



Department of Entomology
Michigan State University

MSU BUG HOUSE **2013 Tours and Events**

The Bug House is sponsored by the Department of Entomology. It is the flagship of all Entomology Outreach Programs. We provide educational programs via tours and open houses at the Bug House, as well as at various on- and off-campus events. Several thousand visitors come to the Bug House each year. However, we reach a much wider audience through outside activities, such as various MSU and community science events, classroom visits throughout the community and various 4-H programs.

AUDIENCE: Our tours, events and facilities serve pre-K through 12 students, support MSU ISB and other science courses on campus, as well as educate all ages of the general public from around Michigan.

PROGRAM FUNDING: For school tours, the Bug House charges a \$50.00 fee to cover costs of staff, supplies, and maintenance of our live cultures. Open House events are free, but donations are accepted. Our student guides mostly volunteer their time as a learning experience and to help contribute to reducing our expenditures.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES: As a result of our programs:

- Visitors gain an appreciation for insects and their value
- Visitors gain a better understanding of nature and science
- Teachers and educators will see how insects can be used to demonstrate scientific principles
- Participating graduate and undergraduate student guides gain experience in teaching and outreach

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: Our main clientele groups are pre-K through 3rd elementary classes, although we accept and have groups of all ages come through the Bug House. School visit programs are one hour in length and cover a variety of topics from "What is a bug" to metamorphosis and handling of living arthropods. Teachers may choose the topic of presentation, appropriate to the class level and what they have been studying. A typical tour involves a short lecture/presentation, followed by the opportunity to ask questions, observe insects/arthropod displays and handle living arthropods. Open House events are

similar to school tours, but without a presentation. We have evening open house events once a month during the school year, monthly weekend open houses during the summer, as well as special open houses around Halloween and Christmas. For events away from the Bug House, we utilize custom display drawers of insects, posters, and live arthropods to recreate a Bug House experience. This year the Bug House has been expanding our online presence through Google Calendar, Facebook, and Twitter. Our Google Calendar, found through a link on our website, allows the public to look at our availability for tours before they call as well as reminding everyone when the Open Houses are. Our Twitter and Facebook outreach has recently been restructured to be more frequent and consistent. On Twitter and Facebook we post upcoming Bug House events, pictures of insects and past events, fun insect facts, and ask questions or a poll about the Bug House, events and insects.

PROGRAM IMPACTS: In 2013 we scheduled 116 one-hour school tours with over 3,500 student participants for these programs. Over 1,100 MSU students came through as part of ISB 201 labs. Biology classes from DeWitt High School, Lansing Community College, and Kalamazoo College visited the Bug House this year. The majority of our school tours are repeat visits from educators who now use the Bug House as a part of their curriculum. Over 2,200 general-public visitors attended our various Open House and other special events in the Bug House. Other on- and off-campus events, in which we participated, were attended by an additional 2,500 visitors. This amounts to over 9,000 face-to-face contacts for the year through our tours and events. The Bug House participated in MSU Museum's Darwin Discovery Day, MSU Grandparent's University, MSU Science Festival, CANR AutumnFest, 4-H Children's Garden Bug Day, 4-H Exploration Days, Tollgate Fair, Take Your Child To Work Day, Be A Tourist In Your Own Town, as well as various other events on and off-campus. ESPN visited and showcased the Bug House as part of their College Football Game Day program, giving national television exposure to the Bug House and MSU. We've seen a substantial increase in Twitter followers and increased participation (likes, comments) on our Facebook page.

For more information, please visit:
www.ent.msu.edu/bughouse
Twitter @MSUBugHouse,
[Facebook.com/MSUBugHouse](https://www.facebook.com/MSUBugHouse)

CONTACT INFORMATION:
Jennifer Verba
Outreach Coordinator
Department of Entomology
Phone: 517/355-4663
Fax: 517/432-7061
Email: bughouse@msu.edu

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

MSU BUG HOUSE 2012-2013

LEFT: Crafting at Halloween Open House; RIGHT: Volunteer shows off bugs



LEFT: BUG House T-shirts; RIGHT: Family who won free Bug House Tour at Halloween Open House



BOTH: Crafting at Holiday Open House

