

## Natural Resources Stewardship Committee (NRSC) In Action (07.24)

The newly established NRSC Exotic Invasive Plant (EIP) Subcommittee has identified four invasive plants, which have established colonies within Connestee Falls. The EIP subcommittee will focus on Japanese stilt grass, Chinese silver grass, Japanese honeysuckle, and multiflora rose plants that are growing on CFPOA properties and right of ways, particularly along the roadways at trailheads.

The subcommittee seeks volunteers to help identify, map, and mitigate those species during task force efforts. If you are interested in assisting with this important project, please complete the [Volunteer Survey](#) or contact Paco Candal at [candal21@icloud.com](mailto:candal21@icloud.com).

The NRSC thanks Leon Dejez for creating a comprehensive EIP database and a quick reference guide, which compiles information from federal, NC State, and local resources. The NRSC is utilizing the information to plan upcoming (priority) and future EIP task force projects.

### Natural Resources Stewardship Plan (NRSP)

#### Promotes A Sustainable Future

The NRSP addresses the most important and impactful components of our native ecosystem such as wildlife (with particular attention given to bears and deer), water quality of lakes and streams, forests, and other native habitats. Each section provides an overview of the component, a description of the current issues, an approach to address the issues, and recommended actions such as the development of a Wildlife Management Program, a Lake Management Plan, and a Forest Management Plan.

The NRSP is available to download on the NRSC website at <https://cfpoanrsc2021.wixsite.com/website>. Members are encouraged to review the plan and submit any questions or comments to the NRSC at [cfpoanrsc2021@gmail.com](mailto:cfpoanrsc2021@gmail.com).



#### What You Can Do To Help

First, if you have not yet read the NRSP, please do. It provides an abundance of information about CF's natural resources and what we, as a community, need to do to protect our natural surroundings. The NRSP addresses the most important and impactful components of our native ecosystem such as wildlife (with particular attention given to bears and deer), water quality of lakes and streams, forests, and other native habitats.

Second, you can learn more about the incredible natural resources in our community and how you can help to protect them by reading the NRSC *"Did you know...?"* articles in the Friday Flyer.

Third, you can visit the NRSC website to learn more about the NRSC programs such as the CF Nature Challenges. Each activity is designed to help residents to get outdoors and learn more about the flora and fauna that flourish in our mountain community.

Last but definitely not least, please visit the NRSC [VOLUNTEER](#) page to read about volunteer opportunities and then "Sign Up" for topics and tasks that interest you. We need help with mitigating invasive plants, writing and publishing articles, maintaining trails, updating the website, and organizing/leading events and excursions. THANK YOU!

***"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."*** Elizabeth Andrew

# Wildlife Watch From the NRSC

## The Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

*By Judy Merrifield, NRSC Volunteer Writer*

Our state butterfly, eastern tiger swallowtail (*Papilio glaucus*), was nominated due to the fact that it is found in all 100 counties of North Carolina. It does not migrate and adults with a short life span of 6-14 days, do not live through the winter. Swallowtails measure between 3-5 ½ inches. Males are typically yellow but females (morph) may be either yellow or black. The yellow morph is similar to the male, but with a conspicuous band of blue spots along the hindwing, while the dark morph is almost completely black.



Swallowtails are not as particular as to where they lay their eggs but do prefer tulip trees (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), wild black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), and sweetbay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*). The female lays large green eggs one at a time on the underside of the tree leaves. After a week, the eggs will hatch and a small brown caterpillar will eat its egg sac for needed nutrients. Soon the caterpillar will turn green with a white saddle and the start of its false eyes will begin to appear. The early instar resembles bird droppings, which is to throw would-be predators off.

***Mature Eastern tiger swallowtail caterpillars are green with yellow/white/black spots which look like the eyes of larger animals, deterring would-be predators.***

During the 4 molts it eventually will become large and green with false eyes and a pair of osmeterium scent glands that produce a nasty smelling compound to ward off predators. Its final stage is to turn brown and regurgitate undigested food before its final shed to become a chrysalis. It can emerge within 2 to 3 weeks or even overwinter if it's late in the season. (Photos courtesy [Grims Gardens](#).)



*L-R: Egg, early instar, green with eye spots and osmeterium, brown stage preparing to pupate*

It is easy to attract butterflies to your yard by planting flowers with nectar such as phlox, zinnias, butterfly weed, and milkweed. For more information go to the NC State Extension [Butterflies in Your Backyard](#) on-line publication. You can learn about our local butterfly populations by taking the NRSC Mountain Butterfly Challenge. The activity provides a checklist of 19 species with color photos and is available to download on the [NRSC website](#). Enjoy the challenge!