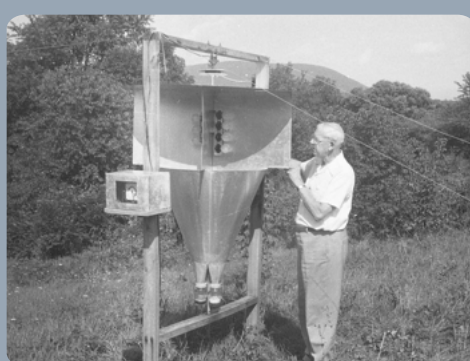


The Light Trap

Newsletter of the
Frost Entomological Museum
Spring 2021



Big News

We are excited to share with you all that the Frost recently had an NSF infrastructure grant proposal funded! This means that over the next couple years we will expand and improve the collection storage infrastructure as well as digitize our massive aphid (approximately 224,000 specimens on 49,000 slides) and aquatic insect (approximately 100,000 specimens in 15,000 vials) collections. These improvements and digitization efforts will facilitate research that spans addressing native pollinator declines, epidemiology, and the effects of land use on aquatic biodiversity.



Examples of specimens that will be digitized as part of this grant. **Left:** Slide mounted aphids. **Right:** Caddisfly from the genus *Phryganea*.

New faces at the Frost

Over the past few months two new people have joined us at the Frost!



Alysa Schappell —

Alysa is an undergraduate student in Biology who is working with us to improve accessibility in our public space. Her project has been focusing on improvements for visitors with visual impairments. Currently, she is generating audio-guided tours which will be made available through QR codes posted at each of the exhibits where visitors can scan the codes with their phones and listen.

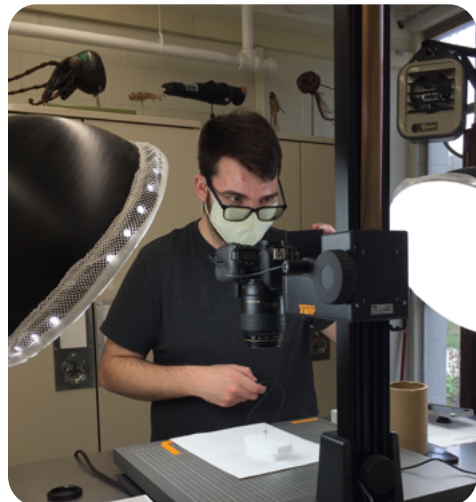
Julie Rockwell —

In December, Julie finished her Masters in Museum Studies from Johns Hopkins University, and she is now helping us digitize the parasite collection! Her expertise is in libraries, archives, and born-digital material, and she is passionate about Pennsylvania's cultural heritage. Needless to say she brings a unique set of perspectives and enthusiasm to our insect museum.



Upcoming Events

Early in the summer we are partnering with [The Arboretum at Penn State](#) to bring more insect programs to their visitors. See below for details!



From Tall Trees to Tiny Wasps

June 9th, time TBD

Keep an eye out for grad student Louis Nastasi's webinar on the relationship between oak trees and galling wasps. Specific time and webinar links are forthcoming... but they will be shared on the Frost's social media and the [Arboretum's events calendar](#) prior to the event!

Insects at the Arboretum

June 15th, 10 am - 12 pm at the Children's Garden

We invite children and their parents to participate in an insect-themed scavenger hunt, and children will have the opportunity to view Arboretum insects up-close under a magnifying lens.



Galls at the Arboretum

July 19th, 10 am to 12 pm at the Children's Garden

We invite children and their parents to participate in a gall-themed scavenger hunt, and children will have the opportunity to view Arboretum preserved galls and gall forming insects up-close under a magnifying lens.

Keep an eye out for the next *The Light Trap* in the summer

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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