



Mudpuppy's Pond

Fun with Insects!

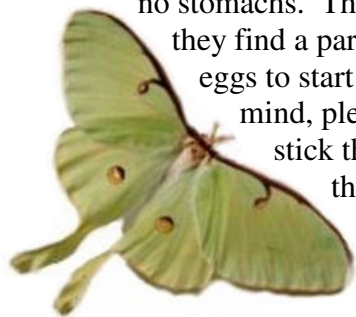
After the sun goes down, turn off the TV and have a little fun with the little flying guys that have six legs or more who claim the night as their time. Two of these activities involve attracting insects, so if you have a bug zapper in your yard, please don't try this. Also, if you live where there are bright street lights, some of this won't work as well.

Black Light

Set up a wooden platform outside a window or on a dark porch. Hang a black light (6 to 15 watts) about 12 to 15 inches above the platform. When it gets completely dark, turn on the black light and sit back and watch. All sizes and shapes of insects are attracted to this light. The really neat ones are the big moths like luna and cecropian moths. Dobson flies might visit also (a really scary looking guy).

Moth Sugaring

Some moths don't eat anything after they come out of their cocoons. The beautiful **Luna Moths** have no mouth parts and no stomachs. They only live a week during which time they find a partner, mate and then the female lays her eggs to start the next generation. Keeping this in mind, please don't catch these little beauties and stick them in a glass jar. They have important things to do in that week, like start a family.



Other moths will eat nectar, like the **Hummingbird Moth** (sphinx moth).

Make a sugar solution (recipe at end of paragraph). Soak a sponge in the solution, or use several sponges,

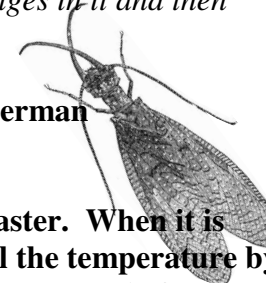
and hang from a low tree limb. Or slop the sugar solution on a tree stump.

After dark, check out the tree stump. If you use a flash light, don't shine it directly on the stump, but rather at the base.

RECIPE

You will need a plastic jug, water, sugar, a paint brush, sponges. Mix 3 tablespoons of sugar with one quart of water. Paint sugar water solution on a tree stump, or soak sponges in it and then hang from tree branches.

Consult the Cricket Weatherman



When it is very warm, crickets chirp faster. When it is cooler, crickets chirp slower. You can tell the temperature by counting these chirps and applying the secret, magic formula.

At night, listen for a cricket. When it starts chirping, count how many chirps it makes in 15 seconds. Write that number down so you can remember it. Go look at your thermometer outside the house and write that number down. Subtract the number of chirps from the temperature, and that is the *magic number*. When you hear a cricket chirp, count the chirps for 15 seconds and then add your magic number, and that is the temperature.