



Pollinator Tournament

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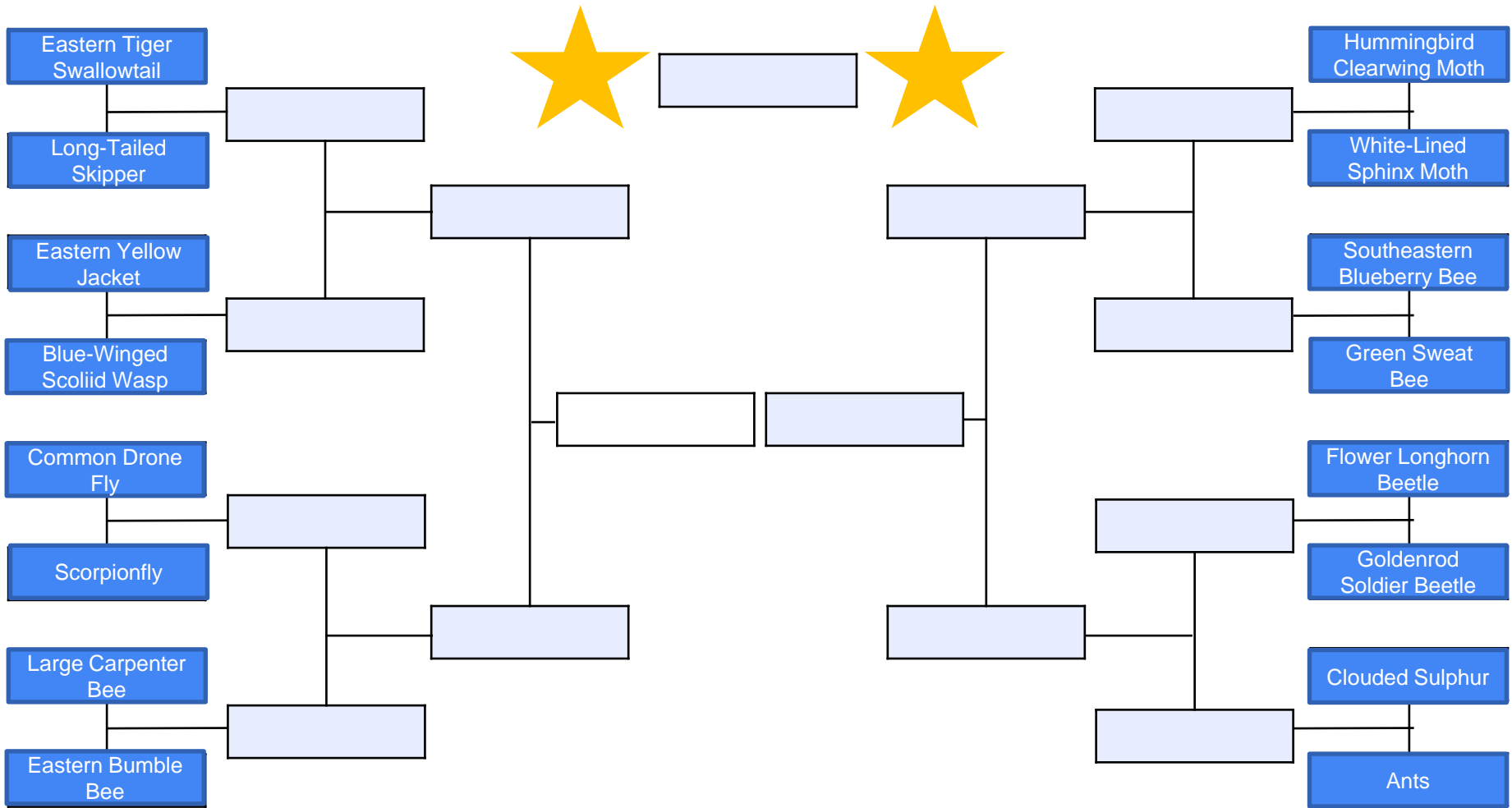
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Eastern Tiger Swallowtail

Papilio glaucus

- This is the state butterfly for Georgia and three other states
- The male butterfly is yellow, while the female can be yellow but often mimics the dark coloring of the pipevine swallowtail, which is toxic for predators
- Young caterpillars mimic bird feces to avoid predation
- Male butterflies will often land around puddles and animal urine to collect nutrients
- They enjoy a variety of flowers, including many tubular flowers like honeysuckle, rhododendron, azalea, and Joe pye weed



Long-Tailed Skipper

Urbanus proteus

- Skippers are small, fast-moving butterflies, and the long-tailed skipper stands out due to its “tailed” wing shape and blue coloring
 - Most skippers range from brown to orange
- Their larva roll themselves in leaves for protection and to feed, and they will pupate in rolled leaves as well
- Skippers aren’t as picky as other butterflies and will eat nectar from a variety of plants, including asters, goldenrod, Joe-pye weed, rhododendron, and azaleas



Eastern Yellow Jacket

Vespula maculifrons

- Yellow jackets are territorial and aggressive
- They are predators to many other insects, but they enjoy sugar, whether it is from spilled juice or nectar from a flower
- They are not picky eaters and are extremely active in late summer and fall
- The queen overwinters alone underground
- Nests can be found underground or in low shrubs or cavities



Blue-Winged Scoliid Wasp

Scolia dubia

- Typically active in early morning and evening in the summer months to avoid high temperatures
- They lay their eggs in beetle burrows underground, and their larvae consume the beetle larvae
- They are larger wasps with iridescent blue wings, a hairy abdomen, and two yellow spots on their abdomen
- They love to eat the nectar of goldenrod and mountain mint



Common Drone Fly

Eristalis tenax

- Often mistaken for honeybees, these flies have airless abdomens, one pair of wings, and their eyes are significantly larger
- They imitate honeybees to avoid predation
- Drone flies are hover flies which indicates their flight patterns (they hover), but this species has changed its flight pattern to mimic honeybees
- They are generalist pollinators and enjoy a variety of flowers spring through fall



Scorpionfly

Panorpa

- Name is based on the curling of the abdomen, which curls upward
- They are omnivores; they eat pollen and nectar, and they eat other insects
 - They typically eat slow-moving or weak insects, such as those captured in spider webs
- They overwinter underground in their larval stage
- They are common in late summer and fall
- They appear to have a stinger, but they do not
 - They do not bite or sting



Large Carpenter Bee

Xylocopa

- These bees are large and have hairless abdomens
- They are slow moving and have a tendency to bump into things (clumsy flyers)
- They are not afraid of humans
- They burrow in wood and are often a nuisance to homeowners
- They participate in nectar robbing of tubular flowers that they are too large to fit into
- They enjoy composite flowers and are some of the earliest bees to emerge in the spring



Common Eastern Bumble Bee

Bombus impatiens

- They have similar movement patterns to carpenter bees and can vary in size to very large (carpenter bee size) to small (honeybee size)
- They are extremely hairy and their colors can range from yellow to brown banding in various patterns
- They nest underground in burrows constructed by other animals, and the queen will overwinter alone
- They emerge early in the spring alongside carpenter bees
- We have 17 species of bumble bee in Georgia
- Can withstand cooler temperatures (at least 40F)



Hummingbird Clearwing Moth

Hemaris thysbe

- A daytime flying moth that is often mistaken for a hummingbird due to its rapid flight pattern
- Like the name suggests, this species has clear wings, and like other members of the sphinx moth family, these moths have large bodies compared to their wing size
- They enjoy bee balm and bergamot as adults; their proboscis allows them to collect nectar from tubular flowers
- Their larvae have many host trees, such as cherry and birch
- They pupate in dried leaf litter (so leave your leaves!)



White-Lined Sphinx Moth

Hyles lineata

- Migrates south for the winter
- Nocturnal but are sometimes active during the day
- Fly quickly, with similar movements to hummingbirds
- Prefers drier climates
- Adults eat the nectar from honeysuckle, rhododendron, phlox, and cardinal flower
 - During the day, they prefer brightly colored flowers like red and pink, but at night, they prefer pale blooms like white or yellow



Southeastern Blueberry Bee

Habropoda laboriosa

- 12-15 mm in size
- Uses “buzz” pollination
- Prefers early spring flowers like blueberries and trees such as red bud
 - Also enjoy clovers, raspberries, and blackberries
- Males have hairless, yellow face
- Nest in the ground or in rotting wood



Green Sweat Bee

Augochlora pura

- There are multiple genus of green sweat bee in Georgia, and they all range from bright green to blue
- They are shiny and small, measuring up to 9 mm
- They are both generalist feeders and nesters; they consume pollen and nectar from variety of sources and will nest in abandoned animal cavities in wood, underground, and under bark
- They are extremely active in late summer and fall



Flower Longhorn Beetle

Strangalia luteicornis

- Abdomen tapers off at the end
- Larvae feed on decaying wood and adults enjoy the nectar and pollen of beauty berry bush, goldenrod, magnolia, tulip tree, and sumac
- They are most active in late spring and early summer
- Like other beetle pollinators, they enjoy fragrant flowers



Goldenrod Soldier Beetle

Chauliognathus pensylvanicus

- Called “leather wings” because their wings are soft and feel like leather
- Overwinter as larvae underground
- Are predatory and eat other insects, but they enjoy the nectar and pollen of goldenrod, Queen Anne’s lace, and milkweed
- Active in late summer



Clouded Sulphur

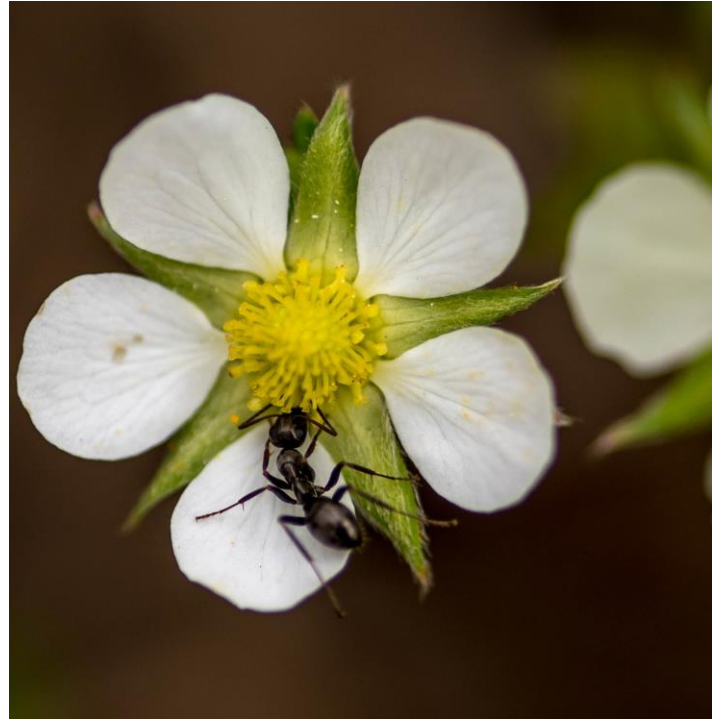
Colias philodice

- One of the last butterflies to be found flying around in the fall
- Easily distinguished by its bright yellow color
- They rarely land with their wings open
- They are not picky in terms of nectar sources, but like most butterflies, their proboscis is useful for tubular flowers



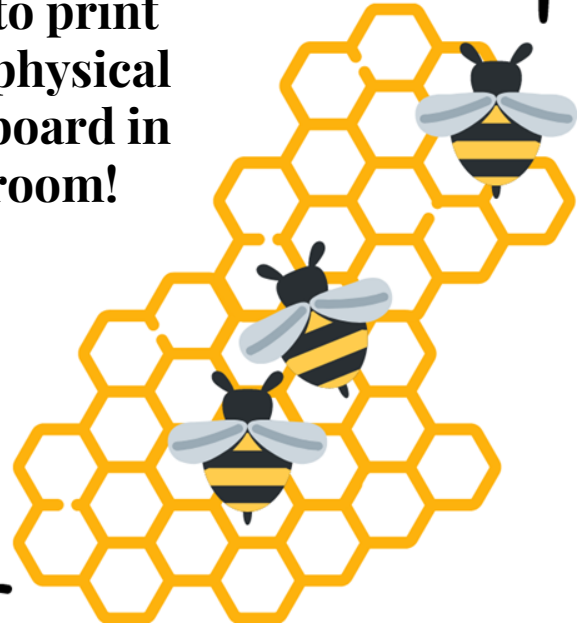
Ants

- Because ants aren't as hairy as our other pollinators, they aren't as effective at pollination
- Many ants secrete enzymes to combat potential fungal infections that could spread easily in their colony, and these enzymes often impact pollen transfer
- Ants prefer low-growing, small flowers, so composite flowers like asters, goldenrod, and dandelions





**The following slides
can be used to print
and create a physical
tournament board in
your classroom!**



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Ants

