

MISSOULA BUTTERFLY HOUSE AND INSECTARIUM

NEWS

Fall 2015

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OUR MISSION

The Missoula Butterfly House and Insectarium inspires an appreciation and understanding of insects and their relatives through educational programs and innovative science exhibits featuring live invertebrates.

VISIT US!

218 E. Front St, Missoula
406-317-1211

Admission:
\$4 for guests ages 4 and up
FREE for members

Open:
Wednesday-Friday 11am-5pm
Saturday 10am-5pm

HOURS ARE SUBJECT
TO CHANGE. PLEASE CALL
BEFORE YOU VISIT.

THE BUZZ We Are Open!

by Jen Marangelo, Executive Director

Wow! What a groundbreaking year it's been. It's been a while since our last newsletter, but as you probably know, things have been a little busy lately. Since the grand opening of the Missoula Insectarium on June 25th, we've barely had time to look back.

Over the past twelve months we completed the renovations to our downtown location (218 E. Front St.) and passed inspection by the USDA as a "containment facility," allowing us to secure the permits needed to obtain the host of amazing species we now have on exhibit. With our facility opening, we needed to make a slight increase in staff, expanding from 1 to 6 full-time and part-time positions (please see inside to meet our staff). There were also a few minor details to attend to... like designing and installing our exhibits and signs and developing curriculum.



Our live butterfly exhibit is a favorite!

Thanks to the artistic vision of Courtney Blazon and the hard work of more than a dozen volunteers, we not only have a functional classroom for school field trips and events,

but one that's also beautiful and creative. Since opening our doors, we've welcomed dozens of classes to the insectarium for a variety of programs and have held a number of special events.

As the icing on the cake, we've also greeted thousands of enthusiastic visitors through our doors. From Missoula, the Flathead, the Bitterroot, Billings, Bozeman, Winnett and many other parts of our great state (as well as visitors from across the country) we've made a host of new friends.

As we look to the months ahead, we've got a lot on our plate. We're expanding our K-5 curriculum to include middle school classes; launching a number of clubs, camps and special events; and welcoming new species to keep things fresh.

Thanks to friends like you we've taken so many important steps in solidifying our place as western Montana's insect education destination. Thanks for making this incredibly exciting past year possible.

And if you have not visited the Missoula Insectarium yet, what are you waiting for? Your two, six, eight and many-legged tour guides are waiting for you. 🦋



Thanks for making
this incredibly exciting
past year possible.



Follow us on Facebook!
Missoula Insectarium

MEET THE MISSOULA INSECTARIUM STAFF



One of the most frequent and difficult questions we are asked is "Who is your favorite animal in the Insectarium?" We asked our staff to share their answers.

◀ From Left to Right:
 Olivia Gordon, Live Collections Manager
 Madeleine Hull, Museum Interpreter
 Jen Marangelo, Executive Director
 Monica Perez-Watkins, Administrative Assistant
 Karen Weaver, Admissions Associate
 Carolyn Wiley, Museum Educator



Lupin, Wolf Spider

OLIVIA

I don't think I could ever choose a favorite arthropod, but I will say how excited I am about the number and diversity of spiders that are currently at the Insectarium. These spiders utilize a variety of methods to catch their prey, so feeding them is always exciting, challenging and incredibly interesting!



The Aussies, Australian Walking Sticks

MADELEINE

My favorite arthropod is the Australian Walking Stick. They are incapable of biting or stinging, thus relying solely on camouflage and mimicry adaptations. Their style of mimicry is quite impressive, including lifting their front legs and curling up their tail to mimic a scorpion which tricks predators into thinking they are venomous.

JEN

Today my favorite is the dung beetle! My first insect-related job was working in Doug Emlen's lab at UM and at that time, his research organisms were dung beetles. These were the first insects I got to know really well. I will always feel fond of them because they introduced me to the wonderful world of arthropods.



The Muppets, Dung Beetles

MONICA

Arthur is my favorite because... he's Arthur and he always makes me smile.



Arthur, Hammers Cobalt Blue Lobster

KAREN

You can find my favorite arthropod in the animal encounter area at the Missoula Insectarium. The Blue Death Feigning Beetle is an exceptional actor, playing dead to discourage predators, and a snappy dresser, sporting a blue, waxy coat that keeps her cool and hydrated.



The Blues, Blue Death Feigning Beetles

CAROLYN

Milton, the Giant African Millipede, because he is just so large and magnificent. He is just such a gentle giant that whether he's cruising around or curling up, I think I could watch and hold him for days without getting bored.



The Milton's, Giant African Millipedes

To learn more about our staff, please visit the "About Us" page on our website.

BECOME A MEMBER

Membership includes free admission (for the number shown for each level) for one year, discounts on special presentations and birthday parties, and invitations to exhibit openings and special events. Sustainer's membership includes a bonus personal, behind-the-scenes tour for up to 6.

\$35 - INDIVIDUAL (1) \$55 - PAIRS (2) \$80 - FAMILY (4) \$250 - SUSTAINER (6)



UPCOMING EVENTS

WE OFFER PROGRAMS FOR
A VARIETY OF AGE RANGES!

OCTOBER IS...

SPIDER MONTH!



Join us for an exciting month dedicated to our favorite eight-legged friends, SPIDERS! Learn about spiders at our Animal Encounter cart and every Saturday there will be fun games, special spider feedings, crafts, spider talks and more. Spider month wouldn't be complete without celebrating Halloween on the 31st with a costume contest and spooky snacks.

Visit www.missoulabutterflyhouse.org for more details and join us as we celebrate "all things spider"!

UPCOMING THEMES:

NOVEMBER: Insects and Food—Who eats insects (us!), what do insects eat, and what kinds of fruits and vegetables do insects provide for us?

DECEMBER: Where do insects go in winter?

School's Out Early Events

AGES: ALL

In addition to meeting bug ambassadors at our Animal Encounter cart, every Thursday from 3-5pm there will be craft or science activities and at 3:30 you can watch us feed Rosie, our Chilean rose tarantula.

*Early Childhood
Education
Programming:*

Lil' Bugs

AGES: 3-5

Lil' Bugs introduces kids, ages 3-5, to the wonderful world of insects and their relatives. Through story time, hands-on interactions with Bug Ambassadors and fun games, kids and their parents will play and learn together about a new topic each week.

TIME: 12:15-1:15pm

DATES: Every Wednesday starting 10/14

COST: Free with regular admission to the Insectarium. Children 3 & under are free.

*After School
Bug Club:*

Art 'n Bugs

AGES: 7-10

During this exciting 6 week Bug Club, kids, ages 7-10, will explore the world of insects from the intersection of art and science. Each day of Art 'n Bug Club will feature interactions with live Bug Ambassadors, games, and art projects. If you have a young explorer who is fascinated by insects, is a budding artist, or just plain loves to have fun while learning cool new things...then they'll love this lively and fun Art 'n Bug Club.

TIME: 3:45-5:15pm

DATES: Every Wednesday from 10/14-11/18 (6 weeks)

COST: \$60 per student / \$54 for members

School's Out Day Camps

AGES: K-5

No School? No Problem! School's Out Day Camps at the Missoula Insectarium are for any young bug lover that wants to keep exploring when school is out. Kids in grades K-5 will explore the Insectarium, play fun games and activities centered around insect themes, interact with live Bug Ambassadors and more.

TIME: 8:30-3:30pm

DATES: 9/28, 10/16, 11/13, 4/1, 4/25

COST: \$50 per student / \$45 for members

Bugs 'n Beers

AGE: ADULT

Beginning in October, we will have a monthly presentation just for adults. For \$5 you will receive two beverage tickets, socialize in the insectarium, and listen to a presentation on an arthropod-related topic. Check out www.missoulabutterflyhouse.org for upcoming presentations.



We are proud to
have KECI as our
television media
sponsor!



**CRAWL ON OVER TO OUR WEBSITE TO LEARN
ABOUT MORE BUG FUN, LIKE FIELD TRIPS
AND BIRTHDAY PARTIES!**



Fall | 2015

**COME LEARN ABOUT THE LITTLE
THINGS THAT RUN THE WORLD!**

THANK YOU

A big thank you to everyone who helped make the Missoula Insectarium a reality! If it were not for the generosity and support of so many, we would not be here today.

In particular, we want to recognize the following individuals and businesses for their generous support and belief in our vision:

PREMIER LEVEL

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