

# Meet the Entomologist



## Dr. Pat Wooden

I'm a systematic ecologist, which means I want to know what's out there and why! I specialize on endemic arthropods – creatures found nowhere else in the world

I study aquatic Hemiptera – the true bugs. Think a stink bug, but in the water. These predators eat other insects, fish, snakes, and even turtles and can tell us about the health of the system they live in.



**M-M** MISSISSIPPI  
ENTOMOLOGICAL  
MUSEUM

MISSISSIPPI  
**BUG BLUES**



## Aquatic Entomology

Aquatic insects can tell us a lot about the water quality of a stream, lake, or river.

By studying the life cycles and communities in the system, we can better understand and protect our waterways



### A bit about me!

Currently, I am a post-doc at Mississippi State. I write grants, teach Aquatic Entomology, and manage the Museums in Miniature Project

### Why Did I Choose Entomology?

I've loved insects and being outside since I was a child! I often brought critters into the classroom in my lunch box

This is a water boatman (Hemiptera: Corixidae). Can you find one in your MiMs drawer? Water boatmen are filterers and scavengers that can be found by the hundreds in ponds, wetlands, and ditches. They're what I study!

