Project Stink-be-Gone Summer 2017
"To-do list" for volunteers Shrewsbury Lab, University of Maryland (UMD)

Step 1 - Collecting egg masses:

Before field work:

- Supplies:
  - UMD will supply: cooler with ice packs, petri dishes with labels, several datasheets (also available online)
  - Bring your own: clipboard, pencils (preferred over pen), scissors, hand lens/magnifying glass, smart phone (for GPS coordinates and taking pictures)
- For safety and comfort: hat, long sleeves and pants, sunscreen, water, insect/tick spray.
- Search for egg masses on a day when you know that you will have time to ship the egg masses *immediately* afterwards to UMD.
- Have a few sites in mind where you can search for stinkbugs and egg masses. That way, if you don't find egg masses where you stop first, you can more quickly regroup to travel to back-up sites.

When and how to collect egg masses in the field:

- Please collect egg masses during each of these two sample periods:
  - **Period 1:** July 2 – July 22
  - **Period 2:** August 13 – September 2
  - During each period above, please search and collect a total of three hours. One hour each week would be ideal.
- You can collect any time during the day as long as you have at least an hour in total to spend searching.
- Keep track of time. Collect for at least one hour on a day of your choice for a total of three hours during each of the three-week sampling periods. On your datasheet, write down the time that you start and stop in case you decide to leave the site where you are sampling to walk/drive/bike to another site to sample some more. We don't want transportation time counted as part of the hour of sampling!
- Search underneath the leaves of as many deciduous trees and shrubs, and herbaceous plants as you can. Some shade trees, like red maples, can grow taller than what is possible to search thoroughly. Limit your search to foliage that you can safely see and reach while standing on the ground.

What information do we need (also see datasheet):

- The participant name and email address (in case we have questions about the information provided) and date.
- County name, closest city/town, and habitat details
- Sites are different if they are greater than a mile apart. Fill in information separately for each site on the datasheet on the same collection date. Each datasheet can hold information for five different sites.
- The approximate number of deciduous trees and shrubs and herbaceous plants that you search. If all three types of plants are at a site, please make sure to search equally for egg masses among these three types of plants.

When you find an egg mass:

- Try to identify the host plant and write down the name (Latin name preferred) on the datasheet.
- If you do not know what the plant is, take pictures and send electronically to the researchers in charge of this study (Dr. Rebeccah Waterworth, rwater@umd.edu). Include your name, date, site and egg mass number from where the egg mass was collected in your email.
- Remove the entire leaf by the petiole if you can without destroying the plant. Cut around the egg mass so that it will fit inside the petri dish.
- If the entire leaf can't be removed, use scissors to cut around the egg mass.
- Place the egg mass immediately into a petri dish with the paper label. Be sure to complete the label information for each petri dish.

Step 2 - Packaging:

- All egg masses inside petri dishes need to be placed *immediately* in a cooler with ice packs.
- Keep the cooler lid closed while you are searching for additional egg masses.
- If you can, keep the cooler on the shadier side of a tree or shrub while you are searching.
- *Please don't leave your cooler with egg masses in a hot car*. Take inside when you are done sampling.

Step 3 - Shipping:

- Please ship petri dishes with egg masses and your datasheet(s) using the postage paid slip to the researchers at UMD.