

Account: South Carolina State Parks

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South Carolina State Parks

at 12:00:01 on 5/05/2015 UTC · 🌐

Is that a pompom or toasted marshmallow on the oak tree? Recent park visitors have been asking about the wool sower gall. A tiny mother Cynipid wasp (not a kind that stings), laid eggs on a white oak tree leaf bud last winter, and when the eggs hatched this spring, the secretions from the larva caused the oak to form this growth. The larva grow up protected inside the gall, even getting nutrients from it, and emerge as fully grown tiny wasps! Isn't nature amazing?



Dawn Rhodes So are the wasps still in this ball at this stage? Or is this left after they have left. How do you know if they are still in it?

at 12:14:38 on 5/05/2015 UTC



Jennifer Joyner We are closing on some land today that has a lot of woods on it. Last week we walked around the property and ran across a couple of these things. My family was looking at it and was wondering what in the world it was. Now we know. You learn something new everyday! :)

at 12:39:22 on 5/05/2015 UTC



Mel Fillion My parent's oak had these. They're neat :D

at 13:03:48 on 5/05/2015 UTC



Linda Callahan Schimkus We saw them on our trees and are new to this area....glad to know what they are....think they are pretty.....

at 13:36:58 on 5/05/2015 UTC



Anita White Green Amazing!

at 14:52:26 on 5/05/2015 UTC



Teresa Calhoun Ramsey Toni Daugherty-Bartelt...here's your answer I bet

at 15:59:55 on 5/05/2015 UTC



Toni Daugherty-Bartelt Thanks Teresa Calhoun Ramsey...that explains all the wasps around us also.

at 16:02:14 on 5/05/2015 UTC



Maggie Ruth Cochrane I have walked through the woods off Alpine Rd, Cola.,SC behind Sesqui State Park, all my life wondering what this was, thank you so much! now I can share with my nephews, grandchildren that we will know.. amazing.

at 16:30:37 on 5/05/2015 UTC



Christen Herson Mayfield What does the wasp look like?

at 13:05:31 on 5/06/2015 UTC



South Carolina State Parks Here's a photo for you Christen Herson Mayfield!



at 14:37:45 on 5/06/2015 UTC



Anita Fredman Saw one of these the other day... Thanks for posting

at 17:12:38 on 5/06/2015 UTC



South Carolina State Parks Dawn Rhodes, yes, the wasps are still in the gall for a while after the gall appears, and they emerge as adult wasps. With these particular kinds of galls it is hard to tell when they have emerged, unless you pull apart the gall to reveal individual galls that look like seeds. If you see holes in the 'seeds' that means they have emerged.

at 18:54:24 on 5/07/2015 UTC