Insects and humans share a complex history

With nearly 1.8 million species identified for insects, insects not only play a crucial role in the Earth’s biodiversity, they also pose a plethora of challenges to the human race. Their ability to thrive in nearly any habitat, from the densest forests to the deserts, has earned them the reputation as one of the most successful groups of organisms that have ever lived. However, their success has also brought about numerous challenges for both the environment and human health.

A native of Seoul, South Korea, Yoon received his bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. “There has been so much knowledge in the head of human beings. There are a lot of wisdom that’s around the insect, and the most parasitic are what are called bedbugs, meaning that they’re living in only one species of host. Some species have four different species of lice. One of them is the head louse, another the body louse, and then there is a third one that is the crab louse,” he said. Scientists have determined that the body louse species diverged from head louse about 70,000 years ago when humans started wearing clothes.

Yoon is now studying the relationship between low concentration exposure to pesticides and conditions increasingly common such as Type 2 diabetes and obesity.

For information:
- Visit the Rotary’s website – edwardsvillerotary.org
- Call Brian Mulholland (office) 932-9333.
- The fruit will be available for pickup only on Dec. 12 and 15 at Madison Middle School, 1100 Bell St., Edwardsville.