

## DID YOU KNOW?

- 95% of all animal species on earth are insects.
- Fewer than 1% of insects are pests.
- Without insects, there would be no apples, oranges, berries, cotton, silk, honey, chocolate, or colorful flowers.

*See the fascinating world of insects up close. We provide high-quality microscopes and magnifiers for truly close-up viewing.*

### Traveling Collections

- Common California Insects
- Aquatic Invertebrates
- Insect Defenses
- Pollinators
- Predators & Prey
- Live Insect Zoo

**SSU Collections:** The Department of Biology insect collections are available to view by appointment.

*Thanks to the supporters that make this program a reality: **Susie Dowd Markarian (APLD), the Sonoma County Fish and Wildlife Commission, Lynmar Winery, the Melissa Garden, Kate Frey, Harmony Farm Supply, the Sonoma County Children's Museum, and RS Duckworth Construction.***

*Thanks to **Dr. Nathan Rank**, Department of Biology, who serves as advisor to the Entomology Program, and supervises our activities. The efforts of many **SSU biology and environmental studies students and alumni** increase the reach of our program. Their enthusiasm and hard work are indispensable to our success, and very much appreciated.*

For further information on our Entomology Program, or to learn how you can contribute to our efforts, please visit the website, or contact:

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# A WORLD of INSECTS



## Entomology Program

### Field Stations & Nature Preserves Sonoma State University

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[www.sonoma.edu/preserves](http://www.sonoma.edu/preserves)



## Mission

*The mission of the Entomology Program is to increase awareness and appreciation for the critical role of insect biodiversity in ecosystems. We emphasize conservation issues, especially watershed stewardship and ecologically sound pest management.*

## Themes

Watershed ecology, and the role of insects in sustainable landscaping are central themes of our program. The connection between the ecology of backyards and the environmental health of watersheds is engagingly explored in a diversity of settings. We also offer special topics in entomology.

**Water World:** Where does our water come from? Where does it go? Learn how the environmental health of streams and lakes can be measured by studying insects and other invertebrates that live in the water.

**Garden Allies:** Beneficial insects, amphibians, birds and other garden denizens provide pollination, pest management, and other services, while providing lessons in ecology on any scale, from global to the smallest garden.

**Special Topics:** Insect defenses, soil food web, habitat gardens, aquatic invertebrate natural history and identification, and others.

## Resources

**Teacher Support:** Written materials include lesson plans, a Bugliography, student handouts, and a variety of other resources.

**Garden Allies:** An illustrated guide to beneficial insects and other garden allies. Proceeds benefit the Entomology Program.

## School Program

*Our classroom presentations are content-rich and cover grade-appropriate curriculum standards. They are conducted by trained upper-division biology and environmental studies students. Fee for standard classroom presentation is \$75; scholarships available. Se habla español, ASL available.*

### Classroom K-5

Interactive exhibits and activities, live insects and magnification combine for a memorable experience. Choose from our Garden Allies or Water World themes. Classes are 45-60 minutes in length. Additional time may be requested for creek/pond or school garden explorations.

### Middle/High School

Our program for older students includes 'Awesome Arthropods', a presentation on the characteristics and evolutionary relationships of arthropods. Time is allowed for observing live specimens and microscope use. Other options include a presentation on classification schemes and species concepts, and a unit for high school (3 visits) on genetics and global climate change, with SSU research on the Sierra willow beetle serving as the theme for the lesson.

### School Garden

Insect hunts, insect identification and food web presentations introduce basic ecological principles. A short introduction is followed by guided exploration of the garden environment and discussion. Always a hit!

### Teacher Training

Entomology basics, and the role of terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates in the environment. Programs available for school garden coordinators and classroom teachers.

## Public Programs

*Seminars and workshops for adult education and public programs are presented by the Entomology Program coordinator.*

### Insecta-Palooza! October Open House

Join us for a fantastic day of entomological exploration! A rare opportunity to view the SSU insect collections, live insect zoo and museum. Interactive labs and activities compliment lectures for all levels. Something for everyone - from budding to professional entomologists, expert gardeners, and aquatic environment enthusiasts. Discover how field stations and nature preserves contribute to our understanding of the world around us. Many family-friendly activities. Insecta-Palooza! is held each year on the Saturday before Halloween.

### Public Events

Seminars and workshops are regularly offered through local organizations and agencies. We also provide large exhibits for public events. Find us at the Pepperwood Preserve Wildflower Festival, Hallberg Gardens annual Open House, and the California Native Plant Society fall sale. Check our online calendar for upcoming opportunities to see us in action.

### Docent And Professional Training

We offer entomological docent training for nature preserves, watershed groups and public agencies. Day-long workshops on aquatic invertebrate identification and water quality, and garden allies are offered by the Entomology Program; proceeds benefit the program.

### Research

Please contact us for more information.