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Media Web site: <http://newsdesk.si.edu>

Media Advisory

WHAT: A public symposium discussing recent discoveries in bumble bee research.

WHEN: Monday, June 22
10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

WHERE: Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History
Baird Auditorium (ground floor)
10th Street and Constitution Avenue N.W.
(Use Constitution Avenue lobby entrance.)

WHO: *Moderator:* Michael Ruggiero, senior science advisor, Integrated Taxonomic Information System, Smithsonian Institution

Presenters: Stephen Buchmann, University of Arizona
Paul Williams, Natural History Museum, London
Robbin Thorp, University of California, Davis
Sydney Cameron and Jeff Lozier, University of Illinois
Leif Richardson, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife

Bumble bees are crucial species in maintaining the pollination of many native and cultivated plants, including some agricultural crops. Because of potential factors such as habitat loss, pathogens and pesticides, among others, many species of bumble bees are believed to be in serious decline or near extinction. Such a considerable drop in bumble bees may have profoundly negative implications on ecosystems the world over.

To celebrate National Pollinator Week (June 22 – 28) and to bring attention to these troubling facts, several scientists will speak to the current status of the world's bumble bee populations through the Smithsonian's public symposium, "Plight of the Bumble Bees," explaining the implications of their research for the conservation status of these important creatures.

The presenters' findings are essential for wildlife and agricultural professionals to develop policies and techniques that will reduce the decline of bumble bee numbers worldwide.

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