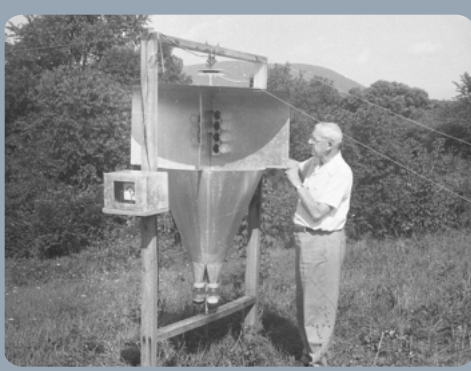


The Light Trap

Newsletter of the
Frost Entomological Museum
Fall 2021



GivingTuesday

GivingTuesday is around the corner, but [our campaign is already open!](#) We are raising funds for a new student internship. This internship would allow mentored students the opportunity to develop and work on a project of their own interests. Please consider supporting our campaign!



Support the Frost Museum Student Internship

What Is Sustainable Art?

We are currently installing an exhibit created by students enrolled in the course [Sustainable Studio \(ART 433\)](#). This exhibit was produced using sustainable methods and materials — and dyed with pigments produced by [cochineal](#) insects. Here is a sneak peak of the installation process, the exhibit should be completed next week! We'd love you to stop in for a viewing. If you are unable to visit in person, stay tuned and we will provide an update in December on the [Frost Curator's Blog](#).



Left: Students working together during the installation process. **Right:** Sneak peak of the exhibit.

Entomological Collections Network (ECN) 2021 Meeting



2021 was a great year for the Frost to share our ongoing work with the [entomology collections community](#). Our collections manager, Laura Porturas, shared a talk about the use of specimens and their data in the public outreach space. PhD student Louis Nastasi authored a poster about the prevalence and care of arthropod-associated objects (e.g. galls, cocoons, nests, etc.) in entomology collections. Undergraduate student Muhammad Ishak mentored by [Dr. Darren Pagan](#) in the [Department of Materials Science and Engineering](#) authored a poster in collaboration with the Frost about his work assessing which insect pins are best. These presentations will be made available soon on ECN's [Past Programs and Recordings](#) webpage.

Spider Course (ENT 497) Update

The spider course that kept museum staff and students busy over the summer is now generating [a dataset](#) set that students will use to for their term papers. The data set will also help us better understand spider diversity in the region. To date, the course has examined, identified, and recorded associated data for more than 500 spiders! Very little is known about spiders in Pennsylvania, and these data will help us better understand which spiders can be found in what habitat and during what periods of the year.



Left: Students sketching morphological traits in their notebooks and identifying spider specimens. **Right:** Example of spider specimen of the family Salticidae.

Wasp ID Workshop



PhD student Louis Nastasi has spearheaded the development of a two-week long virtual course teaching family-level identification of wasps. He has recruited and international group of 19 career professionals, graduate students, and taxonomists to lead the workshop! The WaspID Course is scheduled for January 3rd-14th, 2022. Registration is now open, and more information can be views at the [course website](#).

Above: Wasp specimen of the family Ampulicidae.

Keep an eye out for the next *The Light Trap* this winter

If you are interested in hearing about specific topics or activities, please let us know!

Become a Friend of the Frost

By becoming a Friend, you equip the museum with the tools needed for *collections care*, provide resources for *student engagement*, and helps fund the *rotation of new exhibits* into the museum. [Visit our website to learn more.](#)

Your support helps us better engage the public, grow and maintain the collection, and provide opportunities to undergraduate students at Penn State



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