



# Exploiting a Little-Known Force

Surface tension, which governs the dynamics at the boundary between water and air, is what allows some bugs to walk on water. The mechanisms driven by surface tension involve trigonometry, differential geometry, and differential equations, and are being investigated in order to design more efficient structures, such as hulls with reduced drag. The research is being done by biologists, physicists, mathematicians, and engineers, who form a dynamic human interface that is attempting to understand and harness an important interface in the natural world.

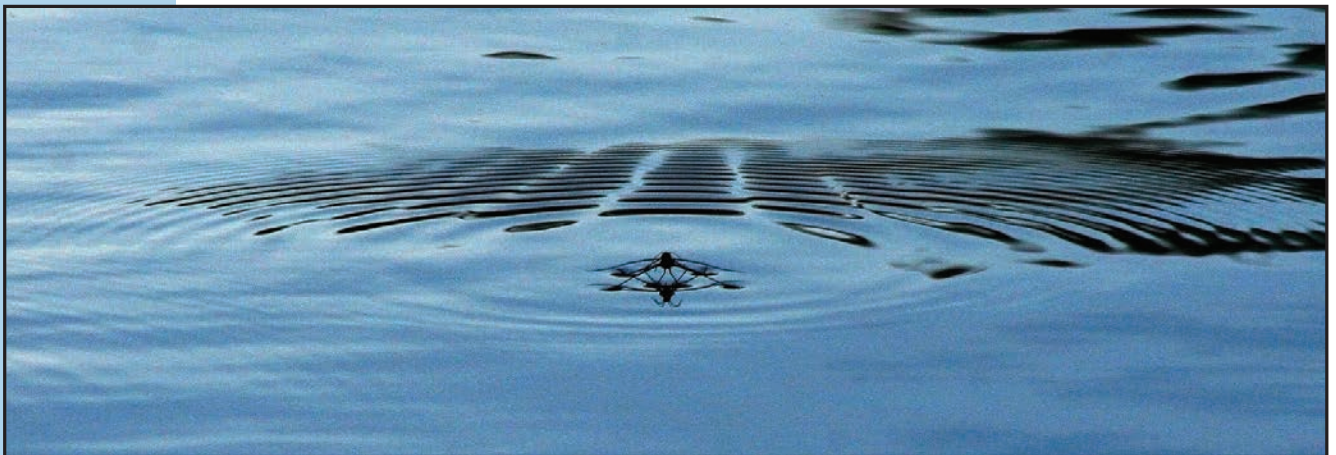


Photo: Christine Walsh

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