



OSU Insect Adventure

A Living Collection in Action

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Insect Adventure



Insect Adventure



Mission:

Science Literacy through Insect Interaction

Objective:

Engage, Enthuse, Educate (and Uneducate)
All Sorts of All Ages in All Situations about the
Excitement, Enjoyment, Effectiveness of Bugs

Oklahoma's Only Live Bug Petting Zoo



- ▶ Begun in 2005
 - ▶ All volunteers
- ▶ 2014
 - ▶ 588 Presentations across OK
 - ▶ 300,000 Individuals contacted
- ▶ Educational center
- ▶ Offices, storage
- ▶ 2 containment rooms



Insect Adventure Management

- ▶ 1 Full-time employee
- ▶ 3-5 Part-time staff
- ▶ Contributions from students/faculty/volunteers
- ▶ Oversight from Department Head
- ▶ Autonomous operation



What Makes Insect Adventure Unique?

- ▶ Educational facility **AND** mobile program
- ▶ Hands-on with animals, little exhibitry
- ▶ All by appointment only
- ▶ Extensive travel
- ▶ Adaptability
 - ▶ Visits to IA
 - ▶ Travel to:
 - ▶ Schools
 - ▶ Events
 - ▶ Parties
 - ▶ Camps
 - ▶ Fairs



Live Collection Requirements

- ▶ Easy to obtain
- ▶ Easy to maintain
 - ▶ Diet
 - ▶ Habitat
- ▶ Easy to breed
- ▶ Handleable
- ▶ Large, pretty, interesting, fun
- ▶ Teachable moment
- ▶ Hardy to travel, packable into cooler
- ▶ Number of spp used in a presentation
- ▶ Serve as food



Insect Adventure Collection

▶ 12,000 pinned; Living:

▶ Arachnids

- ▶ Aranea (25 spp), Acari (2 spp), Opiliones (1 sp)
- ▶ Amblypygi (2 spp), Uropygi (1 sp), Scorpiones (5 spp)

▶ Myriapods

- ▶ Chilopoda (4 spp), Diplopoda (6 spp)

▶ Crustaceans

- ▶ Isopoda (4 spp), Decapoda (1 sp)

▶ Insects

- ▶ Orthoptera (2 spp), Phasmatodea (9 spp), Dermaptera (1 sp), Isoptera (1 sp), Blattodea (13 spp), Hemiptera (2 spp), Mantodea (2 spp), Coleoptera (6 spp), Hymenoptera (2 spp), Diptera (3 spp)



Challenges

▶ Past

- ▶ Financial
- ▶ Marketing/reputation
- ▶ Finding good employees

▶ Current

- ▶ Maxed out. 2 fronts; too thin. Need a replicate.
- ▶ Lack of administrative support
- ▶ Crumbling infrastructure (1944)

▶ Future

- ▶ Department head leaving
- ▶ Outdoor development
- ▶ Exhibitory vs opportunity costs
- ▶ Branch out into new opportunities



Thank you for your attention!

