



Winter 2010 Newsletter, Volume 7, Issue 1

NEW AWARD TO BENEFIT URBAN ENTOMOLOGY GRADUATE STUDENTS

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Dr. Shripat Kamble, in partnership with the Entomological Foundation, has established the Shripat Kamble Urban Entomology Graduate Student Award for Innovative Research. Dr. Kamble established this prestigious award to promote innovative research in urban entomology. The award is supported by Dr. Kamble, plus additional donations from the Industry.

The applicant must be a candidate for a doctoral degree at an accredited university and currently conducting research that demonstrates innovative and realistic approaches to urban entomology excluding turf and ornamental pests. The award is only available to students who are Entomological Society of America (ESA) members with genuine interest in urban entomology.

The winner will receive a \$500 research grant and a plaque at the ESA Annual Meeting. The first award will be given in 2010. For more information please go to: http://www.entfdn.org/awards_research.php You may also contact April Gower, Entomological Foundation, (301) 459-9083, april@entfdn.org for more information. The deadline to apply is July 1, 2010.

UPDATE: EDUCATING YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT SCIENCE THROUGH INSECTS EDUCATOR WORKSHOP

Sixty K-12 educators from throughout Indiana convened early on a cold December 12th morning to attend the Entomological Foundation's free educator workshop at the Indiana State Fair Grounds to learn how to help students understand the life sciences through insects. The day began at the Normandy Barn where teachers, homeschool parents, and volunteer youth leaders started their day with an *Introduction to Teaching Science through Insects*. From there, participants had the opportunity to attend three of seven workshops. All activities presented during the workshops were suitable for all grade levels, focused on Indiana's state science standards, and could be integrated into other disciplines including art, math, and reading. For example, participants who attended the *Becoming "Bug-Eyed": Entomology Nature Journaling with Students* workshop, learned about nature journaling and artistic observation with a specific eye toward insects from a



(Normandy Barn)

certified scientific illustrator and entomologist. At the *Earth Without Insects??* workshop, participants had the opportunity to learn how to use concepts in insect ecology to teach general ecological principles, including conceptual frameworks specific to ecosystem conservation, food webs, and interdependence of plants and animals.



(Martha Lutz, (center), presenting the Earth Without Insects?? workshop)

Participants who attended the *Lost Ladybug Project* workshop had the opportunity to learn how their students could become citizen scientists by contributing to a real ongoing scientific inquiry and exploring their own scientific research questions. Units for students in grades K-6 included



activities on insect life cycles, biological control of insects, biodiversity, and conservation. To learn more about this program, check out <http://www.lostladybug.org>



(Rebecca Baldwin teaching the *ABC's of Insect Communication* workshop)

Besides the *Lost Ladybug Project*, participants also had an opportunity to attend the *ABC's of Insect Communication: Termite Trails* in which educators explored several types of insect communication and used components of the scientific method to simulate a pheromone trail and test it with live insects. Participants were taught how to teach students to make a simple hypothesis and prediction, design an experiment, and define what a pheromone is and how insects use pheromones to communicate.

These are just a few of the workshop opportunities participants were provided during the educator training event; workshops also included *Escaping Predation; Using Agriculture and Entomology to Teach Science and Math to K-12*; and *Using Everyday Objects to Demonstrate Insect Mouth Parts, Biological Diversity, and Natural Selection*. These workshops taught participants how to help students understand the life sciences through insects, including the characteristics of organisms, life cycles, and interactions of organisms with the environment.

All participants received free educational materials and resources and the opportunity to receive continuing renewal credits from Purdue University. Educators who attended the event also have the opportunity to apply for a mini-grant from the Foundation to implement the activities they learned with their students. Since the event was held, the Foundation has received quite a few thank you letters from the participants. Below is one example:

Professionally, I was hoping to collect meaningful activities for biology and zoology when stepping into the Normandy Barn. That is precisely what happened! Although I attended the workshops on ABC's of Insect Communication: Termite Trails; Using Everyday Objects to Demonstrate Insect Mouth Parts, Biological Diversity, and Natural Selection; and Using Agriculture and Entomology to Teach Science and Math to K-12 Students, I was also able to speak with the presenters of the Being Bug-eyed: Teaching Entomology Nature Journaling and Observation to Students They were all helpful! The opening session also helped set the stage for the day. The petting zoo was captivating. It was also neat to hear the perspectives from the presenters who came from different geographical locations including California, Florida, Kentucky, Oklahoma, and Texas. As a result of your time and effort, this teacher from the Midwest left with an increased science and language literacy about botany and entomology. Please extend my gratitude to Dow AgroSciences and Gylling Data Management for their sponsorship of the event. Educator from Frankfort High School

The Foundation is grateful for the enthusiasm and dedication the volunteer presenters and “helpers” brought to making the event a tremendous success. We would like to thank the following presenters: Leslie Allee, Cornell University; Rebecca Baldwin, University of Florida/IFAS; Brian Bret, Dow AgroSciences; Sarah Donelson, Oklahoma State University; Ronda Hamm, Dow AgroSciences; Martha Lutz, Bluegrass Community and Technical College; Andrine Shufran, Oklahoma State University, Michelle Smith, Dow AgroSciences; Tom Turpin, Purdue University; and M.O. Way, Texas AgriLife Research and Extension Center. And, the following volunteers who assisted in ensuring the event was a great success: Eva Chin-Heady, Mary Rob Clarke, Colwell Cook, Dennis and Leta Kopp, Charlie Lutz, and Patti Prasifka. This free event was made possible through Dow AgroSciences as a premier sponsor with additional support from Gylling Data Management, Inc.



2009 RECIPIENT HIGHLIGHTS

- More than 4,000 children and educators throughout North America were provided insect science instructional materials by the Foundation to help educators and parents teach students about science through insects. Materials included insect posters, activity sheets, insect fact bookmarks, and the *Insect Appreciation Digest* (1st ed.) The Foundation is always looking for educational materials to mail to educators. If you have materials you would like to share please contact the Foundation's office at 301-459-9083 or april@entfdn.org
- More than 3,000 children between the ages of 4-12 and 150 educators were 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.
- Approximately 4,800 children have used our new self-guided educational web site for grades 3 and 4. 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. The activity can be found at <http://www.cipm.info/entfdn/> Plans are underway to expand the site to grade 5 in 2010.
- More than 18,000 Internet sites refer to the EntDigital Library. The Foundation continued to work with North Carolina State University and Clemson University in the development of an entomology digital library. This is the last year of the program. The library contains 400 reviewed materials listed by 34 searchable categories. While the volume of web visitors increases steadily to 750 hits a day (an increase of 25% since last summer), the Library also has 102 registered professors, high school and home school teachers, and graduate and undergraduates students contributing entomology resources for review and inclusion into the Library. To access the Library please go to <http://www.entlibrary.org/>

LETTERS FROM PARENTS

We would like to share the letter below received at the close of 2009. This letter is an example of the requests for help we receive from parents whose children are fascinated by the world of insects. Your support in 2009 helped us to respond to requests from parents, teachers, and volunteer youth leaders asking for help to stimulate and sustain interest in insects and insect science among young people.

Hi,

I have a beautiful young daughter who is 6 years old. My daughter's fascination with bugs is amazing. Ever since she was in pre-school she has been known as the "bug" girl as she would spend her entire play-time outside looking for them. Her love for the little critters is overwhelmingly strong. I have found grasshoppers in her bed in the morning. I have found various bugs in her pants, in her book bag, and if she sees one on the ground she'll pick it up and carry it with her everywhere... She has decided she wants to be an Entomologist when she grows up, and although she is only six years old, I fully believe that's exactly what she will be. She loves the outdoors so

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much, I cannot keep her inside. Taking her hiking is always an adventure, yet, we have to be patient when we do, as she can only seem to make it a few feet at a time; her face is always buried in the dirt.

I am writing to you in hopes of some possible information of where I can look to flourish her fascination. We've done the basic bug stuff here at home... We've done bug habitats, ant habitats, hatched butterflies and her love even extends to snakes... even though she does not like to feed it crickets. ... If you have any suggestions of direction that I can lead her in I would be eternally grateful: books, websites, educational toys... so on, anything that I can give her. Right now we are learning about and reading a book about the rainforest.

Thank you ahead of time for any suggestions you may be able to give me. I and those around me find her fascination incredible. I used to think it was just a phase but, no way, my girl is in "bug" love.



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