

# Twig Critters

Do you know what predator begins life underwater, goes through an amazing metamorphosis, and flies away searching for more prey? Dragonflies! Do you know what the State insect of Washington is? It's the green darner dragonfly (*Anax junius*). It became Washington's official state insect after a group of students at Crestwood Elementary School in Kent brought the idea to the Legislature. So, to honor this insect, which is a friend to gardeners and mosquito haters everywhere, we will create its likeness in a sculpture made entirely of natural materials. (For more on green darners see this site. [Dragonfly \(Anax junius\), EC 1601 \(Oregon State University Extension Service\)](#).)

## Materials:

- Twigs (Ones with "opposite" buds make great "eyes.")
- Several maple samaras (winged seeds) 4 for each dragonfly
- Scissors
- Glue (white glue dries clear)
- Waxed or parchment paper



Common Green Darner, the Rest of the Story (Family Aeshnidae) | Field Station (uwmm.edu)

**Directions:** See numbered pictures that match steps.

1. Gather supplies.
2. Put waxed or parchment paper on a table.
3. Match four similar sized and shaped samaras for wings.
4. Cut off the seed part of the samara for easier gluing.
5. Place two "wings" side by side with edges overlapped slightly.
6. On the waxed/parchment paper, glue in between the overlapped parts of the "wings" and let glue the dry well.
7. Once dry, move the wings about ¼-inch apart on the waxed/parchment paper, so they look like dragonfly wings.
8. Add a generous dollop of glue to the place where you joined them together.
9. Quickly place your twig right on top of the wings, leaving a bit of twig showing above the wings.
10. Place a little weight on the twig until the glue dries. Resting part of the scissors on the twig works well.
11. When dry, GENTLY pull the dragonfly away from the waxed/parchment paper and turn it over.
12. Nice job! You're done! You may decorate your creation or leave it natural.

