

Stockton University to Host Moth-ing Event on Galloway Campus for National Moth Week

Nature Enthusiasts and Citizen Scientists of All Ages Invited to Observe Moths at a Backlight with Entomologist Jamie Cromartie July 20

For Immediate Release

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Galloway Township, NJ - Stockton University's resident entomologist Dr. Jamie Cromartie will lure nighttime nature to a backlight for observation on **Monday, July 20, 2015** during the fourth annual National Moth Week.

Nature enthusiasts of all ages will have the chance to see some of the estimated 150,000 to more than 500,000 moth species that inhabit our planet. Participants will meet at 7:30 p.m. along the pathway into the woods across the street from the Arts and Sciences Building. Participants can park in Parking Lot 1.

Dr. Jamie Cromartie, associate professor of Entomology, will use various techniques such as backlighting and sugar bait to attract a diversity of species for observation. "We ought to see several dozen species of moths ranging in size from a sixteenth inch to half a foot across, along with several other orders of insects, including treehoppers, owlflies, mantisflies, longhorn beetles and fishflies," said Cromartie.

This year's Moth Week celebrates hawk moths, sphinx moths and hornworms (members of the Sphingidae family).

Moth Week provides an educational opportunity for nature enthusiasts to learn about moths, their habitat, ecological roles and the threats they face. "It is important to protect and manage their habitats and avoid light pollution, which may be among the reasons they have become much less common around our towns and suburbs," said Cromartie.

"Other problems that affect moth diversity are the increasing prevalence of mowed lawns, planting exotic species of trees and shrubs in place of the insects' native caterpillar host plants, aerial application of chemicals to control forest pests and loss of forest diversity because of lack of fire," he continued.

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Note: Cromartie, who specializes in insect ecology, organized the first Galloway Township 4th of July Butterfly Count, an initiative led by the North American Butterfly Association to monitor butterfly populations, in 1979. The event became an annual tradition in 1988 and brings back alumni to help monitor local butterfly populations. Dr. Jack Connor, retired professor of Writing, administers the [South Jersey Butterfly B/Log](#), a live South Jersey butterfly public spreadsheet with a running collection of posts and photos of butterflies in New Jersey's southern eight counties.

About National Moth Week: [National Moth Week](#) is a project of the Friends of the East Brunswick (NJ) Environmental Commission, a nonprofit organization dedicated to environmental education and conservation. The event grew out of local summer "Moth Nights" organized by David Moskowitz and Liti Haramaty of the commission since 2005. National Moth Week (NMW) shines a much-needed spotlight on moths and their ecological importance as well as their incredible biodiversity. This global event encourages children and adults to become citizen scientists and contribute photos and data to online databases. Last year, more than 400 events were held in all 50 states and 42 countries.

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