

Jack C. Schultz, Director

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Dr. Jack Schultz has been watching insects eat plants for four decades. He discovered that plants complain about being eaten and call for help. There is a "conversation" going on all around us; plants are "talking" to other plants, to microbes, and to insects. He thinks that if we can learn to listen, we can interrogate plants about their experiences. "Do you have disease?" "What has been eating you?" "How's the soil?" "Tell me about air quality." Schultz left Penn State University as Distinguished Professor of Entomology to lead the interdisciplinary Christopher S. Bond Life Sciences Center at the University of Missouri in Columbia, MO. The National Science Foundation has funded his interdisciplinary research on species interactions involving plants continuously since 1978.