



Winter/Spring 2006 Newsletter, Volume 3, Issue 1

EntDigital Library

The Entomological Foundation is working in partnership with North Carolina State University, Clemson University, and Iowa State University to provide access to quality entomology educational materials and resources focused toward undergraduate and graduate students and educators. Funding, provided by AAAS, will be used to create an entomological digital library for teaching entomology to undergraduate and graduate science and non-science students. Teachers and students will be offered the opportunity to access cataloged entomological resources and materials in areas including forensic and medical entomology, morphology and systematics, and evolution and biodiversity. Many of the materials in the collection will also be suitable for life-long and other educational purposes.

This program is a component of the Biological Sciences Education Network Collaborative Biological Digital Library (BEN project) and will fill the void of entomology digital materials in current biological digital libraries. Materials and resources selected for the library will be analyzed based on criteria established by the EntDigital Library Advisory Committee. In our next issue, the Foundation will report on the criteria to be used for the selection process and ask for your help in suggesting materials for possible inclusion in the library. To learn more, contact April Gower, Entomological Foundation, at (301) 459-9083.

Teaching Life Science Through Insects

The Bohart Museum of Entomology, University of California-Davis, received a mini-grant from the Entomological Foundation to develop and implement an educator workshop. The workshop, offered jointly through the Bohart Museum and University of California Davis Extension, will teach educators how to integrate insects into their life science units while offering educators an opportunity to earn Continuing Education Units. Through this workshop, participants will learn about insects to the extent that they feel comfortable teaching entomology in their classrooms, and subsequently, use insects to elucidate concepts in lab activities. The information distributed during the workshops will also be made available on Bohart Museum's website. The new Kids n' Bugs web page will be accessibly to students, parents, and teachers from their homes. More than 7,000 students and educators have visited the Bohart Museum during the past year, and the number continues to grow weekly. The workshop is scheduled for July 2006. To learn more see <http://bohart.ucdavis.edu/>

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Learning Through Film

Back by popular demand! The Entomological Foundation will once again offer insect film events during 2006. The films, produced by Discovery Channel, will be shown free to the public. After the film, participants will have the opportunity to have their questions about insects answered by an entomologist. Educational materials on entomology will also be given to all participants. Event dates, places, and times will be posted soon on the Foundation's web site at <http://www.entfdn.org>



NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Partners:

As a valuable supporter of our work, the Entomological Foundation would like to take this opportunity to thank you. Your investment in the Foundation encourages and supports youth education in science through insects and is profoundly important to ensuring a future for entomology. In this issue of the newsletter, we provide a brief overview of some of the Foundation's recent and upcoming activities, which your contributions help to make possible. If you would like further information about the programs described below, please see our web site or contact April Gower at the Entomological Foundation. I along with the Entomological Foundation's Board of Directors, Board of Counselors, and staff wish you all the best in 2006.

Sincerely,

George G. Kennedy
Chair, Entomological Foundation Board of Directors

DONOR HIGHLIGHTS

Most recently, Frank Gilstrap, Resident Director of Research, TAMUS Research & Extension Center in Dallas, Texas, and a long-time supporter of the Entomological Foundation has shared his thoughts on why he donates to the Foundation and how the Foundation can continue to meet the challenges ahead in educating young people about science through insects.

As an entomologist, I believe that the future of entomology is dependent, in part, on exposing youth early to the natural and biological sciences. The Entomological Foundation bases its programs on partnerships with the Entomological Society of America (ESA), educational associations, business and industry, scientific organizations, government agencies, and higher education institutions. These partnerships are critical for creating collaborations on entomology education that benefit entomology and science literacy. As a former member and Chairman of the Foundation Board of Directors, I was delighted by the number of people who contacted the Foundation's office for educational materials and resources on entomology. In response, the Foundation has developed programs to excite youth about science through insects, and to encourage students to pursue careers in science. Once I learned that the Foundation operates independently from ESA and that it receives no funding from ESA or from my ESA membership dues, I began donating to the Foundation. Since 1998, I have helped support future scientists through my donations to the Foundation. My investment may not produce an immediate return, but I am certain the long-term benefit will be a public much better informed about insects. Having been excited about insects myself as a youth, I also believe that my and your investments in the Foundation's youth education programs are important for encouraging youth to want to join us as fellow entomologists.



RECIPIENT HIGHLIGHTS

Volunteer Teaches Students the Wonders of Insects

Thank you so much for sending the Insect Appreciation Digest and insect stickers. I imagined the Digest would be just a short introductory pamphlet on entomology, but was delighted to discover it is instead a comprehensive resource packed with useful and fascinating information! I know it will be a great reference for me as I prepare my educational talks on butterflies and other insects. I appreciate the Entomological Foundation's making this kind of quality information available so we can teach kids and adults alike about the wonders of the insect world. Keep up the great work! ... J.B. McKoy, Colorado

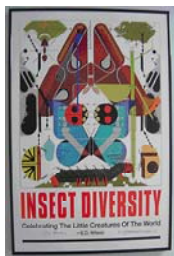
Thomas Say Award Recipient

*I am honored to receive the Thomas Say Award for 2005. Not only does it provide recognition for a 15 year collaboration with D.C. Currie and D.M. Wood that resulted in publication of *The Black Flies (Simuliidae)* of North America, but it also increases the visibility of basic research in evolution, morphology, and systematics. As the 2005 recipient, I am humbled to be a small part of the larger effort to maintain systematics at the forefront of biology. I express my profound appreciation to the supporters of the Thomas Say Award and to the Entomological Foundation for fostering research in systematics. By recognizing researchers in this fundamental area of biology, the supporters of the Thomas Say Award have inspired me to an even stronger commitment to systematics. Dr. Peter Adler, Clemson University*

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Entomophagy and the Macho Male Attitude Written by Dr. F. Tom Turpin

Insect Diversity Poster



Do you know an educator? Copies of this *Insect Diversity* full-color poster are available for classroom or educational programs. Created by Charley Harper and subtitled by Dr. E.O. Wilson, the poster, (see above), sells for \$34 each and comes with educational brochures for educators working to teach students about the importance of insects to our environment. These brochures are currently available. Please go to <http://www.entfdn.org/print.php> to learn how to purchase, or contact April Gower at (301) 459-9083.

Entomophagy, insect consumption by humans, is practiced worldwide with the notable exceptions of Europe and North America. In the United States eating insects is something that is sure to attract the attention of most people. I present a talk on human consumption of insects. Following one such presentation at a middle school assembly a group of students gathered at the front of the room around the overhead projector that had a number of live mealworms on the glass. Later that day the school was to participate in a football game so the players were all wearing their uniform shirts to class. One football player came to the front of the room and in a macho way challenged me to eat a mealworm live. I agreed to do so but only if he would eat one also. In our best braggadocio the exchange went something like this. You first... No you... You said you would! I will but you go first. In the midst of this macho exchange a young woman in her cheerleading outfit marched up and nonchalantly announced that she could eat a mealworm alive. The young woman took a mealworm off the overhead and with a smile on her face plopped it in her mouth and started chewing. The football player fainted. So much for the macho attitude about eating insects!

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FUNDING PARTNERS (JANUARY 1, 2005 – DECEMBER 31, 2005)

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