



Close to home,
yet worlds apart

**Learn.
Explore.
Discover.**

21901 E. Hampden Ave.
Aurora, Colorado 80013
303.693.3621
www.plainscenter.org

Open Hours

Mon - Fri 8am - 4pm
Sat 8am - 4pm

*Join us every Saturday
morning at 9am
for farm chores.*

*Plains Conservation Center
is a non-profit organization.*

Our mission is to PRESERVE

Colorado high plains,

EDUCATE visitors about its

natural & cultural history

and NUTURE sound

stewardship ethics.

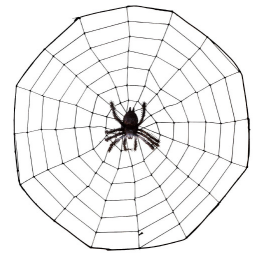


*Plains Conservation Center presents a Trailblazer Event
in collaboration with Café Scientifique2*



On Silken Thread: Arachnid Fact & Fancy with Dr. Paula Cushing

*Trailblazer is an interactive, research-based lecture series where
you can discuss PCC-related projects directly with the scientists in
an informal, social atmosphere.*



Wednesday, April 25 @ 6:30pm - 8pm

Brooklyn's at the Pepsi Center

901 Auraria Parkway, Denver, across Auraria Parkway from the Auraria campus

**Guest Scientist: Dr. Paula Cushing, Curator of Invertebrate Zoology
at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science**



Spiders and arachnids - love them or leave them but at least learn to respect these top predators of the world of creepy crawlies. Dr. Cushing has been conducting research on spiders and their relatives for over 20 years. She began her position at DMNS in 1998 and since 1999 has been surveying the spiders of Colorado through the Colorado Spider Survey (<http://www.dmns.org/spiders/default.aspx>). Since 1999, she has been researching camel spiders in the arachnid order Solifugae.

An arachnologist by the name of William S. Bristowe once estimated that a one acre field could be home to over two and a quarter million individual spiders. Spiders eat trillions of insects a year and are thus a fine natural control on insect populations. In desert environments, arachnids such as camel spiders (order Solifugae) and scorpions (order Scorpiones) are top predators, emerging from burrows at night to hunt insects and small mammals fool enough to get in their way. Learn just how dangerous the infamous black widow can be, find out why the brown recluse is not a concern here in the west, and impress your friends and influence people with all your newly gained knowledge about these fascinating creatures. Get answers to all those pesky spider and arachnid questions that have been plaguing you for years.

*A field excursion with Dr. Cushing is being planned to extend the lecture experience. For more details call 303-693-3621. Field Excursions are free for Trailblazer members and \$15 for non-members. *Trailblazer memberships are \$75 annually.*