



SOCIAL MEDIA AND UP TO THE MINUTE UPDATES

During the IECC keep an eye on our social media for up to the minute updates, weather notifications, or cancelations.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/213145362224978/>

(or search Facebook for Invertebrates in Education and Conservation Conference (IECC))

Download the WHOVA conference app and keep up to date with conference happenings in real time

SUMMER IN SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA

The Conference has a casual and relaxed atmosphere with a little dressed up flare for the Banquet and Dance. Many places are well air conditioned and often cold. A light sweater, sweatshirt and pants are helpful.

The Conference takes place during the region's monsoon season. In addition to lightning, torrential rains and flash floods, the sun is very intense. Bring sun protection and avoid being out during the heat of the day. We do provide drinking water for the field trips, but be forewarned and keep your body well hydrated even during the paper sessions. If your lips become dry, you have not been drinking enough water.

Chigger Alert!! Yes, they do live in Arizona. Spraying pants and socks with insect repellent can be a deterrent. Our best advice is to avoid tall grasses and take a warm shower immediately after returning from the field.

SOME ITEMS TO BRING:

- A dependable bright flashlight (with additional batteries)
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen (30spf recommended)
- Hat
- A water bottle or canteen

- Swimming suit – the resort has multiple pools
- Loose-fitting long sleeve shirt
- Rain gear
- Comfortable sturdy walking shoes
- Insect repellent
- Something for the silent auction

CONFERENCE EVENTS

SILENT AUCTION

TITAG will be coordinating a silent auction this year. Feel free to bring any invertebrate themed item to donate to the auction. Bidding will start Thursday and end with a final bidding war just before the Banquet on Saturday Evening. Proceeds will benefit the Steve Prchal Scholarship Fund and TITAG Conservation Grants Program. The live auction is taking a break this year, but some items may become special raffle prizes.

EVENING EVENT AT CATALINA STATE PARK

On Friday night lights and sheets will be set up in this beautiful location to enjoy the insect life as it flies in. Please note that unlike in prior years, this event is organized at no cost to conference participants. This means that while there will be no meal provided, participants should feel free to bring their own food and beverages to the event, there are picnic tables at the site. Car caravans will be organized and start leaving from the conference area starting at 6:30pm.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are for preregistered participants only, and are intended to be intimate, low environmental impact experiences. Non-registered participants are not allowed to join or tag along.

COLLECTING

It is your responsibility to comply with state and federal regulations if you plan to collect while in Arizona. If you choose to collect, please make responsible arrangements to transport your live animals. Please practice respectful collecting procedures and follow collecting restrictions in designated areas. Collecting is at the discretion of any trip leader based on prevailing conditions. No collecting equipment is provided by the Conference. All vertebrate species require specific permits for collecting; do not attempt to collect any snakes or other herps without one. The hotel staff has been notified that containers with live arthropods may be in participants' rooms. Please be mindful that some of the animals around the resort like tarantulas are long lived and 'known' to resort employees and are essentially their pets, so please limit collecting of tarantulas to areas away from the resort.

TRAVELING IN THE AREA

Since the conference and outdoor excursions are near the Mexico-U.S. border, the U.S. Border Patrol operates a variety of checkpoints in the area. For international travelers, please carry your passport/visa on field trips and other excursions away from the Resort. For U.S. citizens, a State issued ID or driver's license will get you through these check points easily. U.S. and Canadian citizens ages 16 and over will need to present a government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license, and proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate, naturalization certificate or passport, to enter the U.S. by land or sea.

If you have had a medical exam that involved radioactive substances, bring a letter from your doctor. The checkpoint in Tubac has used a scanner for radioactivity in the past and you could be detained if the Geiger counter goes off.