



2024 Eagle Hill Institute
Online Natural History Seminars

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Introduction to Spiders: Biology, Ecology, and Identification

Kefyn Catley

May 22nd – May 31st, 2024

This seminar will present a comprehensive introduction to spider systematics, morphology, behavior, physiology, ecology, and spider/human interactions, myths and folk law. Format will be based around Powerpoint presentations that not only provide information but pose questions and encourage class discussion. A phylogenetic approach will be used describing each taxon as a function of its evolutionary history and distribution of characters. Those characters that allow for field identification will be highlighted and participants are encouraged to share spider photos and observations for class discussion. For those interested in photography the basics of arthropod photography will be covered. Spring is a good time to find spiders as they break diapause, and methods for finding and collecting them will also be discussed. No prior knowledge of spiders is assumed or required.

Scheduling Details

May 22, 24, 27, 29, 31
7–9 PM ET

Participants need to have a Zoom account (<https://zoom.us> sign up for zoom is free). You will receive a secure link to join the instructor before each class. Classes will be recorded so participants can review them or make up missed ones.

For more information regarding seminar costs and registration please visit:
<https://www.eaglehill.us/programs/sems-online/general-info.shtml>

About the Instructor

Dr. Kefyn Catley (kcatley@wcu.edu) is an 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, held faculty positions at Rutgers and Vanderbilt universities and has taught the Spiders of the Southern Appalachians class at Highlands Biological Station, NC since 2004. Please feel free to email me with questions.

Samples of his images can be found here: www.hiddennatureimages.com