



CAES SEMINAR SERIES

In person and on Microsoft Teams (rescheduled from Zoom):

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“A Checklist of the Bees of Connecticut, Then and Now”

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Wednesday, April 20, 2022
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Food and coffee will be available at 11:45 a.m.

Jones Auditorium
The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
123 Huntington Street, New Haven, CT

The conservation status of wild bees regionally and globally is uncertain and complex. While there is consensus that certain bumble bees (genus *Bombus*) have suffered a dramatic decline in North America, Europe, and China, status assessments for other bee species are not entirely clear due to missing information and have yielded inconsistent and incomplete results. State and national checklists combining historical data with contemporary survey data are needed to understand the distribution and status of wild bees in North America and globally. Inventories are the first step in understanding the biogeography of wild bees and provide a baseline to detect future changes in range across regions. Among US states, Connecticut has a notably rich historical baseline, which lays the groundwork for this updated checklist. The first checklist of the bees of Connecticut was compiled by Henry Viereck et al. in 1916 as part of the landmark volume *The Hymenoptera or Wasp-like Insects of Connecticut*. Recent survey work in Connecticut, new methods of collecting, revisionary studies of formerly intractable bee genera, molecular diagnostic tools, and digital natural history portals such as iNaturalist.org and BugGuide.Net have expanded our knowledge of bee taxonomy, distribution, and range limits beyond the scope of that historical monograph. This work is being used by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the Northeast Fish and Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee, and NatureServe to evaluate native bees as species for conservation concern.