The Insect World: Hidden Lives in central Illinois

Facilitator

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OLLI Fall, 2026 Description

Curious about the diverse, vibrant world of insects? Join us as we explore, including prairie and forest habitats rich with insect life at Forest Park Nature Center and Tawny Oaks/ Singing Woods. Along the way, we'll examine a variety of microhabitats and ecosystems just off the beaten path. Supplemental materials from **InsectsMatter.net** will be available before and after each field trip, and optional readings from ***How Insects Work*** will help us better understand why insects have thrived for hundreds of millions of years. Our first session will be held at Peoria Next, and the following sessions will be held at various field locations listed above. Transportation is not provided.

Optional Readings

How Insects work. Taylor, Marianne. 2020. ISBN: 978-1615196494

Objectives

Learn about the world around us, socialize, experience central Illinois insects.

Online Resources

Please visit https://insectsmatter.net/OLLI-26

Course schedule

SESSION	LOCATION	OPTIONAL CHAPTERS
September 3, 2026	Peoria NEXT, A114	1 – Ancestors…, 2 – Insect Body Plan
September 10, 2026	Forest Park Nature Center	3 – Senses…, 4 – Movement…
September 17, 2026	Singing Woods/ Tawny Oaks	5 – Digestion…, 6 – Respiration…
September 24, 2026	Forest Park Nature Center	7 – Reproduction, 8/9 – Development
October 1, 2026	Singing Woods/ Tawny Oaks	10 – Behavior, 12 – Diversity