



TRACKS AND SIGNS OF INSECTS AND OTHER INVERTEBRATES

Charley Eiseman

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This course addresses the full spectrum of topics covered in my book by the same name, with an emphasis on signs found on plants. We will explore a variety of habitats in search of leaf mines and other feeding sign, galls, eggs and egg cases, cocoons, nests, webs, burrows, and other objects and patterns created by insects, arachnids, snails, worms, etc. In the process of identifying these features we will discuss the life histories and ecology of numerous species. In the lab we will examine items collected in the field, both to observe details that require magnification and to investigate mysteries. Slideshow presentations will give an overview of each category of invertebrate signs as well as introduce students to the often little-known creatures responsible for them.



about the instructor

Charley Eiseman (ceiseman@gmail.com) is a freelance naturalist based in western Massachusetts. He has been conducting plant and wildlife surveys and natural resource inventories throughout New England for over twenty years. He holds an MS in Botany (Field Naturalist) from the University of Vermont and a BS in Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation and Management from the University of Massachusetts. Charley is the author of *Tracks & Sign of Insects and Other Invertebrates* (Stackpole Books, 2010), *Leafminers of North America* (self-published e-book, 2019), and an insect-themed blog called "BugTracks." He has also published about 40 scientific papers on insect natural history, including the description of over 60 new species.