

Inspired by dragonflies

I loved your Aug. 23 dragonflies editorial. It made me reminisce about the first time I saw dragonflies in 1981. My husband, an experienced wilderness camper, and I, a novice, were canoe-camping in northern Canada. Mosquitoes were torturing me (despite my Army surplus head net). Suddenly, strange, iridescent insects swarmed our campsite. I watched with amazement while they ate mosquitoes. I nicknamed them “The Cavalry.”

Your editorial motivated me to read reports explaining why dragonflies are a climate change indicator: Most dragonflies need moderately warm temperatures. As average temperatures increase, dragonflies can inhabit more areas and have expanded into northern regions.

I already knew that ticks, the Lyme disease they spread and mosquitoes transmitting Zika are key climate change indicators. We need to be the cavalry for our grandchildren and end greenhouse gas emissions to control future warming so their risk to these diseases doesn't expand.

Dragonflies can serve as an inspiring symbol of hope: Much larger in size, they once flew over the heads of dinosaurs. They've survived extreme climatic changes. As we confront climate change, we can be assured that we too can adapt. We can use cleaner energy sources, practice better land management and change our garbage disposal systems – so that we contract our impacts on the environment.

New England states announced last week that we're upping RGGI's emissions contraction goals. Excellent! And our states should also design cooperative efforts to limit transportation, food and housing emissions, too.

We can be magical, translucent dragonflies – inspirations to our descendants.

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