee, Jeanie, and Joyce met in July to revise the DLIA financial statements.

**The 2005 DLIA audit and 990 tax forms have been compiled by the firm of Willard Carr.** DLIA staff and Board officers have copies.

### **Administrative Notes, Planning, and Upcoming Events:**

**The DLIA Board will meet next on Saturday, December 9, following the ATBI Conference.**

**Keith and Jeanie presented at the August Board meeting their draft of a plan for science, education, and operations for the next five years,** including funding from a variety of sources: partners, NPS, business community, foundations, sales.

**DLIA Staff and Board plan to meet with political representatives,** NPS officials, community leaders, and other "powers that be" to convey the mission and products of our work and to obtain financial support.

**DLIA will continue to develop good ways to assist scientists** working on the ATBI: for logistics, for trained volunteer help, and for easier data gathering and entry.

**DLIA and Park staff will continue to assist with the formation and structure of an ATBI Alliance,** to encourage communications, sharing of methods and people, databasing and web functions, and better prospects for funding.

**DLIA Wish List:**

- “Automontage” software for microscope photography
- 17” or 19” computer monitor
- LCD projector (for slide shows/presentations)
- Portable screen (for slide shows/presentations)
- Hand lenses
- Microscope
- “Write in the Rain notebooks and pens
- Daypacks
- Items for the ATBI houses: washing machine, utensils, appliances, twin beds, linens and towels, folding chairs and tables
- Field guides
- Office furniture
- Bookshelves

***DLIA and Partners Calendar of Events  
2006***

Mark these events on your calendar and stay tuned for more details and other programs. See the website at [www.discoverlifeinamerica.org](http://www.discoverlifeinamerica.org) or [www.dlia.org](http://www.dlia.org) For more information, to add an event to our calendar, to learn about DLIA’s volunteer “project teams”, and to sign up for activities, contact Jeanie Hilten, 865-430-4752 or [Jeanie@dlia.org](mailto:Jeanie@dlia.org)

**Friday, October 27—Sunday, October 29: “Fall Research in the Smokies”, Appalachian Highlands Science Learning Center at Purchase Knob, in conjunction with the NC Museum of Natural Science.** This seminar for educators will include participating in the ATBI snail inventory and looking at long-term monitoring of lichens, elk and possibly salamanders. There is a \$45 fee, which covers lodging and some meals. To sign up, contact Mike Dunn, [Mike.Dunn@ncmail.net](mailto:Mike.Dunn@ncmail.net)

**Monday, December 4—Tuesday, December 5: ATBI Data Workshop—“Biodiversity Data Interaction for an Alliance of ATBIs”.** Sponsored by a grant from NBII/SAIN. Holiday Inn Sunspre, Gatlinburg, TN. Contact the DLIA office.

**Wednesday, December 6—Friday, December 8: 10<sup>th</sup> ATBI/DLIA Annual Conference.** Holiday Inn Sunspre, Gatlinburg, TN. Contact the DLIA office.

We appreciate everyone’s help, ideas, and suggestions. If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to contact the DLIA Staff. Thank you!

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