



2022 Eagle Hill Institute
Online Natural History Seminars

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Photography and Biology of Spring Insects and Spiders

Dr. Kefyn Catley

April 4th – May 2nd, 2022

This seminar provides a unique opportunity to learn more about insect and spider biology using your own images as a point of entry into the engrossing world of arthropods. It addresses the biology behind the photograph for photographers and the art behind the image for those with a biology background. Photography topics will include choosing macro equipment; lenses, cameras, strobes, megapixels etc., lighting, background and bokeh, framing your subject: art vs. science? Brief introduction to post production workflow in Lightroom -from RAW to finished image. Biology topics include; Basic arthropod taxonomy, morphology, physiology, behavior, and ecology. Identification resources, the importance of microhabitat -where to find what. Learning will be heavily dependent on participant's sharing their images for constructive critiques by other students and the instructor. Classes are purposely spaced 7 days apart allowing participants to take full advantage of practicing their new-found skills. Each 2-hour session will be mainly driven by student questions and discussion. Participants are expected to have a basic understanding of how to operate their digital 35mm or equivalent camera, but no background in arthropod biology is assumed.

Scheduling Details

April 4, 11, 18, 25, and May 2
7 PM – 9 PM ET

Participants need to have a Zoom account (<https://zoom.us> sign up for zoom is free). You will receive a secure link to join the instructor before each class. Classes will be recorded so participants can review them or make up missed ones.

For more information regarding seminar costs and registration please visit:
<https://www.eaglehill.us/programs/sems-online/general-info.shtml>

About the Instructor

Dr. Kefyn M Catley (kcatley@wcu.edu) is Professor Emeritus of biology at Western Carolina University where he taught and conducted research in organismal evolutionary biology and science education. He holds a PhD in arthropod systematics from Cornell and was a research scientist at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY. Traveling extensively, he has studied spiders on four continents and held faculty positions at Rutgers and Vanderbilt universities. A naturalist, passionate photographer, and lifelong observer of the tiny creatures “that run the world” Kefyn gives talks and workshops at photographic clubs and societies where he encourages photographers to become citizen scientists by documenting and sharing their local arthropod diversity online. The instructor has 30 plus years of experience teaching and mentoring students and science professionals in the field, lecture, workshop, and lab. His research has been published extensively in a wide range of scientific journals and his arthropod photographs have appeared online and in magazines, including National Wildlife.

Samples of his images can be found here: www.hiddennatureimages.com