



12th Annual Celebration July 22-30, 2023

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**National Moth Week Marks 12th Year, July 22-30;
International Participation Nears 120 Countries**

What international event has had more countries participating than the 2022 Olympics?

Answer: National Moth Week! Nearly 120 countries – from Argentina to Zimbabwe – have participated in National Moth Week since its founding. The Beijing Olympics hosted 91 countries.

Founded in New Jersey in 2012, National Moth Week (NMW) is a worldwide citizen science project that invites organizations and individuals of all ages and abilities to observe, document and appreciate moths for their diversity, beauty and vital environmental role as pollinators.

This year, the 12th annual National Moth Week (NMW) will be observed July 22-30. To date, registrations have been received from nearly 30 countries.

Since its founding in New Jersey in 2012, National Moth Week (NMW) has inspired thousands of individuals and organizations in **117** nations to host or attend private and public mothing and educational events. Currently, 35 country coordinators on six continents encourage their citizens to observe moths and post their data with NMW partners like [Project Noah](#) and [iNaturalist](#).

An “event” can be as simple as turning on a porch light, setting up multiple sheets and lights in parks and other public spaces to observe and photograph moths, or hosting educational programs in libraries and museums.

Anyone hosting a moth-watching or educational event is invited to register their event for free at [this link](#) or visit nationalmothweek.org for more information. NMW’s [interactive map](#) shows the location of events around the world, with details for public events.

Each year during the last week and two weekends of July, [National Moth Week](#) shines a light on often unheralded moths, calling attention to their beauty, extraordinary diversity and essential role in the natural world as pollinators and a food source for other creatures such as birds and bats.

NMW participants are invited to contribute their photos and data to [NMW partner websites](#), as well as the NMW [Flickr group](#), which has more than 100,000 moth photos from around the world.

“Documenting the numbers and locations where moth species are flying can help scientists determine what impacts, if any, climate change, pollution and other threats are having on native populations,” said Liti Haramaty, who co-founded NMW with David Moskowitz, Ph.D.

Since 2012, NMW has inspired thousands of public and private moth-watching and educational events on six continents and all 50 U.S. states. Sites have included National Parks and Monuments, museums and local recreation areas, private backyards and front porches – wherever there’s a light and a place for them to land.

National Moth Week is a project of the [Friends of the East Brunswick \(N.J.\) Environmental Commission](#), a nonprofit organization dedicated to environmental education and conservation. It is now one of the most widespread citizen science projects in the world. It is coordinated by volunteers on the [NMW team](#) and [country coordinators](#) around the world.

“National Moth Week is a model of international cooperation,” said Haramaty. “Our international team, country coordinators and partner organizations share a love and concern for the environment, and especially for moths, which play an essential role in agriculture and the natural world.”

For more information about National Moth Week, visit nationalmothweek.org, or write to info@nationalmothweek.org. Also, find National Moth Week on Facebook, Twitter (@moth_week) and Instagram (mothweek). Hashtags: #Nationalmothweek #mothweek

Why study moths?

- Part of the Lepidoptera order of insects, moths are among the most diverse and successful organisms on earth.
- Moths are important pollinators for crops and flowers, and serve as a food source for birds, bats and other animals.
- Scientists estimate there are 150,000 to as many as 500,000 moth species.
- Their colors and patterns are either dazzling or so cryptic that they define camouflage. Shapes and sizes span the gamut from as small as a pinhead to as large as an adult’s hand.
- Most moths are nocturnal, and need to be sought at night to be seen – others fly like butterflies during the day.
- Finding moths can be as simple as leaving a porch light on and checking it after dark. Serious moth aficionados use special lights and baits to attract them.