



Bearnstow

On Parker Pond, Mount Vernon Maine

presents

A Natural History Week at Bearnstow

June 18–23, 2018

Program for Wednesday, June 20

“Maine’s Native Bumble Bees”

Kalyn Bickerman-Martens, Ph.D. Candidate
Ecology and Environmental Sciences
University of Maine

This talk will cover basic bumble bee biology, species identification, and the decline of certain species in the past two decades. Topics include factors that are most likely contributing to those declines as well as a discussion of Kalyn’s thesis research in Maine’s wild blueberry fields, which covers bumble bee pathology and toxicology. In addition, we will discuss the wild blueberry agricultural system and the importance of sufficient pollination during the spring months and the controversial practice of “migratory beekeeping,” when thousands of honey bee hives are brought into Maine each year from around the country. We will also review the role of citizen science in tracking bumble bee populations in Maine through the *Maine Bumble Bee Atlas* and how those observations can inform policy decisions in the listing of species under the Endangered Species Act. The afternoon session will be observing pollinators (not just bumble bees and honey bees!) as they forage on wild flowers as well as a casual discussion of Maine’s other native bee species.



Commercial bumble bee boxes were set up in a wild blueberry field for observation purposes. Electric fencing was needed to deter potential predators (bears) from disrupting the experimental colonies.

MORNING SESSION: 10:30 A.M. / AFTERNOON SESSION: 1:30 P.M.



Kalyn Bickerman-Martens is a Ph.D. candidate in Ecology and Environmental Sciences at the University of Maine. She has a B.A. in biology from Bowdoin College and an M.A. in conservation biology from Columbia University. Although her master's work focused on the health of loggerhead sea turtles in the Pacific, she has been able to transfer her interests in pathology and disease ecology to her Ph.D. work with Maine's bumble bees. Her work focuses on the health of Maine’s native bumble bees in wild blueberry fields and her research interests include parasitology, disease ecology, toxicology, and citizen science and science communication.

Admission is free, but contributions from guests for the nature walks and presentations are greatly appreciated. Please reserve by calling 293-2280 after June 15. Lunch is also available (\$10) during the full-day programs. Bearnstow is located at 84 Bearnstow Road in Mount Vernon. See www.bearnstow.org/contact.htm for directions to Bearnstow.