

# A Bug's Life Non-biting midges

Family: Chironomidae

## Fun facts

- Resemble mosquitoes but **do not** bite, adults feed on nectar
- Most abundant organisms in natural and manmade aquatic habitats
- Adults emerge late March-early April
- 2-3 week life cycle in warm weather
- Several generations per summer
- Mass emergence of adults aggregate on screens, plant foliage, porch lights

## Identification

Aquatic life cycle: Eggs laid on surface of water; larvae burrow into mud at bottom; pupae swim to surface, adults emerge in large numbers

Mature larvae: bright red, contain hemoglobin, called "bloodworms"

Adult midge: Resemble mosquitoes, males have feathery antennae, front legs extend forward at rest

## Management

- Reduce nutrient run-off into water
- Drain ponds to kill overwintering larvae
- Lighting modification (use LEDs or yellow light) to reduce attraction to buildings, turn lights off at night
- Stock ponds with predatory fish
- Insecticides (larvacides, adulticides) may not be cost-effective, contact professional for options



Photos: J. Green