

2015 Whitney and Anna Harris Conservation Forum



Conservation of the Bees

Thursday, November 5, 2015
The Living World, Saint Louis Zoo
5:30 p.m. Registration and Exhibit Viewing



Session 1: 6:00-6:30 p.m.

“The Problem of Declining Bee Populations with Evidence from North American Bumblebees” Sydney Cameron, Ph.D., University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana

Sydney Cameron specializes in bumblebee behavior, evolution, and conservation, conducting research in many parts of the world. A main line of research of lab is developing new protocols to assess the status of recent population decline in North American bumble bees, including the use of natural history museum collections to reconstruct the genetic structure of historical populations for comparison with current populations and development of genomic markers for application to questions of temporal influences on population changes from recent anthropogenic factors to ancient climatic events.



6:30-7:00 p.m.

“Honey Bees Under Stress” Gerald Hayes, Jr., Ph.D., Beeologics, Monsanto

Jerry Hayes is the Honey Bee Commercial lead for Monsanto's BioDirect business unit. Before joining Monsanto he was the Chief of the Apiary Section for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. In that role he was responsible for the regulatory health of the 350,000 colonies in the State of Florida, a state highly dependent on honey bee pollination for agricultural success. For the past 30 years Jerry has written a monthly column in the American Bee Journal called The Classroom and a book by the same name. Jerry is a founding member of the Colony Collapse Working Group, a science advisory board member for Project *Apis mellifera* (PAm) and the Bee Informed Partnership.

Light Dinner and Exhibit Viewing: 7:00 -7:30 p.m.



Session 2: 7:30-8:00 p.m.

“Pesticides, parasites and pollinators: impacts of environmental stressors on bees” Nigel Raine, Ph.D., University of Guelph

Nigel Raine holds the Rebanks Family Chair in Pollinator Conservation at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada. His research examines the behavior and ecology of bees, and the impacts of environmental stressors (e.g. pesticide exposure) for the conservation of sustainable pollinator populations. Nigel has been lucky enough to spend almost two decades investigating bees and their intimate relationships with flowers on three continents. He is an elected fellow of both the Royal Entomological Society (FRES) and the Linnean Society of London (FLS). In addition to excellent research, Nigel is actively engaged with a wide range of stakeholders (including policy makers, farming & grower's association, grocery chains and beekeepers), on issues related to pollinator health and conservation.



8:00-8:30 p.m.

“New Approaches to Bee Conservation” Alexandra Harmon-Threatt, Ph.D., University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana

Alex Harmon-Threatt is a pollination ecologist with broad interests in understanding the patterns and processes that govern plant-pollinator interactions for conservation. Pollinators play a vital role in plant reproduction, food production and ecosystem stability but are believed to be declining globally. Her work focuses on identifying and understanding patterns in natural environments to help conserve and restore pollinator diversity. With a particular focus on bees, she investigates how plant diversity, isolation and bee characteristics, affect bee diversity in local communities.

Panel Discussion: 8:30-9:00 p.m.

Event is free and open to the public, but registration is required: Call: (314)-516-4246, or email: johnsa@umsl.edu

**Co-sponsored by: Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center,
University of Missouri-St. Louis, Missouri Botanical Garden, Saint Louis Zoo,
and the Academy of Science-St. Louis.**