Green Darner Dragonfly (Anax junius)

**Characteristics:**
- 3-4 inches, making them one of the largest
- Brown eyes with a “target” mark on their face
- Males have green thorax and a abdomen with wide blue lateral stripes; females have green thorax with a purple-gray abdomen
- Only darter to have blunt teeth on back of head & lay eggs in tandem

**Location:**
- Florida year round, all U.S. to Canada
- Migrate in Summer

**Mating:**
- Male chases female to catch her then inserts the tip of his abdomen behind her head
- Female hangs on a stem of a plant to slowly enter water to make a slit in stem and lay eggs inside

**Nymph:**
- Predators to small fish, tadpoles, worms
- Called “Naiads”, green-brown in color, and get 2 inches long
- Large bulb-like eyes, thick oval bodies with 3 extensions
- Gills are internal—not visible
Eastern Pondhawk Dragonfly (Erythemis simplicicollis)

Characteristics:
- 2 inches
- Male is pale blue with green face and white cerci (upper appendage)
- Juvenile male has a green thorax
- Females are green with black rectangular dorsal spots on middle of abdomen
- Two pairs of heavy veined wings; front pair shorter and narrower than the rear pair
- Eats damselflies, grasshoppers, butterflies, other dragonflies
- Aggressive—eats nymphs

Location:
- Eastern U.S.
- Florida year round

Mating:
- Male chases female to catch her then inserts the tip of his abdomen behind her head; she raises her abdomen forming a “wheel”
- Lays up to 900 eggs under water in vegetation guarded by male

Nymph:
- Eat invertebrates
- Green coloring
- Large bulb-like eyes, thick oval bodies with 3 extensions
- Gills are internal—not visible
- Lower lip that they project to hook their prey

Egg  Dragonfly Life Cycle

Nymph  Adult

Special thanks to Fairfax County Public Schools, J.L. Lasswell, Huntley Meadows Park, Iowa State University, Dragonflies through Binoculars, and Jennifer Swain for the use of text and some photos. Produced by the Florida Center for Environmental Studies at Riverwoods Field Lab. Contact 863/462-0025 or http://riverwoods.ces.fau.edu/education/teachers.htm