

# THE WAGNER FREE INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

Fall 2017  
ZOOLOGY SERIES  
**A Selective History of 19<sup>th</sup> Century American Entomology**  
Professor Greg Cowper

This course will be held at the **Fishtown Community Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia**, 1217 E. Montgomery Avenue (just north of Girard Avenue), Philadelphia.

6 Wednesdays, October 4 to November 8, 2017

LECTURES ARE HELD FROM 6:15 to 7:45 PM

## Course Description

This course will examine the field of Entomology—the study of insects—through the lens of 19<sup>th</sup> century America, and chronologically explore the entomologists, their work, the science, and the insects that were influential during this important era of discovery.

## Lectures

- 1. Wednesday, October 4, 2017 - Insects and the New World**  
Maria Sibylla Merian, John White, Mark Catesby, John Bartram
- 2. Wednesday, October 11, 2017 – Colonial Entomology**  
Frederick V. Melsheimer, Thomas Say, Titian Peale, William D. Peck, Thaddeus W. Harris
- 3. Wednesday, October 18, 2017 – Museums and Entomological Societies**  
Charles W. Peale, Frederick E. Melsheimer, Ezra T. Cresson, John L. LeConte, James B. Clemens, Ezra T. Cresson, Jr., Lucy Say
- 4. Wednesday, October 25, 2017 – The Rocky Mountain Locust**  
Asa Fitch, Charles V. Riley, Alpheus S. Packard, Cyrus Thomas, Samuel H. Scudder
- 5. Wednesday, November 1, 2017 – True Bugs, Butterflies, Moths, and Mosquitoes**  
Edward Van Duzee, Willis S. Blatchley, Philip R. Uhler, John H. Comstock, William J. Holland, Clara S. Ludlow
- 6. Wednesday, November 8, 2017 – Close of the Century**  
Henry T. Skinner, Harrison G. Dyar, Jr., Philip P. Calvert, Charles W. Johnson, Annette F. Braun, Henry C. McCook

## Suggested Readings

Lockwood, Jeffery Alan. 2005. *Locust: The Devastating Rise and Mysterious Disappearance of the Insect that Shaped the American Frontier*. New York: Basic Books, pp. 294.

Sorensen, Willis Conner. 1995. *Brethren of the Net: American Entomology, 1840-1880*. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, pp. 367. (Some passages on line - see Google Books.)

**Greg Cowper** is an Entomologist at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University. A Professor of Biology for the Wagner, he has taught past courses on Urban Entomology and Extinction. His research interests are in the systematics, evolution, and biogeography of Heteroptera, the True Bugs. He is currently managing the National Sciences Foundation grant - OrthopNet: Connecting Field Notes to Specimens; a project linking grasshoppers, their data and field notes.