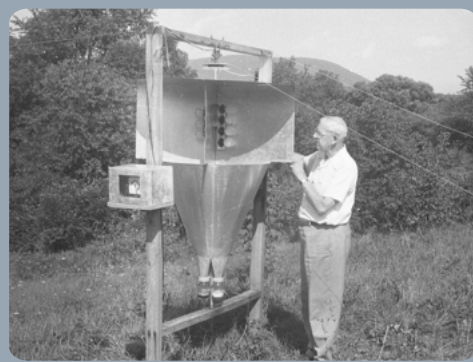


The Light Trap

Newsletter of the
Frost Entomological Museum
Fall 2022

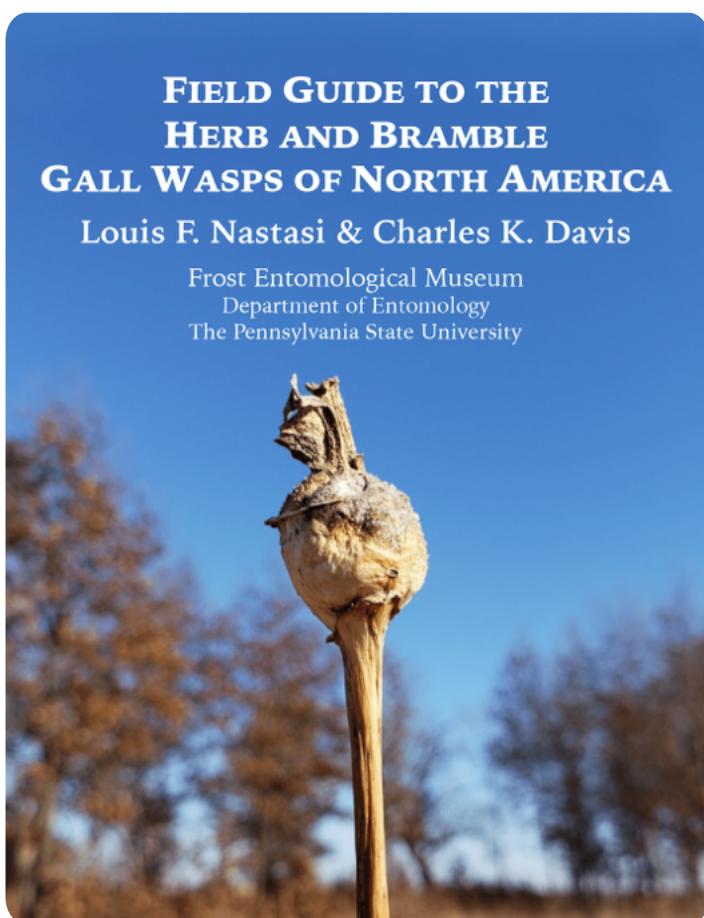
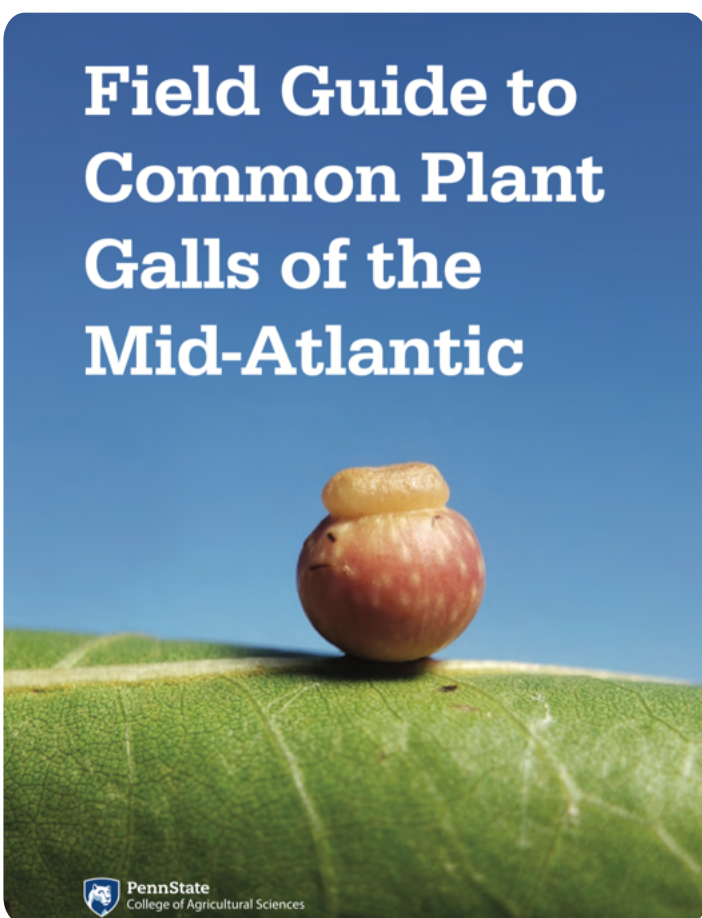


Spotlight on Plant Galls

Our new exhibit, [Wasp Galls Inside and Out](#), is up! The exhibit includes sections on the internal and external biologies of gall wasps and panels that highlight ongoing gall wasp research at Penn State. Watch for an online version to be published soon.



TWO new gall field guides are also available from the Frost Museum! The first is a guide to common plant galls of the Mid-Atlantic region of the US. A pocket sized booklet is freely available at the Frost's new gall wasp exhibit, or [can be downloaded as a PDF](#). The second was developed by grad students [Louis Nastasi](#) and [Charles Davis](#), focusing on herb and bramble gall wasps of North America, and [can also be downloaded as a PDF](#).



Fall Engagement

Courses

This semester we've had the pleasure of hosting three PSU courses at the Frost — Invert Zoology (BIOL 417), Principles of Environmental Interpretation (RPTM 325), and Introduction to Entomology (ENT 313). Students visited to learn about natural history collections and data sharing, critique exhibits, observe body plans of different arthropods, and even try a hand at preparing insect specimens!



Above: Students from BIO417 learning how insect specimens are prepared and labeled for integration into the research collections.



Above: Sujay Paranjape speaking with visitors at the Entomology Open House about his research on recruitment of natural enemies to crop pests.

Events

For PSU's Parents and Families weekend the Frost hosted an Open House on behalf of the Dept. of Entomology, and grad students [Sujay Paranjape](#) and [Anne Johnson](#) joined to talk with visitors about their ongoing research, the department, and insect biology.

Podcasts

Louis Nastasi talks with folks from the Backyard Ecology podcast about... you guessed it.... galls! You can give it a listen over on the [Backyard Ecology's podcast page](#).

Introductions!



Cecil Smith is an undergraduate student majoring in biology and has been digitizing both parasites and gall wasps at the Frost. He is interested in all things entomology, and an avid contributor to iNaturalist in the region; [check out some of his observations!](#)

JO Pepper Aphid Collection

We have started moving forward with digitizing and rehousing the JO Pepper Aphid Collection — a world class aphid collection housed at the Frost. This past summer an incoming freshman Matthew Uchneat was helping us label and scan slides, and now Frost Museum associate [Antonio Casadei](#) has taken over. This collection contains approximately 49,000 slides and 224,000 specimens, many of which were collected from sites visited repeatedly over the course of 50+ years.



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 help 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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