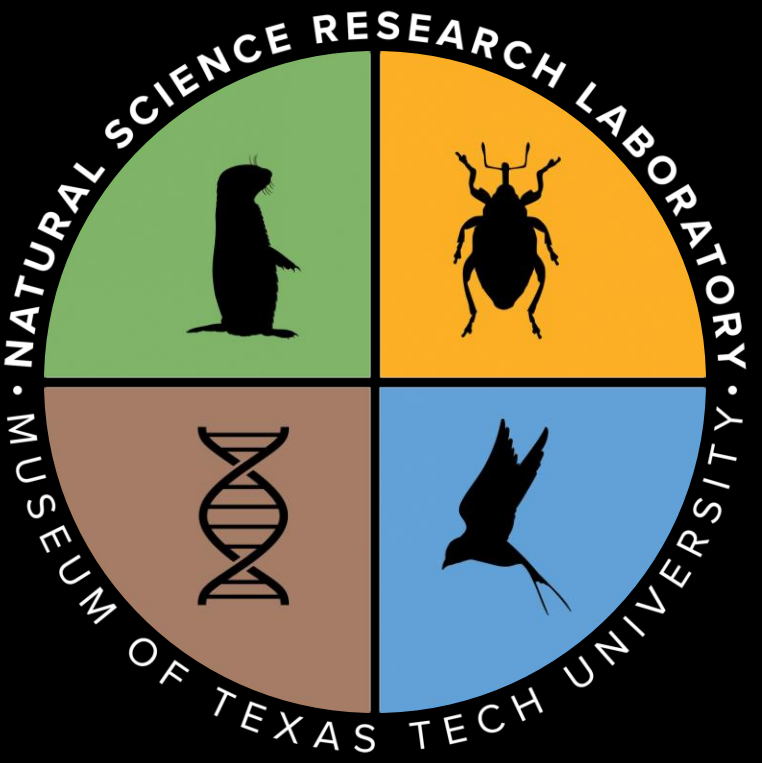
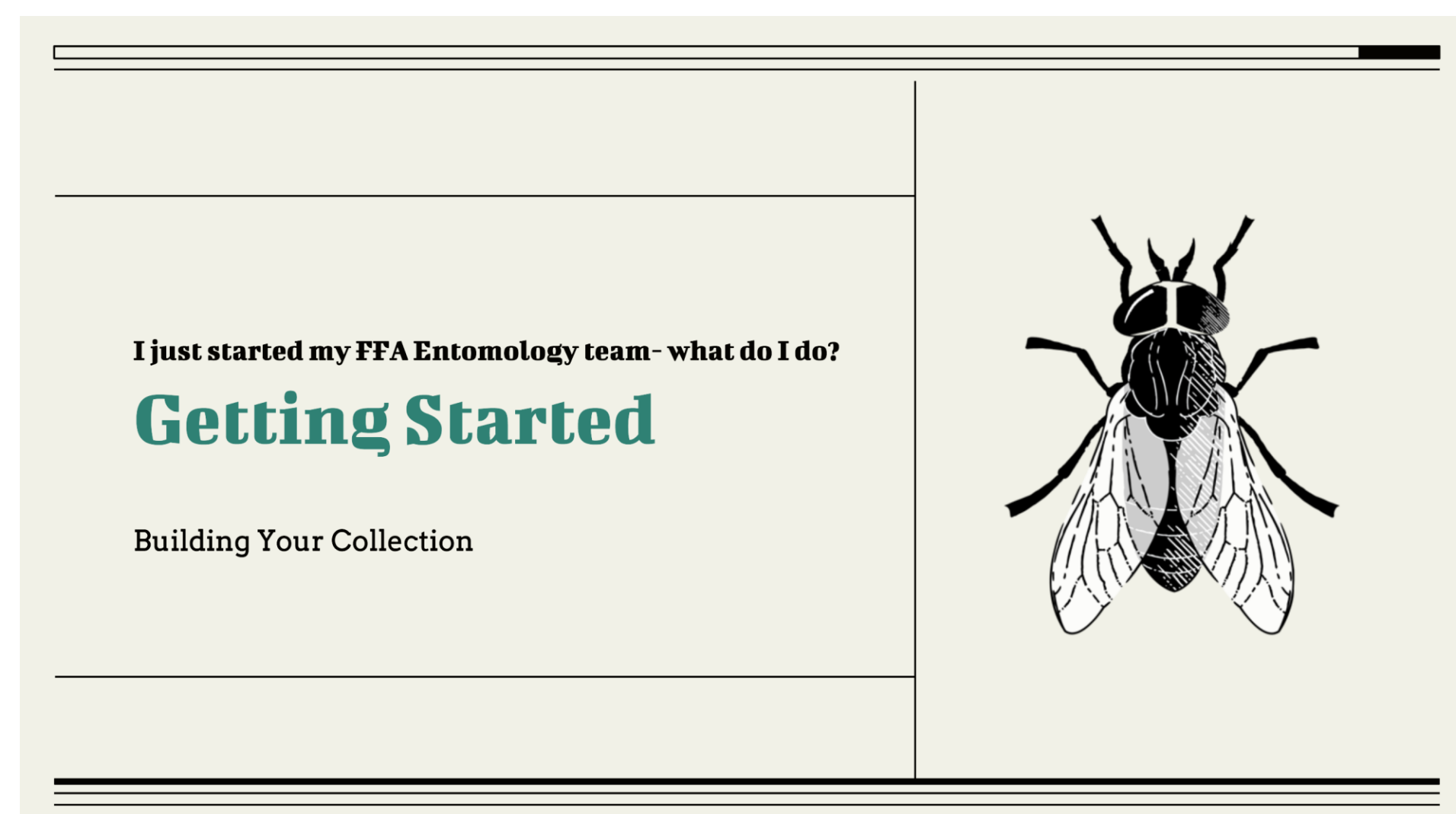


Jill Forrest, Lily Prescott, Jennifer Girón and Scott Longing



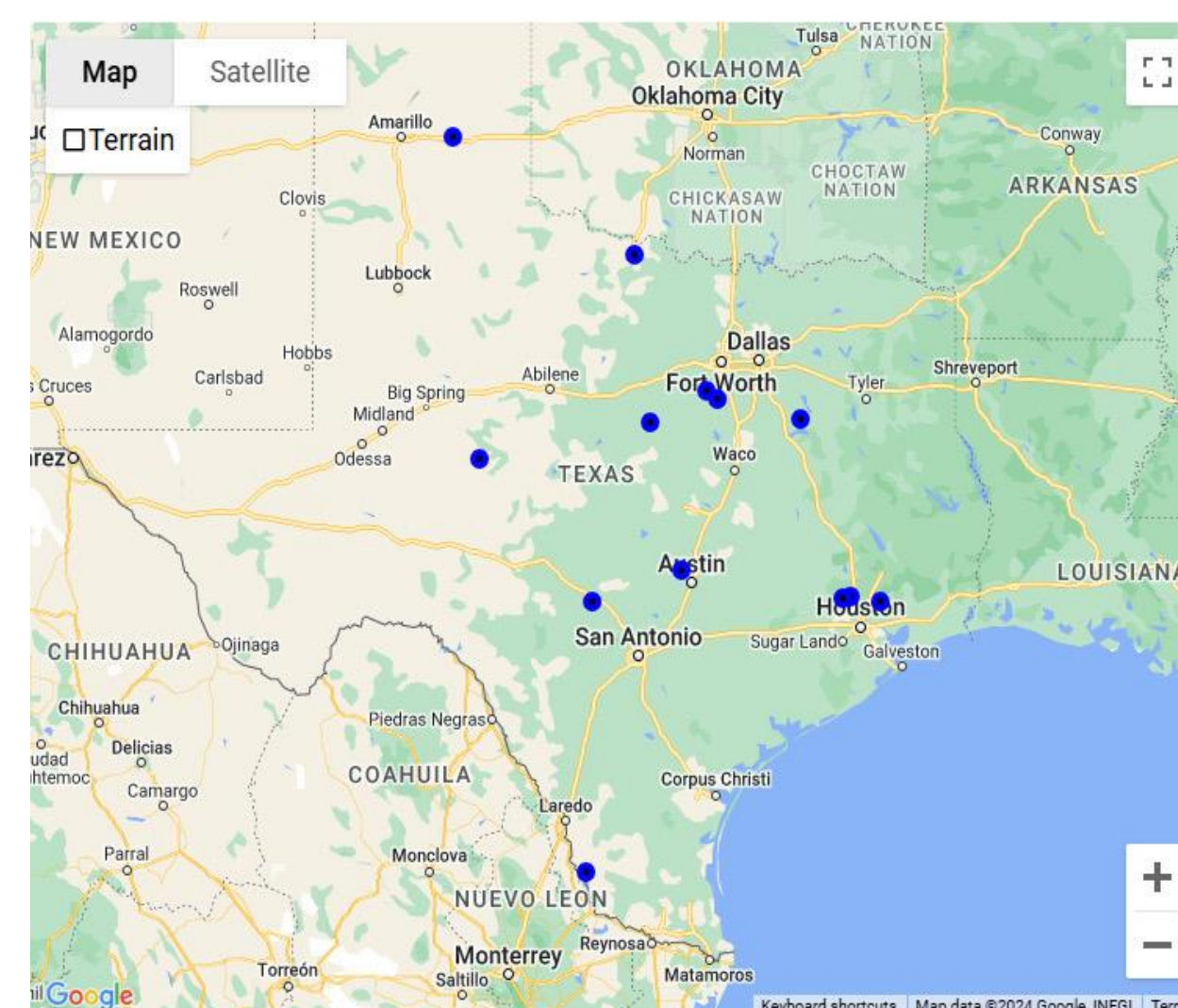
In 2024, we established a workshop for FFA agricultural teachers with high school entomology teams. The workshop aims to enhance instruction for students by providing hands-on experience in collecting, curating, and archiving specimens, ultimately fostering interest in entomology among the younger generation.

- Many Texas teachers leading FFA entomology teams lack prior entomology education.
- Since Texas is such a large state it is almost impossible to reach all high schools in person.
- Teachers and students are expected to know 155 different invertebrates as well as a bank of 250 general entomological questions, but they currently have no centralized study material.
- We've created workshops and remote learning methods to remedy this.



The project aims to offer basic entomology education to high school teachers and students through various approaches to reach a wide audience. By the end of the project, both students and teachers will have basic training in entomology, as well as diverse educational materials available.

- First annual “Bugshop” hosted in Junction, TX for FFA entomology team coaches.
- Duration: 3 days of training.
- Focused on collecting, preserving, and identifying insect specimens.
- Covered various collecting methods for both terrestrial and aquatic arthropods.
- Provided instructions for pinning, pointing, and maintaining a collection.
- Attendees collected specimens to take home.
- Feedback survey indicated high satisfaction; many called it the best workshop ever.
- Plans to open next year’s workshop to students to foster interest in entomology.

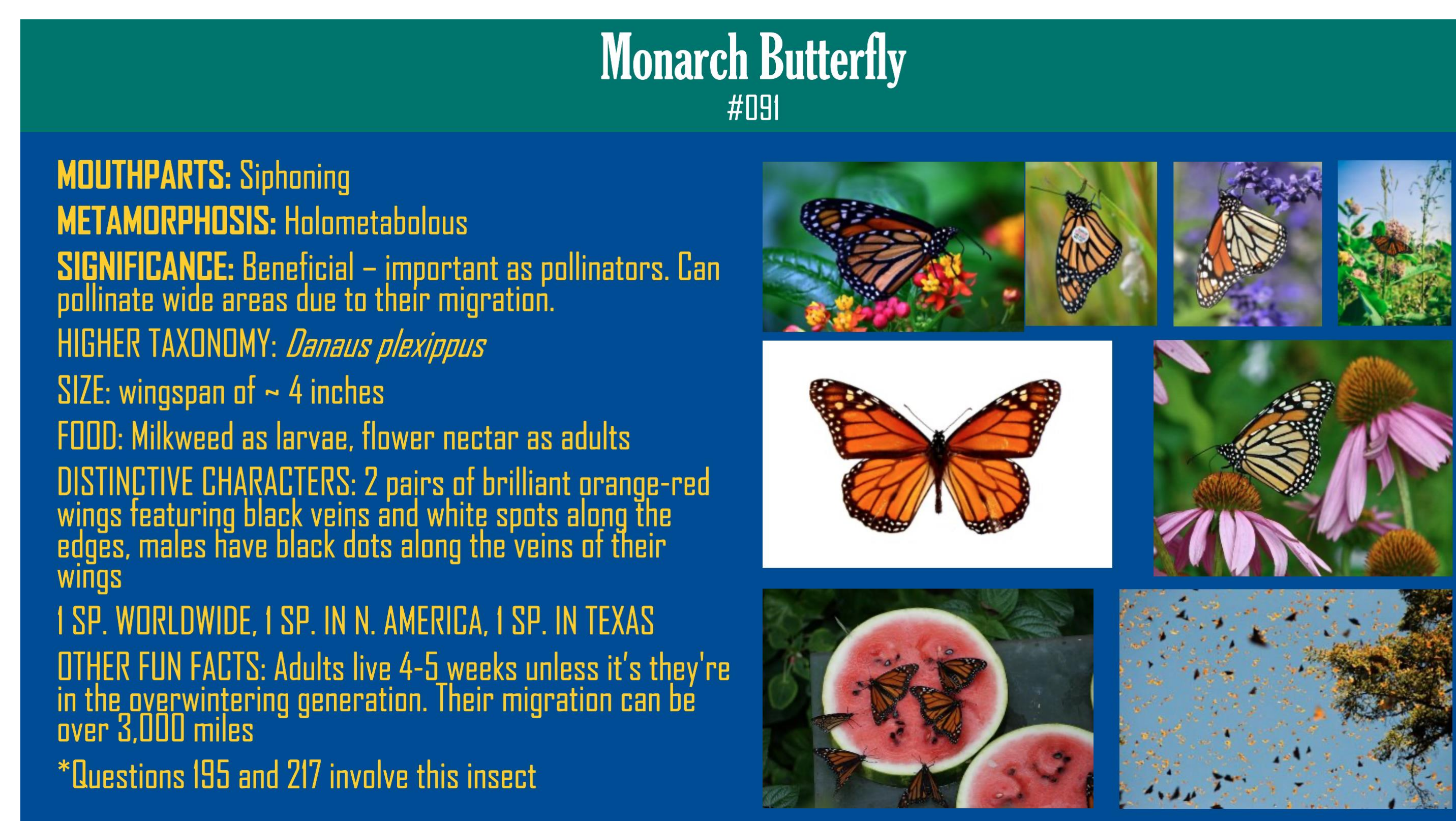


Map showing home locations of each teacher that attended our workshop



Inaugural Class of the Texas Tech Bugshop 2024 Junction, TX

- Set of 202 informational slides reviewing the 155 individual taxa that students need to know, organized by order.
- Each sheet contains: common name, order, metamorphosis type, type of mouthparts, general significance to agriculture.
- Additional Information: scientific name, size, characteristics, species counts, etc.



Starting in mid-January we will be hosting live webinars over Zoom that will be recorded and later put online for other schools to use. Topics for these webinars will be loosely based on the exam questions, with categories including anatomy, morphology, reproduction and development, and several others.

One of the challenges we are facing now is gathering specimens for all 155 taxa on the FFA list. We are attempting to build two reference collections.

Some of the challenges include:

- Presence and abundance of specimens by locality
- Limited time and resources to gather all 155 specimens
- Differing preservation methods among specimens makes storage of a complete set difficult



We would like to thank the inaugural group of 14 teachers that were willing to take a chance on our workshop this summer.

The Davis College of Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources, with their Catalyst Grant funded our workshop this summer.

The Invertebrate Zoology Collection from the Natural Science Research Laboratory, Museum of Texas Tech University provided materials and specimens for the workshop.