

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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January 26, 2018

35<sup>th</sup> Annual Insect Fear Film Festival

The **35<sup>th</sup> Annual Insect Fear Film Festival** will be held on Saturday, **February 24, 2018**, hosted by the Department of Entomology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The theme for this year's festival is "**Ticks**". These 8-legged arthropods (which are not insects, despite what some screenwriters seem to think) are convenient film antagonists that inspire fear and loathing because they feed on human blood and spread diseases, including Lyme disease. The night starts with "**The Big Tick**" (2006), an episode of the animated television series "Ben 10" about an enormous tick-like alien bent on destroying Earth, followed by "**Bite of the Ruby Red**" (1955), an episode of the television series "Soldiers of Fortune" featuring a scientist's search for a cure for a deadly tick-borne fever in Central America. Our feature film **Ticks** (1993) follows a group of teenagers on a wilderness retreat that encounter super-sized ticks mutated by agricultural runoff from an illegal marijuana-growing operation. "**The Big Tick**" and "**Bite of the Ruby Red**" are family-friendly while **Ticks** is rated R for violence, gore, and language.

**Doors open at 6 pm in Foellinger Auditorium on campus, with film introductions starting at 7:30 pm. Admission is free.** We will feature a live insect petting zoo, along with live ticks to compare to the movie versions, exotic insect displays from around the world, face-painting, balloon-insects, a raffle with arthropod-themed prizes, many hands-on activities, and a display of entries from local schools for the annual IFFF art contest, with prizes to be announced at 7:00 pm. Entomologists will take over the UIUC Snapchat channel for the festival, with a filter allowing people to take a selfie with a giant tick.

We look forward to seeing you on February 24! For more information, please visit the IFFF website, our Facebook page, follow us on Twitter or contact Todd Johnson at [tdjohns2@illinois.edu](mailto:tdjohns2@illinois.edu).

6:00 pm Doors open: Activities, displays, exhibits in Foellinger lobby

7:00 pm Welcome, award and raffle winners, introduction to films

7:30 pm Big Tick (23 min)

8:00 pm Bite of the Ruby Red (30 min)

8:30 pm Ticks (85 min)

Website: <http://bit.ly/2E2fCwy>

Facebook: IFFFatUofI

Twitter: @InsectFilmFest