The Light Trap
Newsletter of the
Frost Entomological Museum
September 2021

Spiders!

This summer the museum’s Kewapa Gallery (under spiders — 2016) was home to spiders from around the world! The exhibitoldownstairs displayed spiders from South America, with a featured species being the Black Widows. The second floor featured ‘barking’ spiders from South America and the Philippines, with information about their unique behavior. The third floor was dedicated to spiders from the tropics of the world, with a focus on American species. The exhibit大户 held an impressive variety of species, demonstrating the diversity of spiders across the globe.

Denise Montelongo successfully defended her thesis and has earned her master’s degree! Her ongoing project deciphering the evolution of galling wasps helped clarify the community composition and structure inside galls created by a species of Synergus (a genus of gall wasps). Her thesis, titled “An investigation into the phylogeny and structure of gall wasp (Hymenoptera: Cynipidae) communities using DNA barcoding,” included detailed analysis of gall wasp communities, and also included the description of a new species in the genus Philonix, Synergus nigra, and also included the description of a new species in the genus Synergus nigra, demonstrating the importance of DNA barcoding in identifying new species.

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A Helping Hand

Students in the course will be using the specimens collected to learn about spider diversity, and helping hand with lots of museum activities, produced an excellent thesis rich in natural history, and helps fund the ongoing project. Denise Montelongo successfully defended her thesis and has earned her master’s degree! Her ongoing project deciphering the evolution of galling wasps helped clarify the community composition and structure inside galls created by a species of Synergus (a genus of gall wasps). Her thesis, titled “An investigation into the phylogeny and structure of gall wasp (Hymenoptera: Cynipidae) communities using DNA barcoding,” included detailed analysis of gall wasp communities, and also included the description of a new species in the genus Philonix, Synergus nigra, and also included the description of a new species in the genus Synergus nigra, demonstrating the importance of DNA barcoding in identifying new species.

Reopening the Public Space

We’re happy to announce that the Frost will reopen the first week of the fall semester — on Monday, August 23rd. We are so excited to welcome back guests. Stop in, we have installed new exhibits for visitors to see, including one on the spotted lanternfly and one on pollination!

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Funding for a Post-Doctoral Fellowship

The museum is pleased to announce the availability of a new post-doctoral fellowship opportunity! The fellowship is intended for recent PhD graduates in entomology or a related field. The fellowship will provide funding for research and travel, and will last for two years. The application deadline is October 1, 2021. For more information, please visit our website.

Keep an eye out for the next Light Trap in the Fall

If you are interested in hearing about new exhibits or events, please be on the lookout for the next Light Trap in the Fall. We will be announcing new exhibits and events in the fall issue of the Light Trap.

Become a Friend of the Frost

By becoming a Friend, you equip the museum with the tools needed for student engagement and helps fund the museum. Become a Friend today!

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