This seminar will focus on taxonomy and identification of North American Lepidoptera (moths and butterflies), with special emphasis on the use of pinned specimens for research. Field trips will be conducted daily to collect specimens, and participants will learn numerous methods of attracting and collecting both adults and larvae. Ecology and life histories of selected Lepidoptera species will be discussed, and specimen preparation methods will be taught and practiced throughout the week. Specimen dissection, which is an essential part of Lepidoptera identification, will also be taught. Online and print resources useful for identification of North American Lepidoptera will be shared. By the end of the seminar, participants will possess the skills necessary to sample for Lepidoptera in the field, prepare and identify specimens, and recognize the taxonomic relationships between Lepidoptera families.

Paul Dennehy (dennehp10@gmail.com) is a lifelong Lepidoptera enthusiast who has collected moths and butterflies throughout the continental United States and Canada. A graduate of Juniata College, he currently teaches zoology and chemistry in Pennsylvania and spends the summers traveling around the country collecting Lepidoptera. He has performed Lepidoptera pest survey work for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and a Lepidoptera biodiversity inventory at a Pennsylvania military base.