THE INSECT WORLD: HIDDEN LIVES IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS

FACILITATOR

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Welcome to The Insect World OLLI Study Group

Hi:

We are two weeks from the start of our OLLI Study Group – The Insect World: Hidden Lives in Central Illinois. I hope you are as excited as I am about these sessions.

Our first meeting will happen on **September 3** at **Peoria NEXT Innovation Center** – **Room A114**. The address is 801 W. Main Street, Peoria. We will begin at **9:30 a.m**. This will be our only meeting at Peoria NEXT; remaining sessions will be outdoors at either Forest Park Nature Center or Tawny Oaks/ Singing Woods.

Before our first session, it would be great if you:

- Obtain a copy of the optional textbook – How Insects Work by Marianne Taylor. You will find a link at the web page I plan to use for this study group.
- Once you have the optional book, please **read chapters 1 and 2.** If you are unable to access the book, no worries; it is optional.
- Take a moment to review the web page we will be using - https://**insectsmatter.net/olli/olli-26/**. This page will grow as we discuss and encounter insects in our excursions.
    - There are some initial tasks on the page to complete prior to September 3. These include **adding an entry to our synonymy** and **answering one question**.
    - You will also find links to download a copy of the syllabus, a review of what to bring and wear to our excursions and some materials for our meeting on September 3.

If you have not met me in person yet, here is a little more information concerning my background as an entomologist. I am a retired professor. I worked as a research affiliate with the Illinois Natural History Survey for roughly 2 decades. I also worked at the Kansas Biological Survey; I am president of the Entomology Section of the Peoria Academy of Science. We hold monthly field trips to discuss and learn about insects. I have written roughly 60 peer reviewed papers on insects (mostly ants) and I have described a number of species of ants. I have traveled extensively throughout the world observing insects. I even have a species of butterfly named after me. I have been observing and learning about insects for well over 6 decades.

I'm excited to meet you in person on September 3. I'm hoping we have great discussions about insects (especially those found in central Illinois). Let's have fun learning and observing insects. These are wonders at our feet (and they really are the little things which run our world).