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U.S. National Tick Collection Temporarily Closed

November 17, 2014

The [U.S. National Tick Collection \(USNTC\)](#) is currently closed to tours and visitors as it prepares to expand into newly-acquired space in the Math/Physics Building at Georgia Southern University. The facilities in the Math/Physics Building, currently under renovation, represent a significant upgrade for this extensive and important collection by providing more space for specimens, storage and research, as well as improved fire protection.

While the renovations and move should be completed sometime during the Spring 2015 semester, the staff of the USNTC will make every effort to accommodate loan requests during the transition. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but ask you to be on the look-out as we announce our grand re-opening in the spring.

The USNTC is the largest continuously curated tick collection in the World with over a million specimens and about one-third of the World's primary tick types. Its taxonomic breadth is enormous, including 96% of recognized tick species (approx. 900 spp.) and all U.S. tick species.

The USNTC has a remarkable history that began in 1905 at the Rocky Mountain Laboratory in Hamilton, Montana, where H.T. Ricketts discovered the role of ticks in the transmission of Rocky Mountain spotted fever. Investigations into the transmission cycle of the disease intensified and involved extensive tick collecting. These ticks were deposited at the newly created Rocky Mountain Lab and constituted the initial core of the USNTC. The collection was donated to the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in 1983. In 1990 the collection moved to Georgia Southern University on a long-term enhancement loan from the Smithsonian Institution and it has remained at Georgia Southern University ever since.

For questions, please contact:

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