

10:00 AM TO 12:00 NOON

Coordinator:
Bob Droual



WHY INSECTS MATTER: Insects dominate the earth and after we are gone will continue to dominate! They appeared on earth about 480 million years ago and survived three mass extinctions. There are more than 1,000,000 species of insects, about 2,000 times the number of mammal species. They are incredibly diverse! Their evolutionary accomplishments include being able to migrate over many miles using the earth's magnetic field, jumping into the air 25 times their body length and running 125 times their body length in a second. They have evolved ways of avoiding conflict and loss of life by using ritualized behavior. Some insects have evolved agricultural methods long before humans: leafcutter ants harvest leaves to feed and grow fungus gardens, ants use antibiotics to control parasites, and some ants are even ranchers. In this course we will learn not only these and many other fascinating adaptations but begin to appreciate the beauty of insects as the ancient Egyptians did many years ago. Finally, we will learn that insects are not only beautiful, interesting, and accomplished but make for good eating! Yum!