



Spring 2009 Newsletter, Volume 6, Issue 1

ENTOMOLOGICAL FOUNDATION CHALLENGE

In This Issue

Page 1

- *Entomological Foundation Challenge*

Page 2

- *Who We Reach*

Page 3

- *Exciting Nevada's Young People About Science Through Insects*

The Entomological Foundation has initiated a national fundraising campaign to establish the Entomological Foundation Education Fund. The goal is to raise \$400,000 in partnership with ESA Branches.

The Foundation's ability to maintain and expand access to its educational resources and programs relies on two revenue sources: endowment performance and fundraising. The Education Fund will provide assets to work in perpetuity to meet future funding needs; to fund new programs, projects, and services; and to expand the reach of the Foundation's programs and services (see <http://www.entfdn.org> to find out about the Foundation's programs).

The Foundation's goal in 2009 is to ensure the long-term financial health of the Foundation. The fundraising campaign includes a competition between the ESA Branches that will end when the Foundation reaches the \$400,000 goal. The ESA Branch that achieves the highest total donation by the end of the competition will be provided with \$40,000 to help support educational activities within the Branch, including funding for educational outreach activities, workshops, and awards.

The winning Branch will be determined by calculating the total amount raised by a Branch divided by the number of people in that Branch at the conclusion of this fundraising event. To learn more about the Campaign and its guidelines see <http://www.entfdn.org/announcement.htm>

Any questions concerning the Campaign, please contact April Gower at the Foundation, 301-459-9083 or april@entfdn.org

Do you know an educator?

Check out our interactive youth web site for grades 3 & 4: <http://www.cipm.info/entfnd/>

Do you know an entomology professor or student?

Check out the entomology digital library. As of February 2009, the library contains 250 reviewed materials listed in 34 searchable categories including by title. While the volume of web visitors increases steadily to 600 hits a day, the Library also has 88 registered university professors, high school and home school teachers, and graduate and undergraduates students contributing entomology resources and materials for review and inclusion into the Library. Learn more at <http://www.entlibrary.org/>



RECIPIENT HIGHLIGHTS

WHO WE REACH

- To help meet the science education needs of educators who want to teach about insects and entomology, the Entomological Foundation provided free insect science instructional materials to more than 70,000 children and educators throughout North America and overseas.

We do natural history programming for many local schools. Our Insect Program is very popular and we would like to expand on it this year. Many thanks for the great insect materials. We will definitely use them in our educational programs. Thank you for all that you do for education and knowledge! S. Sanborn, LC Bates Museum, Maine

- More than 10,000 children between the ages of 4-12 and 600 educators have been introduced to the world of insects through our mini-grant program. The program provided funding for experiential learning activities for children and training workshops for educators on how to incorporate insects as teaching tools into a science curriculum.

We are so thankful to the Entomological Foundation for a grant to provide biodiversity education, using insects and other arthropods, to hundreds of teachers, students, and citizens in Tennessee and North Carolina. This grant has allowed Discover Life in America (DLIA) to expand our reach beyond anything we would have been able to do without funding.

T. Witcher, Executive Director, DLIA

We are so pleased to be able to offer Teacher Training in Biodiversity for any educator in East Tennessee this summer thanks to DLIA and their grant from the Entomological Foundation. P. Beute, Program Manager, Ijams Nature Center, Knoxville, Tennessee

- 1,320 children have used our new self-guided educational web site for grades 3 and 4 since its release in September 2008 (as of March 10, 2009). The site contains learning activities that help users understand primary areas of entomology related to the characteristics of organisms, their life cycles, and the relationships between living organisms and the environment.

My son is so excited to see this website! He is an avid reader and outdoorsman! He loves all kinds of insects and will always capture stray bugs that I find in the house and release them outside. He tells me that I can't kill it unless I can prove that they are not doing something worthwhile! Please pass along to everyone that your site is a wonderful service for those kids who have a special interest like my son as well as the masses of children who may not have the interest quite yet! ... K. Auman, Parent, Pennsylvania

Do you know a student or educator?

More than 180 educators, students, and professionals have been provided with scholarships, mini-grants, research grants, and recognition awards. Check out our awards at http://www.entfdn.org/awards_scholar_fellow.php



EXCITING NEVADA'S YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT SCIENCE THROUGH INSECTS

Twenty-three fifth graders from Lena Juniper Elementary school in Sparks, Nevada, received a surprise on November 17, 2008, when a team of termites, beetles, hissing cockroaches, a black widow spider, a tarantula, and their handlers showed up for school.



Entomological Foundation Board of Counselors and Entomological Society of America members Rebecca Baldwin, Whitney Cranshaw, and Nick Toscano provided activities to Lena Juniper Elementary school students about science through arthropods.

Students were given the opportunity to view life as an insect through compound eyes made of straws and ocelli made of plastic. They viewed a display of butterflies from around the world and learned what insects are not by interacting with “Flick”, a cartoon insect from “A Bug’s Life”. The students learned how insects eat by use of straws, sponges, party horns, and pliers. Afterwards, the class discussed the economic value of insects and was given the chance to taste candy colored by cochineal dye.

They became junior scientists by performing an experiment on the olfactory cues of blind, soft-bodied termites and became badge wearing Bugologists by participating in the live arthropod petting zoo. Students were able to participate in an Ask the Expert session where they asked questions like, “how long do insects live?,” “how do you obtain insects for a collection?,” and “how can you touch live insects?” After the event, teachers and students received free educational materials from the Entomological Foundation including bookmarks, posters, and curricula.



Most entomologists began their careers because their fascination with insects was ignited through a childhood experience with insects. The Entomological Foundation provides educational materials and opportunities that spark interest in both students and teachers alike. I find great joy in volunteering to be a part of these educational programs. I get to witness the beginnings of the spark that opens the world of insects to children. Through the support of ESA members, volunteers, and sponsors, we can continue to provide the fuel to spark the next generation of entomologists. Rebecca Baldwin, University of Florida/IFAS

These presentations are just a taste of what is being planned by the Entomological Foundation’s Education Committee for next year’s Entomological Society of America meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, which will feature a full day of training and events for educators and students. Future plans include learning activities that help students understand the life sciences through insects including the characteristics of organisms, life cycles, and the environment. The goals of the program are to:

- Meet the needs of teachers in formal and informal educational settings who want to teach about insects and entomology;
- Foster understanding, interest, and appreciation for the world of insects by helping educators integrate insect-based programming into current science-based educational programs;

(continued on back page)

(continued from page 3: *Exciting Nevada's Young People About Science Through Insects*)

- Improve access for diverse audiences to obtain youth and educator entomological education resources; and
- Promote awareness and interest in insect science.

If you are interested in participating in next year's education event in Indianapolis please contact April Gower, april@entfdn.org, at the Entomological Foundation.



(Vol. 6, Issue 1)

Entomological Foundation (EIN 52-1756169)
9332 Annapolis Rd., Suite 210
Lanham, MD 20706