Marin Science Seminar Presents

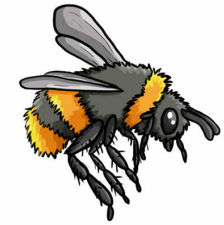
The Case of the Disappearing Pollinators

When Bees Fall Prey to Carnivorous Plants

with Amber Sciligo, Ph.D
of UC Berkeley

A one-hour multimedia presentation for
Teens & Community in Marin

Wednesday, October 21st, 2015
7:30 – 8:30 pm
Terra Linda High School, Room 207
320 Albion Way, San Rafael, CA 94903



Pollinators are vital to ensure the reproduction of many kinds of plants. Who are these pollinators and how do they get the job done? How do plants attract these creatures to make sure their pollen gets picked up and delivered? What happens when pollinators don't come? These are all questions I will cover in the context of my PhD work in New Zealand on the carnivorous "Sundew" plant. I will introduce you to the needs of these plants, particularly the need for insects as a source of both pollination and food. I will talk about how these plants "choose" insects to fulfill one role over the other. Or perhaps it's possible for them to have their [insect] cake and eat it too!

Amber Sciligo is a Postdoctoral Researcher in the department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management (ESPM) at UC Berkeley. Since 2009 she has been studying the value of native bees to mitigate the risk of honeybee losses. Amber received her PhD in Ecology and Evolution in Canterbury, New Zealand. Her dissertation work was on the evolution of self-fertilization in carnivorous plants as a mechanism to overcome the long term absence of pollinators. A California native from a farming community, she left agriculture to pursue a BSc in Ecology and Evolution at UC Santa Cruz, and after a long adventure in natural systems, has now returned to addressing systemic and major problems in our current global food system.

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