

Meet the Entomologist

Joe A. MacGown



I have been associated with the MEM for over 40 years and my role here has evolved significantly. In the early days, my work was mostly centered on scientific illustration and general museum prep work. Along the way I became an ant taxonomist. Retired in 2020, but back part time!

I primarily study ants, but also other insects when the occasion presents itself. I love sharing knowledge to others about ants and the natural world.



Taxonomy & Illustration

I am a rehired retiree working part time in the museum. I spend most of my time writing papers and web articles about ants and other insects.



Why Did I Choose Entomology?

My entry into the field of entomology came about after a serendipitous scientific illustration job with the museum. Having been fascinated by insects since I was a kid, the transition from illustrator to taxonomist was meant to be.



Trap-jaw ants can jump by snapping their mandibles together rapidly against an object or the ground.