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**Western National
Parks Association**

Press Release

A new lively and colorful guide to the fascinating ecology of the Southwest

50 Common Insects of the Southwest

The insect world is unmatched for its array of colorful species and their distinctive behaviors. Once you notice the tiny creatures, you can hardly stop watching as they fly gracefully, burrow busily, dance delicately, or even bang clumsily against you.

What are they doing? What do we call them? And why are they among the most successful life forms on Earth? Large color photographs get you close to the scintillating tiger beetle, the well-dressed rainbow grasshopper, the zippy orange skimmer, and even the blood-thirsty kissing bug. You'll meet common southwestern species such as the mysterious black witch, the giant palo verde root borer (3 to 4 inches long!), the *very* focused tarantula hawk, and the rude Pinacate beetle.

Author Carl Olson, Associate Curator of the Department of Entomology at the University of Arizona, brings his infectious enthusiasm for insects to his descriptions of their behavior and their place in the life of the Southwest.

An electronic version of this press release and additional information may be found at www.wnpa.org/pressroom.asp.

50 Common Insects of the Southwest

By Carl Olson

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50 Common Insects of the Southwest is available from Western National Parks Association at its online store, www.wnpa.org, and at affiliated national park bookstores and retail bookstores in the western United States. To mail order a copy, call 888-569-7762.