Big News

We are excited to share with you that the Frost recently had a NSF infrastructure grant proposal funded! This means that over the next couple years we will expand and improve the collection and exhibit infrastructure as well as digitize our museum's vast (approximately 224,000 specimens on 49,000 slides) and aquatic insect (approximately 30,000 specimen in 15,000 vials) collections. These improvements and digitization efforts will help our scientists to better understand native pollinator declines, epidemiology, and the effects of land use on aquatic biodiversity.

Examples of specimens that will be digitized are on the left. Left: Slide mounted aphids. Right: Ladybird, from Meng-Tse Peng's research.

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 focused on designing 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 visitors can scan 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. Together, we are sharing a unique set of perspectives and enthusiasm to curate insect museums.

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!

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 Arbo insect up close under a magnifying glass.

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 galls-themed scavenger hunt, and children will have the opportunity to view Arbo insect up close under a magnifying glass.

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 help fund the rotation of new exhibits into the museum.

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!