



# SPIDER BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY, FIELD SAMPLING, AND IDENTIFICATION



2023 EAGLE HILL  
NATURAL HISTORY  
SCIENCE SEMINARS  
ON THE COAST OF  
EASTERN MAINE

**Instructor: Dr. Kefyn M. Catley**

**When: July 23 - July 29, 2023**

This seminar will present a comprehensive introduction to spider systematics, morphology, behavior, physiology, and ecology. A phylogenetic approach will be used describing each taxon as a function of its evolutionary history and distribution of characters. Spiders from a wide array of local habitats will be studied including woodlands, marshlands, seashore, and open ground. A significant component of the seminar will involve the collection and identification of spiders through use of a variety of collection and observation methods, including Berlese sampling and night collection. Emphasis will be placed on the biodiversity of spiders and on the pivotal role that arthropods, including spiders, play in maintaining the terrestrial ecosystems. Evenings will be available for students to work on identification skills. It is expected that you spend as much time as necessary working on your collections in the lab. During the course we will view spider videos, have informal discussion sessions on aspects of spider biology, systematics, evolutionary biology etc. If you have something interesting to share, please bring it.



**GENERAL INFO**

**CALENDAR**

**APPLY**



## about the instructor

**Dr. Kefyn M Catley (kcatley@wcu.edu)** is Emeritus Professor 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 to natural history and photographic groups 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 Kefyn’s images can be found here: [www.hiddennatureimages.com](http://www.hiddennatureimages.com)