

EXHIBITION EXPERTS



The following experts are key members of the team responsible for bringing *Butterflies + Plants: Partners in Evolution* to the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. Upon request, they are available to answer any questions regarding the design, development and operation of this exciting new exhibition.

For additional information, contact:

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Nathan Erwin, Exhibition Manager, *Butterflies + Plants: Partners in Evolution* “Bug Guy”

Nathan Erwin is exhibition manager for *Butterflies + Plants: Partners in Evolution* at the National Museum of Natural History. He also manages the museum's award-winning O. Orkin Insect Zoo, for which he oversees all staff and educational/outreach programs. Since joining the museum in 1992, Erwin has cared for and cultured a wide variety of insects, spiders, crustaceans, millipedes and centipedes.

In addition to his work at the museum, Erwin has taught for 16 years at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Graduate School. Previously, he was staff scientist at Rachel Carson Council Inc. (1988-1992), where he helped bring the book “Basic Guide to Pesticides” (CRC) to publication. As a forest pest entomologist with the Maryland Department of Agriculture (1983-1988), Erwin helped coordinate the statewide gypsy moth control program.

Other highlights from Erwin's career include working on a wide variety of Smithsonian insect-related products, including models and children's books; acting as a consultant on the script of the IMAX 3-D movie “BUGS!”; appearing on National Geographic Channel, National Public Radio's “All Things Considered,” “The Late Show with David Letterman,” and other local and national television programs to which he was accompanied by live residents of the Insect Zoo; and spending many hours photographing insects and banding birds.

Erwin is a graduate of the University of Delaware, where he studied entomology.



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W. John Kress, Ph.D., Curator and Research Scientist “Pollination Authority”

John Kress is a curator and research scientist at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History, where he formerly served as chairman of the Department of Botany.

Outside of the Smithsonian, Kress is a fellow with the American Association for the Advancement of Science and holds the executive director position at the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation. Before joining the museum, Kress was the director of research at the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Fla.

Kress’ research interests focus on the evolution and relationships of tropical plants, especially heliconia, gingers and relatives. His field studies concentrate on the evolution of breeding and pollination systems in plants, genetic variation and speciation in tropical angiosperms, and forest fragmentation and conservation of tropical ecosystems. Among his more than 100 scientific and popular publications on tropical botany are his two books “Heliconia: An Identification Guide” (Smithsonian Institution Press) and “Heliconias – Las Lamaradas de la Selva Colombiana,” published in Bogotá.

Kress received his bachelor’s degree from Harvard University (1975) and his doctorate from Duke University (1981), where he studied tropical biology, ethnobotany and plant systematics.

Conrad Labandeira, Ph.D., Curator and Research Scientist “Fossil Specialist”

Conrad Labandeira is a curator and research scientist in the Department of Paleobiology at the National Museum of Natural History where his research focuses on plant-insect associations in the fossil record, insect paleobiology and the evolution of terrestrial ecosystems. His studies have taken him to numerous fossil sites in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Texas, Quebec, South Africa, Brazil, Argentina and China.

Recently, together with colleagues from South Africa, The Netherlands and the United States, Labandeira has been investigating patterns of plant-insect associations for a 45 million-year interval across a major extinction at the Permian-Triassic boundary from the Karoo Basin of South Africa.

Labandeira was born and raised in the San Joaquin Valley of central California. While helping his family tend the crops on their 30-acre farm, Labandeira began his interest in fossils, insects, and their effects on plants. Although he finds insects endlessly fascinating, he does enjoy other avocations. They include nature photography, cooking,

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the history and philosophy of science, and, recently, a conscious attempt to become familiar with popular culture.

Labandeira attended undergraduate school at California State University in Fresno and went on to study at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee for his master's degree and the University of Chicago for his doctorate. He did postdoctoral work at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and has been affiliated with the Department of Paleobiology since 1992.

Sally Love Connell, Exhibition Developer **“Exhibition Guru”**

Sally Love Connell has been with the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History since 1982, and has served as an exhibit developer since 1993. In her current role, Connell focuses primarily on exhibit conceptualization and development, and funding acquisition. Recent projects include the Smithsonian Butterfly Garden, as well as the Kenneth E. Behring Family Hall of Mammals and the O. Orkin Insect Zoo – both award-winning efforts.

Most recently, Connell was instrumental in raising the funds necessary to build the O. Orkin Insect Zoo. As director of the project, she managed content development and oversaw the exhibition's construction. Connell also coordinated educational and scientific activities around the Insect Zoo and researched the propagation of exotic species.

During her tenure, Connell served as an on-air host for Discovery Channel's “Discovery Now” and has appeared on such programs and stations as “The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson,” “The Late Show with David Letterman,” CNN, Nickelodeon, and National Geographic Television. Connell also was featured in an internationally televised UK documentary, “BUGS!”

Her current projects include *Butterflies + Plants: Partners in Evolution*; *Orchids*; *Darwin*; and the *Ocean Hall* temporary gallery.

Ted Schultz, Ph.D., Research Entomologist **“Ant Expert”**

Ted Schultz is a research entomologist in the National Museum of Natural History, where until recently he served as chair of the Department of Entomology. His research focuses on the evolution of ants – in particular the fungus-growing ants (*Myrmicinae*):

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Attini) and their fascinating system for cultivating fungus gardens upon which they depend for food.

Schultz conducts field work in South and Central America and uses DNA sequence data and morphology to reconstruct the 50 million-year evolutionary history of fungus-growing agriculture in ants. In 2001, his research was featured in the eight-part PBS documentary, “Evolution: A Journey into Where We’re From and Where We’re Going.”

Schultz received his bachelor’s degree from the University of California – Berkeley, and his doctorate from Cornell University.

