

Jason Schaller

Curator of Entomology, ABQ BioPark



Jason oversees the Bugarium, a year-round insect/arthropod zoo with over 70 species of native and exotic arthropods, the Bugarium Rearing Laboratory, where over 100 species of arthropod are bred to stock the Bugarium, and the Pollinator Pavilion, a seasonal outdoor butterfly house that features solitary bees and other native pollinators.

Jason is a life-long naturalist who has studied and reared insects since childhood. He earned a MS in Entomology before working for a biological control company rearing beneficial insects on the commercial scale. In addition to managing one of the largest living collections of arthropods in the country, Jason works on exhibit design, interpretation, education outreach, and event planning.

Maria Thomas

Curator of Plants, ABQ BioPark



Maria Thomas is responsible for the design, acquisition, and care of all plant collections and exhibits at the Biopark which includes the Botanic Garden, Zoo, Tingley Beach, Heritage Farm, Bugarium, and Aquarium. She actively contributes to the development and implementation of goals, objectives, policies, and priorities that support the conservation and horticulture mission of the CABQ BioPark. Maria dedicates her efforts to native and medicinal plant conservation programming and restoration projects in New Mexico. Her goal at the BioPark is to create a rare plant conservation program and seed bank that will protect our most at-risk native plants.

