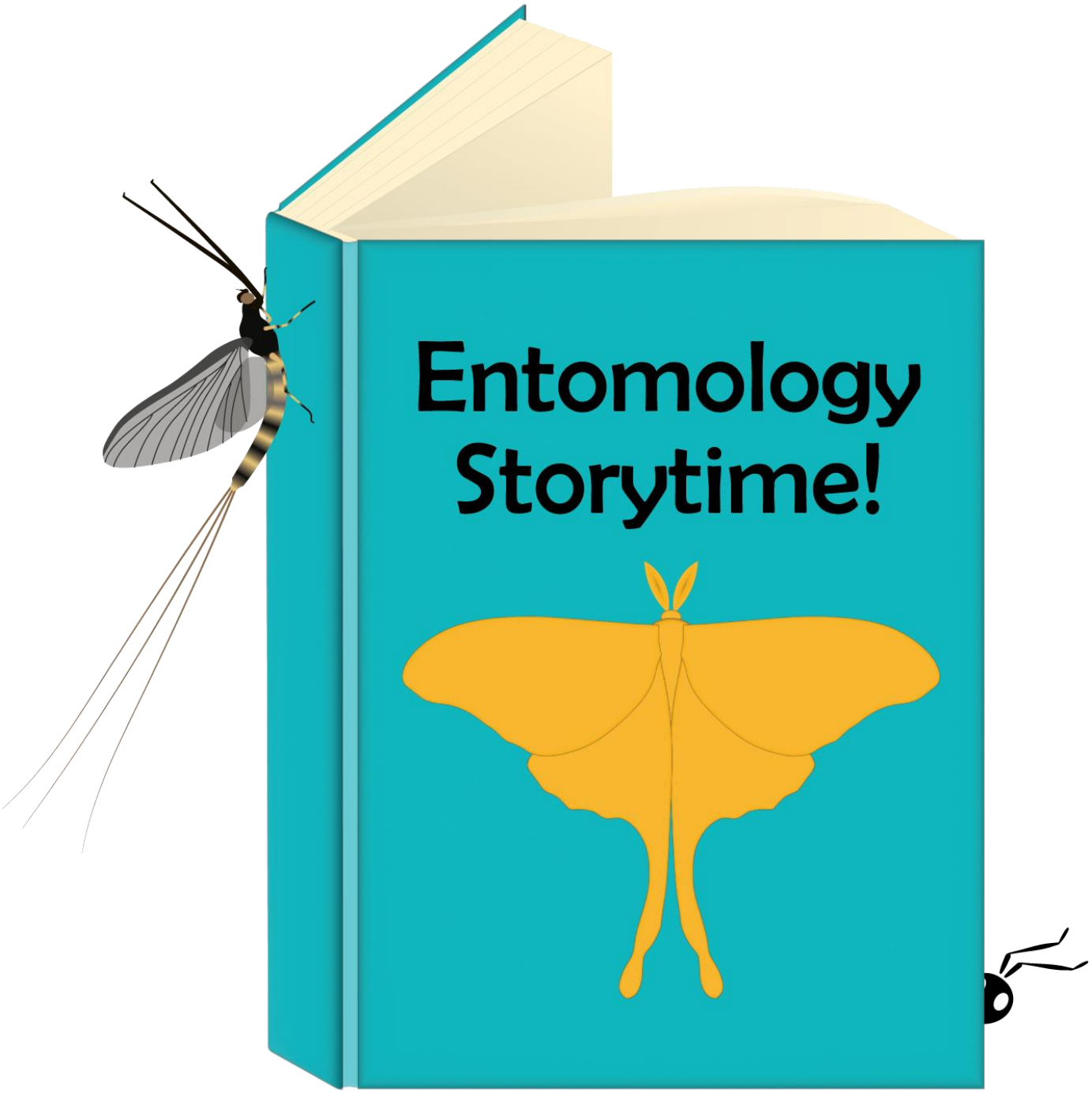

Eastern Branch Meeting 2026

March 14-17, 2026

Saratoga Springs, New York

Special thank you to our meeting sponsors!

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Welcome to the 2026 Entomological Society of America Eastern Branch Meeting!

Here we are in Saratoga Springs, New York in the middle of March, ready for Entomology Storytime! I'm hoping this note greets you after easy travel, fun preparation, and a sense of excitement about sharing the next few days, and our stories, together.

As I have studied the program for this meeting, I am so appreciative. A meeting is only as good as the people who contribute their time and science, and you have all created a fantastic meeting. With 12 symposia spanning topics from medical entomology, invasive species, undergraduate education, insects in mythology, science communication, career growth, climate change impact, and more…there is truly so much to take in! Of course, in addition, we will have the opportunity to learn from and support the next generation of professional entomologists through our student competition. The posters will be a center point to our meeting, with an accessible way to absorb even more science! Additionally, we have diverse 10-minute presentations that allow us to engage in the full breadth of entomology in our region.

We will also tour, mix, play games, celebrate, explore, and eat together! For many of us, this is our primary opportunity during the year to be present with so many entomologists.

This meeting would not be possible without many volunteers. We will be thanking them throughout the meeting, but we need to especially thank our Program Chairs Dr. Neeta Connally and Dr. Laura Nixon for their work to curate our program. In addition, thank you to our Local Arrangements Chair, Dr. Bill Landesman, who has managed our logistics to ensure we are enabled to carry out this amazing program.

Thank you all for making the trip and making this meeting!

Rayda Krell

ESA Eastern Branch President, 2026

Breaks

There will be coffee service available in the Gallery at all designated Break times in the Program Overview.

Code of Conduct

By attending the 2026 Eastern Branch Meeting, you agree voluntarily to abide by our ethics policy. The full policy may be found online at entsoc.org/conduct. If you need to file a complaint, please contact Stacie East, ESA's Director of Equity and Grants, at +1 (301) 731-4535 x3030 or seast@entsoc.org.

WiFi Access

Complimentary internet access is available in the hotel meeting space. Password login is required.

Network: OnSite4

Password: onhilton44

Safety and Emergency Information

Please keep in mind these basic safety tips that enhance your personal security and privacy while in an unfamiliar city.

Remove your name badge when walking around in public.

Be aware of your surroundings.

Stay in groups of 2 or more when leaving the hotel/conference center, especially after dark.

In Case of Emergency:

Life-threatening: Contact 911. Once 911 has been contacted, please inform the Branch Safety Team of the emergency at (301) 578-6447.

Non-life-threatening: Please contact the Branch Safety Team at (301) 578-6447 to inform them of the situation.

Nearest Hospital: Saratoga Hospital, 211 Church Street; (518) 583-8313

Nearest Urgent Care: WellNow Urgent Care, 208 South Broadway; (518) 226-3288

Storied Spots

Bars/Restaurants

Druthers Brewing – Brewpub

Whitman Brewing – Brewery

Keuka Springs Vineyards – Winery

The Local Pub and Teahouse – Irish pub

Music/Live Entertainment

Caffe Lena – Oldest continuous folk music venue

9 Maple Avenue – Jazz Fri. & Sat. nights

Artisanal Brewworks – Brewery with live entertainment

Desperate Annie's – Cozy dive bar with local music on Monday nights

Activities

Saratoga Strike Zone – Bowling/bar/restaurant

Saratoga Escape Rooms — Two 1-hr rooms available - different quests

The Bunker – Indoor golf

Mineral Springs – A list of local natural springs in and around Saratoga Springs

Artists

Dr. Grace Sward, 2026 ESA Eastern Branch Logo and Ultimate Instar Award Graphic Artist

Dr. Grace Sward is a Visual Knowledge Specialist with Corteva Agriscience where she creates the visual support for educating about science in agricultural innovations. Her three degrees are all in entomology with a B.S from Iowa State University, an M.S. from University of Minnesota, and a Ph.D. from the Ohio State University. She has always had a concurrent interest in art and won the Student Infographic Competition in the 2019 and 2023 Entomological Society of America Annual meetings. She is largely self-trained as an illustrator, photographer, and video editor, but she has sought courses to support her skills when she can. Dr. Ralph Holzenthal's insect illustration course opened her eyes to the possibilities of turning science into visual stories. The meeting logo embodies the theme of this meeting: Entomology Storytime! She is honored to help support the inaugural Ultimate Instar award by providing the design, this year, as well.

Escher Cattle, 2026 Graphic Artist for It's a Bug 's World logo and promotions

Escher Cattle is a cartoonist, entomologist, and extension educator in Cape Cod, MA. He has an M.S. degree in entomology from North Carolina State University. He pursued entomology education to support his cartooning background to create science communication media in visual formats like comics and illustration. He dedicates his work to his favorite insects, scarabaeoid larvae, and to his enormous black cats.

Program and Local Arrangement Chairs

Dr. Laura Nixon, 2026 ESA Eastern Branch Program Co-Chair

Laura Nixon is an Extension Specialist in ornamental plant entomology and IPM with University of Maryland. She works closely with stakeholders across Maryland and the mid-Atlantic region to integrate sustainable solutions for pest management in a range of growing systems. Laura is also involved in multi-state projects for several emerging and persistent invasive species, including spotted lanternfly, boxtree moth, and crapemyrtle bark scale.

Dr. Neeta Pardanani Connally, 2026 ESA Eastern Branch Program Co-Chair

Neeta Connally is a medical entomologist and CSU Distinguished Professor of Biology at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, Connecticut. Her research lies at the intersection of tick biology and human behavior, with a goal towards identifying practical strategies to reduce risk for Lyme disease and other tick-associated illnesses.

Dr. Bill Landesman, 2026 ESA Eastern Branch Local Arrangements Chair

I am an Associate Professor of Biology at Vermont State University in Johnson, Vermont, where I teach Ecology, Genetics and Microbiology. My research, which is carried out in collaboration with a team of undergraduate students, uses a combination of field and molecular techniques to characterize ecological drivers of blacklegged ticks, the vector of Lyme disease in the eastern U.S. At the molecular scale, I use high throughout DNA sequencing to characterize tick microbiomes and to study tick feeding behavior. Presently, my lab is developing a new CRISPR/Cas12a-based assay for detection of *Borrelia burgdorferi* variants infecting blacklegged ticks. At the scale of forest ecosystems, I am studying the role of invasive plant species in maintaining blacklegged tick populations. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the meeting!

It's a Bug's World: A History of Entomology Outreach at Eastern Branch Meetings

Faith B. Kuehn, Ph.D.

In 2001 then ESA Eastern Branch President Susan Whitney asked if I'd put together a public outreach program as part of the 2002 Annual Meeting in Harrisburg, PA. I happily accepted the challenge to develop a fun and educational event with the goal of emphasizing the importance of insects and inspiring future entomologists. Except for a Covid break and a mixed-up year, "It's a Bug's World" has been part of every Eastern Branch meeting ever since.

The event has evolved into a blend of exhibits, presentations and activities, targeting kids but also engaging the parents and grandparents who bring them. There are always live insects for people to see and touch. We've heightened excitement and expanded the ecological message by adding animals that depend upon insects for food, such as birds and reptiles. Exhibits represent local 4-H or scout clubs, nature-based organizations, beekeepers, and state and federal programs. There have been carnivorous plants, bedbug sniffing dogs, an immense Alice in Wonderland balloon sculpture, insect robots climbing the walls, an authentic Victorian Flea Circus and an insect chef in full chef whites. The value of insects as artistic inspiration has been illustrated through cultural entomology displays and artwork featuring foot painting by Vincent van Roach. Build-a-Bug and insect origami are always popular activities. Local reporters have covered Bug's World, and we've made the local print and TV news.

I'd like to thank ESA, Eastern Branch, for continuing to support "It's a Bug's World," and the many students who have volunteered their help. A special thanks to ESA members Doug Fleury, Dan Gilrein, Yong-Lak Park and Mike Turrell for helping me to maintain enthusiasm for this program over many years.

I have been an ESA member for about 45 years. My career focused on pest management and pollinator conservation, working for DuPont and then the Delaware Department of Agriculture until retirement. Now I work part time for the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services, restoring two forgotten Potter's Field cemeteries and establishing pollinator habitats along their borders.

drawn by Escher Cattle, 2025

Congratulations to our 2026 Award Winners!

Scott Salem

The **L.O. Howard Distinguished Achievement Award** was established by the Eastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America in 1974 to recognize scientists who have made significant contributions in the field of entomology.

L.O. HOWARD DISTINGUISHED ACHEIVEMENT AWARD

Dr. Salom is a Professor of Forest Entomology at Virginia Tech. Since 1999, he and his lab have focused on the biological control of hemlock woolly adelgid and tree-of-heaven. Along the way, he has been the advisor for 32 graduate students, many of whom are prominent professionals throughout the US.

With HWA, his lab was responsible for importing, studying, petitioning, and releasing two *Laricobius* "Lari" beetle species specific to HWA. They are the only two introduced agents that have established, spread extensively, and shown to significantly impact one of the two generations of HWA. His lab developed a long-term rearing program that led to the operational release of > 500,000 beetles before the recent transition towards a field recovery and redistribution program of these beetles currently employed throughout the eastern US.

Development of a host-specific native fungal wilt pathogen of tree-of heaven into an operational bioherbicide has been another key area of focus. Concurrently, a host-specific weevil native to China, has been studied extensively in Quarantine in VA. This weevil is on the approval for release list of BC agents by USDA APHIS. Both the weevil and the fungus will be deployed together once approvals are in place.

Brenna Traver

The **Herb. T. Streu Meritorious Service Award** was established by the Eastern Branch in 1991 to provide timely recognition of Eastern Branch members for outstanding service to the Branch. The award honors the legacy of Herb. T. Streu who was an ESA member for 60 years and served the society in many roles.

HERB T. STREU
MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

Brenna Traver is an Associate Professor at Penn State Lehigh Valley, where she is the program coordinator for the biology program and has a primary teaching appointment. She received her Master's and PhD in Entomology from Virginia Tech. She continued at Virginia Tech following the receipt of a USDA NIFA Postdoctoral Fellowship to investigate the impact of different in-hive pesticides on pathogens and immunity in honey bees. After completing her postdoc at Virginia Tech, she moved to Pennsylvania and has worked at a Penn State Commonwealth Campus since 2014.

Brenna has been an Eastern Branch member since 2010. Following graduate school, she became involved in service for the branch, serving as a moderator for sessions, student competition judge, co-organizing a symposium, and on the executive committee as the member at large from 2016-2023. Since 2018, she has been the chair of the student competition, where she moderates and organizes judges for the sessions.

Brenna enjoys working with the students in the competition. She finds the experience rewarding because you see how students develop and mature as scientists, from giving their proposal presentation to presenting their final data for their project.

Thomas Mather

This award recognizes an Eastern Branch member for outstanding contributions in extension.

EASTERN BRANCH DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN EXTENSION

Dr. Thomas Mather, often known as *"The TickGuy,"* is a leading tick expert, professor, and public health entomologist based at the University of Rhode Island. His work in this field since 1983 has helped translate complex scientific understanding of ticks into practical guidance people can use when they're outdoors, making him one of the most visible and respected voices in tick education in the U.S. Dr. Mather's work spans a wide range of tick-related fields, including:

- Tick ecology and how tick populations behave in nature.
- Area-wide tick control strategies for reducing disease risk.
- Tick-bite protection and disease prevention tools, including public education and decision-support resources.
- Anti-tick vaccine research and risk prediction models.

In 2006, he co-founded URI's TickEncounter Resource Center and TickEncounter.org, a public health research and extension program focusing on tickborne disease prevention education, tick identification, risk assessment, and prevention guidance for the public. In 2014, he launched TickSpotters, a crowd-sourced national tick survey to help people identify ticks and assess disease risk by submitting photos online. His approach to extension education focuses on delivering *Just-In-Time* messaging over *Just-In-Case* learning experiences, and active spaced-repetition strategies (think flash cards) to boost long-term retention of critical learned material. Dr. Mather is widely quoted in media and frequently consults on tick-related educational initiatives.

Angela Mech

This award recognizes an Eastern Branch member for outstanding contributions in teaching.

EASTERN BRANCH DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN TEACHING

Angela Mech, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of Forest Entomology in the School of Biology and Ecology at the University of Maine, with a 50% Teaching, 50% Research appointment. She earned her B.S. in Biology from the University of North Carolina Asheville and her Ph.D. from the University of Georgia where she also received a Certificate in University Teaching. At UMaine, in addition to co-creating a 200-level Biostatistics course, she created 4 new entomology courses, ranging from taxonomy to plant-insect interactions, that allowed the department to create a new concentration and minor in Entomology, which have been steadily growing. This increased interest in entomology among UMaine students has also led to the formation of the Patch Entomology Club, which she advises. Additionally, Dr. Mech servs as the curator of the UMaine insect teaching collection.

Mech's research focuses on forest insect ecology and management, with an emphasis on outbreaking and invasive species affecting northeastern forests. She has led projects on spruce budworm, browntail moth, and other forest pests, helping to develop monitoring and management programs that will benefit the region. Mech is also the Director of the Spruce Budworm Processing Lab, a service center that supports early intervention strategies and forest health planning. Her work blends ecological theory and operational management and serves as a bridge between academia and industry stakeholders. Her Forest Entomology lab has also created hands-on training opportunities that engages directly with applied research, quantitative analysis, and real-world decision-making in forest health management. Mech has supervised one postdoctoral researcher, eight graduate students, and 10 undergraduate research projects, in addition to mentoring ~25 undergraduate laboratory technicians over the last six years. By blending research, problem solving, and active learning, she ensures that students leave her lab and classroom not only skilled and confident, but excited about the science they are doing.

Ethan Tolman

This award honors an early career professional working in the field of entomology who has demonstrated excellence in research.

EASTERN BRANCH AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CAREER RESEARCH AWARD

Ethan Tolman is a postdoctoral research associate in the Department of Biological Sciences at Virginia Tech and a research associate in the department of Invertebrate Zoology at the American Museum of Natural History. His interest the life sciences began as a volunteer and then employee at a local aquarium in High School. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in “Genetics, Genomics, and Biotechnology” from Brigham Young University. As an undergraduate, Ethan worked as a research assistant, and published papers on several projects related to public acceptance of evolutionary theory, and willingness to engage in non-pharmaceutical interventions to curb the spread of COVID-19. He then earned a PhD in “Evolution, Ecology, and Behavioral Biology” through the City University of New York and Richard Gilder Graduate School at the American Museum of Natural History’s Partner Program where his research interests shifted to the evolution and ecology of Odonata.

Ethan’s current research program includes resolving the evolutionary history of dragonflies & damselflies, the role of genome architecture as a driver of biodiversity, and urban ecology.

Leonardo Salgado

The **John Henry Comstock Award** is sponsored by the Entomological Society of America and is given to an outstanding graduate student from each branch of ESA.

JOHN HENRY COMSTOCK GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD

Leonardo (Leo) Salgado is a Ph.D. candidate in Entomology at Cornell University working with Dr. Brian Nault. His research focuses on integrated pest management in vegetable systems, especially onion maggot (*Delia antiqua*) and seedcorn maggot (*Delia platura*). He studies species composition, insecticide seed treatments, maggot susceptibility, and population genetic structure to improve sustainable pest management for onion growers. Leo earned his bachelor's degree from the Universidad Nacional de Agricultura (Honduras) and his M.S. in Entomology from Louisiana State University, with a minor in applied statistics. He plans to graduate in summer 2026 and pursue a research and extension faculty career.

Mia Esoldo

The Eastern Branch of the Entomological Society of America recognizes an outstanding master's level graduate student through the presentation of the Asa Fitch Memorial Award.

ASA FITCH MEMORIAL AWARD

Mia Esoldo is an M.S. student in Entomology with Dr. Erika Machtinger's Veterinary Entomology Lab at The Pennsylvania State University. After graduating from Penn State with a B.S. in Wildlife Science, she joined Dr. Machtinger's lab as a full-time research technologist. During this experience, Mia developed a commitment to understanding wildlife-ectoparasite interactions, leading her to pursue a master's degree in Entomology. Mia's current research focuses on native and regionally invasive tick species competitive feeding dynamics on white-footed mouse hosts, behavioral responses of these hosts to tick infestations, and veterinary-client needs assessment for effective vector-borne disease education for animal owners. Her long-term career goal is to advance zoonotic disease research and promote One Health through extension and science communication.

Program Overview

SATURDAY, MARCH 14		
Time	**Session/Function**	**Location**
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Historic Saratoga Springs Tour of the Natural Springs	Creekside Classroom Environmental Education Center
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Executive Committee Meeting	Whitney, The Saratoga Hilton
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM	It's a Bug's World Setup	Meeting Room 2A/2B, Saratoga Springs City Center
3:00 PM - 5:00 PM	The Amazing Ento-Race	High Rock, The Saratoga Hilton
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Registration	Lower Lobby, The Saratoga Hilton
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Welcome Reception	Broadway 1&2, The Saratoga Hilton
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Student Competition Presentation Preview	Lower Lobby, The Saratoga Hilton

SUNDAY, MARCH 15		
Time	**Session/Function**	**Location**
7:00 AM - 8:00 AM	Student Poster Display Setup	Gallery, The Saratoga Hilton
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Masters 10-Minute Presentations	Broadway 1&2, The Saratoga Hilton
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Tiny Vectors, Big Impact: Medical and Veterinary Entomology Research throughout the Northeast	Broadway 3&4, The Saratoga Hilton
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Undergraduate 10-Minute Presentations	Travers/Alabama, The Saratoga Hilton
8:00 AM - 6:00 PM	Masters & PhD Poster Display Competition	Gallery, The Saratoga Hilton
8:00 AM - 6:00 PM	Undergraduate Poster Display Competition I	Gallery, The Saratoga Hilton
8:00 AM - 6:00 PM	Undergraduate Poster Display Competition II	Gallery, The Saratoga Hilton
9:30 AM - 10:00 AM	Break	Gallery, The Saratoga Hilton
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM	It's a Bug's World Event	Meeting Room 2A/2B, Saratoga Springs City Center
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	MUVE Submitted 10-Minute Presentations	Broadway 3&4, The Saratoga Hilton
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Q&A with Student Poster Display Presenters	Gallery, The Saratoga Hilton
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Invasive Species Symposium: The Varied Stories of Invasives, Understanding the Threat, Shaping the Response	Broadway 3&4, The Saratoga Hilton
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	PhD 10-Minute Presentations I	Travers/Alabama, The Saratoga Hilton
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	PhD 10-Minute Presentations II	Broadway 1&2, The Saratoga Hilton

SUNDAY, MARCH 15		
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Break	Gallery, The Saratoga Hilton
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Chat with Governing Board Rep, Don Weber	High Rock, The Saratoga Hilton
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	It's a Bug's World Breakdown	Meeting Room 2A/2B, Saratoga Springs City Center
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Student Poster Display Removal	Gallery, The Saratoga Hilton
6:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Entomology Games	Broadway 1&2, The Saratoga Hilton

MONDAY, MARCH 16		
Time	**Session/Function**	**Location**
7:00 AM - 8:00 AM	Contributed Poster Display Setup	Gallery, The Saratoga Hilton
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Building Bridges for Undergraduates: Techniques for Teaching and Mentorship	Travers/Alabama, The Saratoga Hilton
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Insects in Mythology and Culture	Broadway 1&2, The Saratoga Hilton
8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Is There Anything that Eats That? Stories of Biocontrol in the Northeast	Broadway 3&4, The Saratoga Hilton
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Break	Gallery, The Saratoga Hilton
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Contributed Posters	Gallery, The Saratoga Hilton
10:20 AM - 12:00 PM	Method to the Madness: Telling the Story of Scientific Technique	Broadway 3&4, The Saratoga Hilton
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Entomology Medley I: Submitted 10-Minute Presentations	Broadway 1&2, The Saratoga Hilton
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Spotted Lanternfly Submitted 10-Minute Presentations	Travers/Alabama, The Saratoga Hilton
12:15 PM - 1:45 PM	Plenary and Awards Luncheon	Meeting Room 2A/2B, Saratoga Springs City Center
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Entomology Medley II: Submitted 10-Minute Presentations	Broadway 1&2, The Saratoga Hilton
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Getting the Bugs out of Science Communication: Better Stories for Public Understanding	Travers/Alabama, The Saratoga Hilton
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Lessons Learned for the Next Invasive	Broadway 3&4, The Saratoga Hilton
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Q&A with Contributed Poster Display Presenters	Gallery, The Saratoga Hilton
4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	From Curiosity to Career: Stories of Growth, Challenges, and Discovery	Broadway 1&2, The Saratoga Hilton
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Contributed Poster Display Removal	Gallery, The Saratoga Hilton
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM	Student and Early Career Professionals Mixer	Broadway 1&2, The Saratoga Hilton

TUESDAY, MARCH 17		
Time	**Session/Function**	**Location**
8:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Indirect Climate Impacts on Pollinator Communities	Broadway 3&4, The Saratoga Hilton
8:00 AM - 11:40 AM	Benefits & Risks of Neonicotinoid Seed Coatings: Building a Framework for Sustainable Integrated Pest Management Practices	Travers/Alabama, The Saratoga Hilton
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	IPM Stories from the Eastern Branch	Broadway 1&2, The Saratoga Hilton
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Break	Gallery, The Saratoga Hilton

This year, anyone who attends the last session (or any concurrent last session) on the last day of any ESA meeting will receive an ULTIMATE INSTAR award sticker (Dishwasher safe! Perfect for a water bottle or travel mug!) to proudly display.

Sunday, March 15, 2026, Morning

Masters 10-Minute Presentations

Broadway 1&2 (The Saratoga Hilton)

Moderators: Laura Nixon, Univ. of Maryland, Clarkesville, MD

8:00 Introductory Remarks

8:05 **1** Validation of inexpensive environmental DNA air samplers under laboratory and field conditions. **Nicolas Gustafson** (nicgustafson1@gmail.com)[1], Shallon Jozi[1], Caine DeWitt[1], Gabriel Isaacman-VanWertz[1], Chin-Cheng (Scotty) Yang[2] and Roger Schürch[1], [1]Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State Univ., Blacksburg, VA, [2]Virginia Tech Univ., Blacksburg, VA

8:17 **2** Evaluation of bait timing for slug control in Virginia soybeans. **Ben Schwartz** (benjamins25@vt.edu), Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, PA

8:29 **3** Phenology and predator interactions of crapemyrtle bark scale (*Acanthococcus lagerstroemiae*) in Maryland. **Sheena ODonnell** (sheena.kay220@Gmail.com)[1], Stanton Gill[2], Suzanne Klick[3], Laura Nixon[4] and Paula M. Shrewsbury[5], [1]Univ. of Maryland Extension, Ellicott City, MD, [2]Univ. of Maryland, Ellicott City, MD, [3]Central Maryland Research and Education Center, Ellicott City, MD, [4]USDA-ARS, Kearneysville, WV, [5]Univ. of Maryland, College Park, MD

8:41 **4** Community composition and host selection behavior of sap beetles (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae): Implications for disease transmission in chestnut systems. **Amy Twohig** (atwohig@esf.edu)[1], Dylan Parry[1], Andrew Newhouse[1,2] and Kelsey McLaughlin[3], [1]SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY, [2]American Chestnut Research and Restoration Project, Syracuse, NY, [3]New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Delmar, NY

8:53 **5** Shocking discoveries: Using soil electroconductivity to outsmart wireworms in Virginia potatoes. **Dylan Raney** (Draney2@vt.edu)[1] and Kemper Sutton[2], [1]Virginia Tech Univ., Blacksburg, VA, [2]Virginia Tech Univ., Painter, VA

9:05 **6** Legacy effects of redlining on street trees and their insect communities. **Margaret Schaefer** (mschaef9@umd.edu), Karin Burghardt and Kelsey McGurrin, Univ. of Maryland, College Park, MD

9:17 **7** Fate of airborne environmental DNA from the German cockroach, *Blatella germanica*, in indoor experiments. **Caine DeWitt** (cained@vt.edu)[1], Nicolas Gustafson[1], Warren Booth[1], Margaret Couvillon[1], Shallon Jozi[1], Gabriel Isaacman-VanWertz[1], Chin-Cheng (Scotty) Yang[2] and Roger Schürch[1], [1]Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State Univ., Blacksburg, VA, [2]Virginia Tech Univ., Blacksburg, VA

9:29 Break

9:44 **8** Assessing popular cedarwood oil based natural products for blacklegged tick control (*Ixodes scapularis*). **Sophia Chiaia** (chiaia002@wcsu.edu)[1], Neeta P. Connally[1] and Thomas N. Mather[2], [1]Western Connecticut State Univ., Danbury, CT, [2]Univ. of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI

9:56 **9** Understanding the effectiveness of tick control measures on Maine properties. **Michael Galli** (Michael.g.galli@maine.edu)[1], Allison Gardner[1], Elissa Ballman[1], Andrew Lover[2] and Neeta P. Connally[3], [1]Univ. of Maine, Orono, ME, [2]Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, [3]Western Connecticut State Univ., Danbury, CT

10:08 **10** Effects of land cover on *Trypansoma cruzi* infection and host preferences of *Triatoma sanguisuga*. **Alexander Kelley** (arkelley@udel.edu) and Jennifer Peterson, Univ. of Delaware, Newark, DE

10:20 **11** Synthesizing long-term insect monitoring data with songbird abundance models to assess dietary coupling across trophic levels. **Julianna Yager** (jyager1@binghamton.edu) and Eliza Grames, Binghamton Univ., Binghamton, NY

Tiny Vectors, Big Impact: Medical and Veterinary Entomology Research throughout the Northeast

Broadway 3&4 (The Saratoga Hilton)

Moderators and Organizers: Jennifer Mora[1,2], Drew Lysaker[3] and Stephanie Zapata[2], [1]Central Life Sciences, Schaumburg, IL, [2]Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, NJ, [3]VectorED Network, Univ. Park, PA

8:00 Welcoming remarks

8:03 **12** BURVAC: An inexpensive field-deployable device for sampling subterranean tick populations. **Brian Leydet** (bfleydet@esf.edu)[1], Ollie Flores[2] and Rachel Lange[3,4], [1]SUNY-ESF, Syracuse, NY, [2]SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY, [3]The Arbovirus Laboratory, New York State Dept. of Health, Slingerlands, NY, [4]Univ. of Albany, Albany, NY

8:21 **13** Ecology of Chagas disease vector *Triatoma sanguisuga* in Delaware and the greater Mid-Atlantic. **Jennifer Peterson** (jkp@udel.edu), Univ. of Delaware, Newark, DE

8:39 **14** Midges in a haystack: Surveillance for emerging *Culicoides* vectors in New Jersey. **Stephanie Zapata** (sz666@scarletmail.rutgers.edu), Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, NJ

8:57 **15** Genetic consequences of a population founder event in the tick-vectored bacterium *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*. **Matthew Aardema** (aardemam@montclair.edu), Montclair State Univ., Montclair, NJ

9:15 **16** Microbial diversity of deer tick and culicine mosquito populations in Pennsylvania: Potential implications on insecticide resistance. **James Mutunga** (jjm7962@psu.edu), Penn State- Harrisburg, Middletown, PA

9:33 Break

9:43 **17** Using psychometric approaches to address tickborne disease risk and prevention. **Heather Kopsco** (hlk2119@columbia.edu)[1], Wen Fu[2], Linghui Wu[2] and Maria Diuk-Wasser[1], [1]Columbia Univ., New York, NY, [2]Columbia Univ., AAA, NY

10:01 **18** A survey with new records of *Culicoides* species in New York State. **Amanda Peh** (ajp328@cornell.edu) and Laura Harrington, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY

10:19 **19** Human encountered tick testing: A supplementary tool for public health surveillance and clinical decision-making. **Saravanan Thangamani** (thangams@upstate.edu) and Jessica Crooker, Upstate Tick Testing Laboratory, Syracuse, NY

10:37 **20** Recent research on deer keds, understudied ectoparasites of deer. **Codey Mathis** (clm6507@psu.edu) and Michael Skvarla, Pennsylvania State Univ., Univ. Park, PA

10:55 Concluding remarks

Undergraduate 10-Minute Presentations

Travers/Alabama (The Saratoga Hilton)

Moderators: Brenna Traver, Pennsylvania State Schuylkill, Schuylkill Haven, PA

8:00 Introductory Remarks

8:05 **21** Monitoring the biodiversity and ecological roles of insects on a beef cattle farm. **Emily Gibson** (egrace@terpmail.umd.edu), Shane Windsor, Yasmine Helbling and William Lamp, Univ. of Maryland, College Park, MD

8:17 **22** Morphometric identification of owlet moths (*Noctuidae*). **Jennifer Slater** (slaterjm01@gmail.com), Joe Elias and Eliza Grames, Binghamton Univ., Binghamton, NY

8:29 **23** The spider hunger games: How prey hunger level affects predatory behavior in wolf spiders. **Maryann Fuentes** (fuentesmaryann04@gmail.com), Maya Corridore and Michael Sitvarin, Union College, Schenectady, NY

8:41 **24** The spider hunger games: How hunger level affects escape performance in wolf spiders. **Maya Corridore** (corridom@union.edu), Maryann Fuentes, Kate Feller and Michael Sitvarin, Union College, Schenectady, NY

8:53 **25** Exploring endemism, diversity, and conservation concerns of wetland beetles in the northeastern United States. **Matt Naczi** (naczi002@wcsu.edu), Western Connecticut State Univ.., Danbury, CT

9:05 **26** Dose–response dynamics of *Crithidia bombi* in two solitary bee species. **Madeline Altland** (maltland@smith.edu)[1,2], Mario Pinilla[2], Scott McArt[3], Wee Hao Ng[3] and Lynn Adler[2], [1]Smith College, Northampton, MA, [2]Univ. of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA, [3]Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY

9:17 **27** The influence of milkweed species toxicity on monarch caterpillar aposematism. **Deerdra Stauch** (deeryjstauch@gmail.com)[1], Sophia Mucciolo[2] and Sara Hermann[3], [1]Penn State, York, PA, [2]Penn State, State College, PA, [3]Pennsylvania State Univ., Univ. Park, PA

9:29 Break

9:44 **28** Investigating the effect of nutrients and fencing on floral visitors to *Solidago altissima*. **Alex Vargas** (ajv0104@mcdaniel.edu), Tyler Vath and Holly Martinson, McDaniel College, Westminster, MD

9:56 **29** Potential impacts of competition with an invasive bee on the Eastern Carpenter bee morphology. **Vita Infurna** (vgi2@njit.edu) and Caroline M. DeVan, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark, NJ

10:08 **30** The influence of bee host community context for *in vitro* growth parameters of a trypanosomatid parasite. **Emma Piedade** (elpiedade@umass.edu)[1], Sonja Glasser[2], Kate Borchardt[3], Ben Sadd[4] and Lynn Adler[5], [1]UMass Amherst, Belchertown, MA, [2]umass, Northampton, MA, [3]Iowa State Univ., Ames, IA, [4]Illinois State Univ., Normal, IL, [5]Univ. of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA

10:20 **31** Investigating the use of insect host plant volatile blend in an attract-and-kill strategy for controlling brown marmorated stink bug. **Abigail McFarland** (aem303@njaes.rutgers.edu) and Anne Nielsen, Rutgers Univ., Bridgeton, NJ

MUVE Submitted 10-Minute Presentations

Broadway 3&4 (The Saratoga Hilton)

Moderators: Cheryl Sullivan[1] and William Landesman[2], [1]Univ. of Vermont, Burlington, VT, [2]Vermont State Univ., Johnson, VT

11:00 **32** Quantifying vegetation associated with *Ixodes scapularis* density at long-term tick surveillance sites, western Massachusetts. **Veronica Bobskill** (vbobskill@umass.edu)[1,2], James Tsalah[1,2], Johanna Ravenhurst[1,2], Allison Gardner[1,3] and Andrew Lover[2], [1]CDC New England Center of Excellence in Vector-borne Diseases, Amherst, MA, [2]Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, [3]Univ. of Maine, Orono, ME

11:12 **33** Associations between understory plant community composition and blacklegged tick populations in southern Vermont forests. **William Landesman** (William.Landesman@vermontstate.edu)[1] and Kristen Ross[2], [1]Vermont State Univ., Johnson, VT, [2]Vermont State Univ., Castleton, VT

11:24 **34** PRESENTATION WITHDRAWN

11:36 **35** Climate change shifts blacklegged tick phenology in a season-dependent manner in Maine. **Lydia Fyie** (lydia.fyie@maine.edu)[1], Griffin Dill[1], Susan Elias[2], Allison Gardner[1] and Tom Rounsville[1], [1]Univ. of Maine, Orono, ME, [2]Maine Medical Center Research Institute, Scarborough, ME

11:48 **36** Taking a shot: Understanding perceptions of ticks, Lyme disease risk, and Lyme disease vaccination. **Emily Struckhoff** (ejs6628@psu.edu)[1], Yanitza Cruz Crespo[1], Shannon Cruz[1], Maria Luisa Tejada de Rivero Sawers[2] and Erika Machtinger[1], [1]Pennsylvania State Univ., Univ. Park, PA, [2]Penn State College of Medicine, Univ. Park, PA

12:00 PRESENTATION WITHDRAWN

12:12 **38** Heroes and villains: Unbelievable medical entomology tales from World War II. **Ashley Kennedy** (Ashley.Kennedy@delaware.gov), Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife, Newark, DE

1-2 PM Student Poster Q&As

Masters & PhD Poster Display Competition

Gallery (The Saratoga Hilton)

DSP1 Biological and biorational control of hairy chinch bugs, *Blissus leucopterus hirtus* (Hemiptera: Blissidae) in New England lawns. **Sanjok Timalsina** (stimalsina@umass.edu)[1] and Olga Kostromytska[2], [1]Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, [2]Univ. of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA

DSP2 Food supplemented with probiotics improves survival in acorn ants following pathogen exposure. **Jack Cummings** (cummin73@rowan.edu), Taylor Thomas, Liliana Woody and Svjetlana Kruse, Rowan Univ., Glassboro, NJ

DSP3 Tolerance to imidacloprid and pyrethrum, and fitness consequences of non-lethal exposure in black swallowtail butterflies *Papilio polyxenes*. **Kyle Smith** (kyle.smith@baruch.cuny.edu)[1], Mitchell Baker[2] and Queena Yue[1], [1]Queens College CUNY, Flushing, NY, [2]Queens College of CUNY, Flushing, NY

DSP4 Mid-Atlantic connectivity of striped cucumber beetles (*Acalymma vittatum*) inferred from mtCOI barcodes across cucurbit farms. **Demian Nunez** (demiann1@vt.edu), Chin-Cheng (Scotty) Yang and Thomas Kuhar, Virginia Tech Univ., Blacksburg, VA

DSP5 Quantifying the impact of abiotic stressors and rhizobial symbionts on soybean production and insect communities. **Brendan Randall** (brandall@umd.edu)[1], Kimberly Komatsu[2], John Parker[3], Kelsey McGurrin[1], Karin Burghardt[1] and Sarah Alley[3], [1]Univ. of Maryland, College Park, MD, [2]UNC Greensboro, Greensboro, NC, [3]Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Edgewater, MD

DSP6 Trichome Diversity in the Genus *Cucurbita*: A Comparative Analysis of Morphology, Abundance and Distribution Across Wild and Cultivated Species. **Neetu Khanal** (npk5401@psu.edu) and Flor E. Acevedo, Pennsylvania State Univ., Univ. Park, PA

DSP7 Quantifying the influence of tree mulching practices on soil health and soil invertebrate communities. **Brendan Cramphorn** (btc0011@uah.edu) and Kyle Wickings, Cornell Univ., Geneva, NY

DSP8 Fitness consequences of phenological variation in the European Corn Borer (*Ostrinia nubilalis*) across time and space. **Alyssa Murray** (alyssa.murray@tufts.edu), Tufts Univ., Medford, MA

DSP9 Evolutionary implications of time-mediated interactions between the European Corn Borer *Ostrinia nubilalis* and its host plants. **Mena Coles-Carruthers** (mena.colescarruthers@tufts.edu), Tufts Univ., Somerville, MA

DSP10 From the ground up: Belowground herbivory and phytoplasma infection influence aboveground herbivore performance. **Haotian Liu** (haotian.liu94@rutgers.edu) and Cesar Rodriguez-Saona, Rutgers, The State Univ. of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ

DSP11 Drone-based IPM for the sustainable management of mile a minute weed. **Kushal Naharki** (kushalnaharki@gmail.com)[1], Cynthia Huebner[2] and Yong-Lak Park[1], [1]West Virginia Univ., Morgantown, WV, [2]Forest Service, Northern Research Station, Morgantown, WV

DSP12 Proteomics analysis of spotted lanternfly watery saliva. **Sukhman Singh** (sxs7042@psu.edu), Michelle Peiffer, Gary Felton and Flor Acevedo, Pennsylvania State Univ., Univ. Park, PA

DSP56 Considering companions: Adapting push-pull strategies for vegetable crops in Virginia. Haylie Brown (brownhj@vt.edu)1, Jared Ali2, Gabriel Isaacman-VanWertz3, Thomas Kuhar4, Susan Whitehead5 and Ashley Jernigan6, 1Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, 2The Pennsylvania State Univ., State College, PA, 3Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State Univ., Blacksburg, VA, 4Virginia Tech Univ., Blacksburg, VA, 5Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY, 6Virginia Tech, School of Plant and Environmental Sciences, Blacksburg, VA

Undergraduate Poster Display Competition I

Gallery (The Saratoga Hilton)

DSP13 Effects of non-lethal pesticide doses on Colorado potato beetles (*Leptinotarsa decemlineata)*. **Emmy Chen** (emmy.chen73@qmail.cuny.edu)[1], Joanne Sun[1], Mitchell Baker[2] and Kimmie Shek[1], [1]CUNY Queens College, Flushing, NY, [2]Queens College of CUNY, Flushing, NY

DSP14 Evaluating mortality factors across *Euproctis chrysorrhoea* life stages in Maine. **Alyssa Kuskowski** (alyssa.kuskowski@maine.edu) and Angela Mech, Univ. of Maine, Orono, ME

DSP15 Effects of PFOA, PFBS and PFBA on the development of *Culex pipiens*. **Richard Viveiros** (viveirosrichard7@gmail.com), Univ. of Maine, Orono, ME

DSP16 Biocontrol of the invasive spotted wing drosophila using the parasitoid *Ganaspis kimorum*. **Kristen Goodrich** (kgoodrich6@uri.edu), Ari Locklear, Alexandra Johnson and Lisa Tewksbury, Univ. of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI

DSP17 Evaluation of a North American dryinid for biocontrol of spotted lanternfly. Alexandra Johnson[1], Lisa Tewksbury[1], **Julia Bentz** (juliabentz@uri.edu)[1], Daniel Farnworth[1], Nicholas Durinzi[2] and Carly Tribull[3], [1]Univ. of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI, [2]SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY, [3]Farmingdale State College, Farmingdale, NY

DSP18 Diversity and dispersal of predaceous arthropods across agricultural drainage ditches and adjacent cropland. **Yasmine Helbling** (yhelblin@umd.edu)[1], Katherine Siniuk[1], Alireza Shokoohi[2], Shane Windsor[1] and William Lamp[1], [1]Univ. of Maryland, College Park, MD, [2]Univ. of Maryland, College Park, College Park, MD

DSP19 The Genus *Ceratina* (Apidae: Anthophila) in northeastern North America, with notes temporal change, behavior, and taxonomy. **Henry Steig** (henry@steig.com), Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY

DSP20 Operation BOOT&S: *Borrelia burgdorferi* OspC variants over time and space. **Maya Suarez** (mcs00408@vsc.edu)[1], Samantha Bedore[1], Taylor Hudson[2], Matthew Hayden[3] and William Landesman[1], [1]Vermont State Univ., Johnson, VT, [2]Univ. of California, Berkeley, CA, [3]Dartmouth Health, Lebanon, NH

DSP21 A small beetle with big potential: Biology of a grape Phylloxera predator, *Scymnus* sp. (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae). **Norah Dana** (nfd5243@psu.edu)[1] and Flor E. Acevedo[2], [1]Pennsylvania State Univ., Erie, PA, [2]Pennsylvania State Univ., Univ. Park, PA

Undergraduate Poster Display Competition II

Gallery (The Saratoga Hilton)

DSP22 Investigating the outcomes of wetland restoration on macroinvertebrate communities after 22 years. **Amy Goodman** (agoodma5@terpmail.umd.edu), Emily Gibson and William Lamp, Univ. of Maryland, College Park, MD

DSP23 Pollinator diversity of great rhododendron *(Rhododendron maximum)*. **Faye Santaniello** (faye.santaniello@uri.edu), Ren Johnson and Evan L. Preisser, Univ. of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI

DSP24 Size polymorphism in the desert leafcutter ant *Acromyrmex versicolor*. **Aicha Mounsif** (a04moun@siena.edu)[1], Meaghan Hall[2] and Rebecca Clark[3], [1]Siena Univ., Niskayuna, NY, [2]Siena Univ., loudonville, NY, [3]Siena Univ., loudinville, NY

DSP25 Trait decoupling across niche-related traits in *Cephalotes* castes. **Kevin Wise** (kevinwise61@gmail.com)[1] and Cody Kent[2], [1]Frostburg State Univ., Frostburg, MD, [2]Luther College, Decorah, IA

DSP26 Effects of ß-Cyfluthrin application on pollinator abundance. **Chloe Hart** (chloe.hart@maine.edu), Elissa Ballman, Michael Galli and Allison Gardner, Univ. of Maine, Orono, ME

DSP27 POSTER WITHDRAWN

DSP28 Comparing *Halictus ligatus* morphology in New Jersey brownfields and greenfields. **Linda Morin** (lm65@njit.edu), Brock Shahinian, Vita Infurna, Jonathan St Jean, Sabrina Gerace and Caroline DeVan, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark, NJ

DSP29 Polymorphism in young colonies of the desert leafcutter ant *Acromyrmex versicolor* as related to queen number. **Meaghan Hall** (m03hall@siena.edu)[1], Niamh Mulcahy[2] and Rebecca Clark[3], [1]Siena Univ., loudonville, NY, [2]Siena Univ., Loudonville, NY, [3]Siena Univ., loudinville, NY

Sunday, March 15, 2026, Afternoon

Invasive Species Symposium: The Varied Stories of Invasives, Understanding the Threat, Shaping the Response

Broadway 3&4 (The Saratoga Hilton)

Moderators and Organizers: Brian Eshenaur[1] and Jody Gangloff-Kaufmann[2], [1]Cornell Univ., Rochester, NY, [2]Cornell Univ., Babylon, NY

2:00 Welcoming remarks

2:02 **39** A framework for coordinated invasive species response. **Jennifer Dean** (Deanjennifer.dean@dec.ny.gov), SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Albany, NY

2:22 **40** Tawny cockroach: An adventive species of potential concern. Arthropod species: *Ectobius pallidus* (Blattodea: Ectobiidae). **Jody Gangloff-Kaufmann** (jlg23@cornell.edu), Cornell Univ., Babylon, NY

2:42 **41** Asian longhorned ticks: Invasion, health implications, and monitoring. Arthropod species: *Haemaphysalis longicornis* (Acari: Ixodidae). **Hannah Toltz** (htt24@cornell.edu), Cornell Integrated Pest Management, Highland, NY

3:02 **42** Invasive fruit flies: Updates on management of spotted wing drosophila and European cherry fruit fly in NY. Arthropod species: Drosophila suzukii (Diptera: Drosophilidae), Rhagoletis cerasi (Diptera: Tephritidae). **Anna Wallis** (aew232@cornell.edu), Cornell Integrated Pest Management, Highland, NY

3:22 Break

3:32 **43** Spotted lanternfly: Where are we now? Arthropod species: Lycorma delicatula (Hemiptera: Fulgoridae) **Julie Urban** (jmu2@psu.edu), Pennsylvania State Univ., Univ. Park, PA

3:52 **44** Box tree moth: Identification, life cycle, monitoring, and management strategies. Arthropod species: Cydalima perspectalis (Lepidoptera: Crambidae). **Brian Eshenaur** (bce1@cornell.edu), Cornell Integrated Pest Management, Geneva, NY

4:12 **45** Hemlock wooly adelgid: Coevolutionary history shapes preference and performance. Arthropod species: Adelges tsugae, Hemiptera: Adelgidae. **Nicholas Dietschler** (nd283@cornell.edu), Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY

4:32 **46** From invasion to established: How messaging and attitudes change with progression on the invasion curve. **Jacob Leeser** (jl4353@cornell.edu), Cornell Integrated Pest Management, Ithaca, NY

PhD 10-Minute Presentations I

Travers/Alabama (The Saratoga Hilton)

Moderators: Brenna Traver, Pennsylvania State Schuylkill, Schuylkill Haven, PA

2:00 Introductory Remarks

2:05 **47** Using bioacoustics to explore sublethal effects of thiamethoxam on bumble bee colony soundscape. **Marie Muniz** (mlm7670@psu.edu)[1], Kelly Bennett[2], Alexander Arovas[3], Margarita Lopez-Uribe[2], Emily Bick[3] and Heather Grab[4], [1]Penn State Univ., State College, PA, [2]Penn State Univ., Univ. Park, PA, [3]Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI, [4]Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY

2:17 **48** Location, location, location, where are bee viruses present in cucurbit fields? **Courtney Walls** (courw97@vt.edu), Thomas Kuhar, James Wilson and Chin-Cheng (Scotty) Yang, Virginia Tech Univ., Blacksburg, VA

2:29 **49** Assessing Thysanoptera dispersal across the agroecological landscape. **Katherine Poulos** (kip9@cornell.edu), John Mahas, Brian Nault and Sara Emery, Cornell AgriTech, Cornell Univ., Geneva, NY

2:41 **50** Apples to apples: Fruit quality as a result of pollinators, pests, and pesticides. **Shianne Lindsay** (sel255@cornell.edu) and Scott McArt, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY

2:53 **51** Quantifying shifts in Metarhizium brunneum ecological function after exposure to soil resources of varying qualities. **Morgan Swoboda** (mhs338@cornell.edu) and Kyle Wickings, Cornell Univ., Geneva, NY

3:05 Break

3:20 **52** Indigenous intercropping reduces C. pepo herbivore abundance. **Nina Devine** (ngd5121@psu.edu), Abigail Seltzer and Mônica Kersch-Becker, Pennsylvania State Univ., State College, PA

3:32 **53** Overlapping herbivores: The effect of co-occurrence and honeydew presence on caterpillar, aphid, and plant performance. **Sophia Mucciolo** (smm7660@psu.edu)[1] and Sara Hermann[2], [1]Penn State, State College, PA, [2]Pennsylvania State Univ., Univ. Park, PA

3:44 **54** Virginia Orchard IPPM: A longitudinal study of native bee abundance, richness, and diversity. **Ian McKellips** (ianmckellips@vt.edu)[1], Robert Ostrom[2], T'ai Roulston[3], Kevin Rice[4], James Wilson[2], Roger Schürch[2] and Margaret Couvillon[2], [1]Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, [2]Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State Univ., Blacksburg, VA, [3]Univ. of Virginia, Boyce, VA, [4]Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State Univ., Winchester, VA

3:56 **55** Crop domestication affects the performance of Ganaspis kimorum, a parasitoid of Drosophila suzukii. **Yahel Ben-Zvi** (y.bz@rutgers.edu) and Cesar Rodriguez-Saona, Rutgers, The State Univ. of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ

4:08 **56** Domestication and ploidy impact blueberry resistance to spotted-wing drosophila across populations. **Jae Kerstetter** (jae.kerstetter@rutgers.edu), Toviah Bass and Cesar Rodriguez-Saona, Rutgers, The State Univ. of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ

4:20 **57** Building stronger conversations between wine producers and scientists to address spotted lanternfly. **Dennis Baffour-Awuah** (db27687@uga.edu)[1], Oluwafunmilayo Ajiferuke[1], Alexa Lamm[1], Allison Byrd[1], Drew Harner[2], Gigi Digiacomo[3], Julie Urban[4], Carrie Fearer[5], Anne Nielsen[6] and Tracy Leskey[7], [1]Univ. of Georgia, Athens, GA, [2]Virginia Tech, Winchester, VA, [3]Univ. of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN, [4]Pennsylvania State Univ., Univ. Park, PA, [5]Virginia Tech Univ., Blacksburg, VA, [6]Rutgers Univ., Bridgeton, NJ, [7]USDA - ARS, Kearneysville, WV

PhD 10-Minute Presentations II

Broadway 1&2 (The Saratoga Hilton)

Moderators: Karly Regan, Certis Biologicals, Sunderland, MA

2:00 Introductory Remarks

2:05 **58** Negative cross resistance to group 30 insecticides in resistant Drosophila melanogaster. **William Long** (williamlong22@vt.edu)[1], Thomas Kuhar[2] and Aaron Gross[2], [1]Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, [2]Virginia Tech Univ., Blacksburg, VA

2:17 **59** Correlation of woolly apple aphid (Eriosoma lanigerum) (Hausmann) (Hemiptera: Aphididae) feeding behaviors to degrading pesticide concentrations in treated apple rootstocks. **Mason Chandler** (mpc99@cornell.edu), Cornell Univ., Geneva, NY

2:29 **60** Pheromone-based monitoring of Euproctis chrysorrhoea in Maine. **Robert Rowe** (robert.d.rowe@maine.edu) and Angela Mech, Univ. of Maine, Orono, ME

2:41 **61** Digitizing and annotating a 25-year time series of Orthoptera stridulations. **Joe Elias** (jelias4@binghamton.edu) and Eliza Grames, Binghamton Univ., Binghamton, NY

2:53 **62** Biocidal efficacy of dilute essential oil-in-water emulsion adjuvants against spotted wing drosophila, Drosophila suzukii.. **Ajay Giri** (azae.giri@gmail.com), Univ. of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA

3:05 Break

3:20 **63** Population genetics and gut microbiome of New York City cockroaches (Periplaneta americana). **Katherine Montana** (kmontana@amnh.org)[1,2], Manpreet Kohli[1,3], Ethan Sbarro[4] and Jessica Ware[1], [1]American Museum of Natural History, New York, NY, [2]City Univ. of New York Graduate Center, New York, NY, [3]Baruch College, New York, NY, [4]The Peddie School, Highstown, NJ

3:32 **64** Bed bug insecticide assays for management in poultry facilities. **Valeria Lee** (vfl5063@psu.edu) and Erika Machtinger, Pennsylvania State Univ., Univ. Park, PA

3:44 **65** Phenological shifts in a flowering shrub community: 1982 to 2025. **Ren Johnson** (ren.johnson@uri.edu), Faye Santaniello and Evan L. Preisser, Univ. of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI

3:56 **66** Can host color and defensive behavior predict host acceptance in a specialist parasitoid? **Charly Hartle** (hartlect@vt.edu) and Enakshi Ghosh, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State Univ., Blacksburg, VA

4:08 **67** Control or consequence? host preference in a biological control system **Emily Kanach** (emily.kanach@maine.edu) and Angela Mech, Univ. of Maine, Orono, ME

Monday, March 16, 2026, Morning

Building Bridges for Undergraduates: Techniques for Teaching and Mentorship

Travers/Alabama (The Saratoga Hilton)

Moderators and Organizers: Carly Tribull and Carly Tribull, Farmingdale State College, Farmingdale, NY

8:00 Welcoming remarks

8:05 **69** EntoQuest - the Eastern Branch's answer to connecting students and professionals for a weekend of mentorship. **William Lamp** (lamp@umd.edu), Univ. of Maryland, College Park, MD

8:25 **70** Building academic skills under the guise of teaching invertebrate zoology. **Carly Tribull** (cmtribull@gmail.com), Farmingdale State College, Farmingdale, NY

8:45 Break

8:50 **71** Demonstrating food waste upcycling to my university community. **Destiny Mann** (dmann@udel.edu), Univ. of Delaware, Newark, DE

9:10 **72** Building opportunity from overload: Identifying hidden ppportunities for mentorship. **Alireza Shokoohi** (alrshokoohi@gmail.com), Univ. of Maryland, College Park, College Park, MD; Univ. of Massachussetts, Amherst, MA

9:30 Panel discussion

Insects in Mythology and Culture

Broadway 1&2 (The Saratoga Hilton)

Moderators and Organizers: Alexander Rudin, Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, New Brunswick, NJ

8:00 Welcoming remarks

8:02 **73** Etymology of entomology: The stories hidden in names; both common and taxonomic. **Alexander Rudin** (anr56@sebs.rutgers.edu), Rutgers School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, New Brunswick, NJ

8:22 **74** Insects in Greek mythology, philosophy, and empirical science. **Mauro Bottalico** (m_bottalico@hotmail.com), Columbia Univ. (Retired), Saco, ME

8:42 **75** Historical context and modern cultural acceptance: The story of insects as food and feed. **Helen Craig** (hcraig3@umd.edu), Zoey Blackman, Jen Shaffer and William Lamp, Univ. of Maryland, College Park, MD

9:02 Break

9:09 **76** An artist's story: From building structure to social structure; the universal symbol of the hivemind. **Libby Ramage** (ramcar1980@gmail.com), Arts Council of Princeton, Princeton, NJ

9:29 **77** Bugs and B movies: Insects as a manifestation of human anxiety. **Timothy Lampasona** (tlampasona@vassar.edu), Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY

9:49 Concluding remarks

Is There Anything that Eats That? Stories of Biocontrol in the Northeast

Broadway 3&4 (The Saratoga Hilton)

Moderators and Organizers: Lisa Tewksbury[1], Amara Dunn-Silver[2], Lisa Tewksbury[1] and Amara Dunn-Silver[2], [1]Univ. of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI, [2]Cornell Univ., Geneva, NY

8:00 Welcoming remarks

8:05 **78** Update on spotted lanternfly classical biocontrol. **Hannah Broadley** (hannah.j.broadley@usda.gov), USDA-APHIS-PPQ-S&T, Buzzards Bay, MA

8:27 **79** Spotted wing drosophila biocontrol in Rhode Island. **Lisa Tewksbury** (lisat@uri.edu), Alexandra Johnson, Kristen Goodrich, Alyson Torino and Ari Locklear, Univ. of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI

8:49 **80** Assessing factors that influence the establishment of Ganaspis kimorum in New York and its impact on SWD. **Binita Shrestha** (bs687@cornell.edu)[1], Stephen P. Hesler[1], Gabrielle Brind'Amour[1], Anna Wallis[2], Anya Stansell[3] and Gregory Loeb[1], [1]Cornell Univ., Geneva, NY, [2]Cornell Integrated Pest Management, Highland, NY, [3]Cornell Univ., -, NY

9:11 **81** Update on hemlock woolly adelgid biological control. **Mark Whitmore** (mcw42@cornell.edu) and Nicholas Dietschler, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY

9:33 **82** Getting the most from companion plants in high tunnels: What to grow and where to grow them. **Samantha Willden** (saw326@cornell.edu)[1], Dominique Holtappels[1] and Laura Ingwell[2], [1]Cornell Univ., Geneva, NY, [2]Purdue Univ., West Lafayette, IN

9:55 Concluding remarks

Contributed Posters

Gallery (The Saratoga Hilton)

DSP30 Vulnerability of White Oaks to Arthropod Herbivory in an Assisted Migration Experiment. **Olivia Bond** (oliviabond4@gmail.com)[1], Nancy Sonti[2], Vincent D'Amico[3], Tara Trammell[4] and Meghan Avolio[1], [1]Johns Hopkins Univ., Baltimore, MD, [2]US Forest Service, Baltimore, MD, [3]USDA - Forest Service, Newark, DE, [4]Univ. of Delaware, Newark, DE

DSP31 Application of distance to detection modeling for tick abundance estimation. **Theodore Black** (tvblack@syr.edu)[1], Jonathan Cohen[1] and Brian Leydet[2], [1]SUNY ESF, Syracuse, NY, [2]SUNY-ESF, Syracuse, NY

DSP32 Honeybee competitors reduce the visual attractiveness of floral resources to native pollinators. **Stephen Hall** (shall5@umassd.edu)[1] and Robert Gegear[2], [1]UMass Darmouth, Dartmouth, MA, [2]UMass Dartmouth, Dartmouth, MA

DSP33 IPM support for tree fruit growers in NY State: Tree fruit monitoring network, Scaffolds Podcast, and scouting resources. **Anna Wallis** (aew232@cornell.edu)[1], Sean O'Hehir[2], Hannah Tolz[2], Janet van Zoeren[3], Michael Basedow[4], Monique Rivera[5] and Kerik Cox[5], [1]Cornell Integrated Pest Management, Highland, NY, [2]Cornell IPM, Highland, NY, [3]Cornell Cooperative Extension, Albion, NY, [4]Cornell Cooperative Extension, Plattsburgh, NY, [5]Cornell Univ., Geneva, NY

DSP34 Biological control of striped cucumber beetle, Acalymma vittatum, larvae in organic vegetable production. **Marion Zuefle** (mez4@cornell.edu) and Abby Seaman, Cornell Univ., Geneva, NY

DSP35 What's bugging you first Friday: A story of virtual public outreach. **Matthew Frye** (mjf267@cornell.edu) and Amara Dunn-Silver, Cornell Univ., Geneva, NY

DSP36 Morphometric identification of noctuid moths.

DSP37 Insecticide trial.

DSP38 Modelling habitat suitability for medically important mosquito species (Diptera:Culicidae), St. Lawrence County, NY. **Chase Bond** (bondcy206@potsdam.edu), SUNY Potsdam, Potsdam, NY

DSP39 Invasive jumping worms (Amynthas spp.) alter aphid abundance and ant-aphid mutualisms on golden alexander (Zizea aurea). **Madelynn Edwards** (madelynn.edwards@uvm.edu), Univ. of Vermont, Burlington, VT

DSP40 Understanding the role of insect vectors in oak wilt disease cycle and impacts on chestnut restoration. **Amy Twohig** (atwohig@esf.edu)[1], Kelsey McLaughlin[2], Andrew Newhouse[3] and Dylan Parry[1], [1]SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY, [2]New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Delmar, NY, [3]American Chestnut Research and Restoration Project, Syracuse, NY

DSP41 Dung beetle communities and ecosystem services in New York grazing systems. **Kenneth Wise** (klw24@cornell.edu)[1], Hannah Tolz[2] and Bryony Sands[3], [1]Cornell Integrated Pest Management Program, Highland, NY, [2]Cornell IPM, Highland, NY, [3]Univ. of Vermont, St Albans, VT

DSP42 How do insect growth regulators influence the effectiveness of Beauveria bassiana against the spotted lanternfly? **Thomas Kuhar** (tkuhar@vt.edu)[1], Stefan Jaronski[2], Anne Nielsen[3] and Benjamin L. Aigner[2], [1]Virginia Tech Univ., Blacksburg, VA, [2]Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State Univ., Blacksburg, VA, [3]Rutgers Univ., Bridgeton, NJ

DSP43 POSTER WITHDRAWN

DSP44 Larval sentinel log monitoring for released parasitoids of the emerald ash borer (Buprestidae; Agrilus planipennis). **Leah Estes** (lestes@umd.edu), Lilly Woodward and Daniel Gruner, Univ. of Maryland, College Park, MD

DSP45 Spanish-language Spotted lanternfly (Lycorma delicatula) identification training. Kathleen Kanaley[1], **Raul Lemus Garza** (rel267@cornell.edu)[1], Brian Eshenaur[2] and Alejandro Calixto[1], [1]Cornell Univ., Geneva, NY, [2]Cornell Integrated Pest Management, Geneva, NY

DSP46 The effect of time since arrival from commercial rearing facility on infectivity of Crithidia bombi. **Elizabeth Fallon** (Fallo24e@mtholyoke.edu)[1], Lynn Adler[1] and Sonja Glasser[2], [1]Univ. of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA, [2]umass, Northampton, MA

DSP47 Optimizing pheromone trap–lure systems for precision monitoring of corn earworm (Helicoverpa zea) in sweet corn. Christophe Duplais[1], **John Mahas** (jwm0055@auburn.edu)[1], Anders Huseth[2], David R. Owens[3], Kanika Jakhmola[1], Brian Currin[4], Helene Doughty[5], Sujan Panta[6], Lucas Seybert[1], Brent Short[7], Galen Dively[8], Thomas Kuhar[4], Kelly Hamby[8] and Brian Nault[1], [1]Cornell AgriTech, Cornell Univ., Geneva, NY, [2]Michigan State Univ., East Lansing, MI, [3]Univ. of Delaware, Georgetown, DE, [4]Virginia Tech Univ., Blacksburg, VA, [5]Virginia Tech Univ., Painter, VA, [6]North Carolina State Univ., Raleigh, NC, [7]Trécé Inc., Adair, OK, [8]Univ. of Maryland, College Park, MD

DSP48 Gauging the acceptance of tick management strategies amongst vulnerable populations.. **Joellen Lampman** (jkz6@cornell.edu), Cornell Integrated Pest Management, Voorheesville, NY

DSP49 Biological control of the invasive spotted wing drosophila (Drosophila suzukii) with parasitic wasp Ganaspis kimorum. **Alyson Torino** (alysontorino@gmail.com), Alexandra Johnson and Lisa Tewksbury, Univ. of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI

DSP50 Effects of Crithidia bombi infection and nutritional limitation on Bombus impatiens mortality. **Linda Yang** (yang34w@mtholyoke.edu)[1], Sonja Glasser[2] and Lynn Adler[3], [1]Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA, [2]umass, Northampton, MA, [3]Univ. of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA

DSP51 Survey for parasitoids of spotted wing drosophila in Connecticut and Massachusetts. **Claire Rutledge** (Claire.Rutledge@ct.gov)[1], Matthew Buffington[2], Jaime Pinero[3] and Richard Cowles[4], [1]Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, CT, [2]USDA - ARS, Washington, DC, [3]Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, [4]Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, Windsor, CT

DSP52 Probeeotics: Effects of probiotic supplementation on Crithidia bombi (Trypanosomatidae) infection on the common eastern bumble bee (Bombus impatiens). **Madina Alikulova** (malikulova@umass.edu), Mario Pinilla Gallego and Lynn Adler, Univ. of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA

DSP53 Evaluation of surfactants with insecticides for managing Helicoverpa zea in sweet corn. **John Mahas** (jwm366@cornell.edu), Christophe Duplais and Brian Nault, Cornell AgriTech, Cornell Univ., Geneva, NY

DSP54 Harnessing harmonic radar technology to fortify public health against vector-borne disease. **Hanna Cortes** (hcortes@udel.edu), Univ. of Delaware, Newark, DE

DSP55 Effect of pheromone pretreatment and row covers on insect abundance and yield of summer squash. **Donald Weber** (Don.Weber@usda.gov), Megan Herlihy-Adams, Parker Grebe and Justin Shelburne, USDA ARS Invasive Insect Biocontrol and Behavior Laboratory, Beltsville, MD

Method to the Madness: Telling the Story of Scientific Technique

Broadway 3&4 (The Saratoga Hilton)

Moderators and Organizers: Haylie Brown[1] and Ashley Jernigan[2], [1]Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, [2]Virginia Tech, School of Plant and Environmental Sciences, Blacksburg, VA

10:20 **83** Designing with biology in mind: Lessons from field-based insecticide efficacy trials. **Leonardo Salgado** (lds223@cornell.edu)[1] and Brian Nault[2], [1]Cornell Univ., Cornell AgriTech, Geneva, NY, [2]Cornell AgriTech, Cornell Univ., Geneva, NY

10:40 **84** Transforming perceptions: Practical strategies for youth entomology education. **Daniel Frank** (dlfrank@vt.edu)[1], Dana Beegle[2] and Stephanie Blevins Wycoff[2], [1]Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State Univ., Blacksburg, VA, [2]Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA

11:00 **85** When maggots don't behave: Lessons from insect rearing and bioassays. **Ollie Vetrovec** (mjv77@cornell.edu)[1], Leonardo Salgado[2], Sarah Caldwell[1] and Brian Nault[3], [1]Cornell Univ., Geneva, NY, [2]Cornell Univ., Cornell AgriTech, Geneva, NY, [3]Cornell AgriTech, Cornell Univ., Geneva, NY

11:20 **86** Trapped but alive: Rethinking dung beetle sampling methods. **Haylie Brown** (brownhj@vt.edu)[1] and Ashley Jernigan[2], [1]Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, [2]Virginia Tech, School of Plant and Environmental Sciences, Blacksburg, VA

11:40 **87** Flying toward the truth: How drones redefine insect detection methods. **Yong-Lak Park** (yong-lak.park@mail.wvu.edu), West Virginia Univ., Morgantown, WV

Entomology Medley I: Submitted 10-Minute Presentations

Broadway 1&2 (The Saratoga Hilton)

Moderators: Janine Spies[1] and Maria Cramer[2], [1]Rutgers Cooperative Extension, New Brunswick, NJ, [2]Univ. of Maryland, College Park, MD

10:30 **88** Evaluating novel attract and kill strategies for managing spotted wing drosophila (SWD) on blueberry farms in NY. **Anna Wallis** (aew232@cornell.edu)[1], Hannah Tolz[2], Sean O'Hehir[2], Janet van Zoeren[3], Elizabeth Tee[3], Gregory Loeb[4], Binita Shrestha[5], Stephen P. Hesler[4], Heather Kase[6], Sarah Elone[6], Elisabeth Hodgdon[7] and Jenn Stanton[7], [1]Cornell Integrated Pest Management, Highland, NY, [2]Cornell IPM, Highland, NY, [3]Cornell Cooperative Extension, Albion, NY, [4]Cornell Univ., Geneva, NY, [5]Univ. of Florida, Lake Alfred, FL, [6]Cornell Cooperative Extension, Highland, NY, [7]Cornell Cooperative Extension, Plattsburgh, NY

10:42 **89** Improving the management of tarnished plant bugs, Lygus lineolaris (Hemiptera: Miridae), in Virginia cotton by optimizing agronomic decisions. **Sarah Mertson** (sarahm25@vt.edu)[1], Sean Malone[1], Hunter Frame[2] and Tim Bryant[1], [1]Virginia Tech Univ., Suffolk, VA, [2]Virginia Tech, Suffolk, VA

10:54 **90** Linking haplotype and fitness in distinct Halyomorpha halys populations. **Anne Nielsen** (nielsen@njaes.rutgers.edu)[1], Abigail McFarland[1] and Dana Price[2], [1]Rutgers Univ., Bridgeton, NJ, [2]Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, NJ

11:06 **91** Leveraging machine learning for mile-a-minute detection to enhance Integrated Pest Management (IPM). **Sruthi Keerthi Valicharla** (sruthi.valicharla@mail.wvu.edu)[1], Kushal Naharki[1], Jiyun Yeo[2], Cynthia Huebner[3], Rick Turcotte[4], Christopher Hayes[4] and Yong-Lak Park[1], [1]West Virginia Univ., Morgantown, WV, [2]Seoul National Univ., Gwanak-gu, Seoul, Korea, Republic of (South), [3]Forest Service, Northern Research Station, Morgantown, WV, [4]USDA Forest Service, Morgantown, WV

11:18 **92** Early bee removal can enhance plum curculio management in blueberries. **Beth Ferguson** (my490@njaes.rutgers.edu)[1] and Cesar Rodriguez-Saona[2], [1]Rutgers Univ., Chatsworth, NJ, [2]Rutgers, The State Univ. of New Jersey, New Brunswick, NJ

11:30 **93** Inferring migratory and overwintering origin of pheromone trapped corn earworm (Helicoverpa Zea) using deuterium isotopes. **Bukola Molake** (Bukola.molake@gmail.com)[1], Michael Crossley[1] and Christophe Duplais[2], [1]Univ. of Delaware, Newark, DE, [2]Cornell AgriTech, Cornell Univ., Geneva, NY

11:42 **94** Be an advocate for science!: How to engage and facilitate advocacy for science policy. **Janine Spies** (jms1248@njaes.rutgers.edu), Rutgers Cooperative Extension, New Brunswick, NJ

Spotted Lanternfly Submitted 10-Minute Presentations

Travers/Alabama (The Saratoga Hilton)

Moderators: Elizabeth Deecher[1] and Patricia Prade[2], [1]Pennsylvania State Univ., Univ. Park, PA, [2]Penn State Extension, Lebanon, PA

10:30 **95** Development and evaluation of artificial diets for allelochemical delivery in spotted lanternfly. **Brian Ruether** (brianfr@vt.edu)[1], Mariana Gelambi[1], Kate Burgiss[1], Alejandra Caballero[1], Sherry Hildreth[1], Richard Helm[2] and Dorothea Tholl[1], [1]Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, [2]Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State Univ., Blacksburg, VA

10:42 **96** Areawide pest management of spotted lanternfly and its favored host, tree of heaven. **Tracy Leskey** (tracy.leskey@usda.gov)[1], Gigi Digiacomo[2], Carrie Fearer[3], Drew Harner[4], Stefan Jaronski[5], Thomas Kuhar[3], Alexa Lamm[6], Anne Nielsen[7], Laura Nixon[8], Douglas Pfeiffer[9], Scott Salom[5], David Shapiro-Ilan[10] and Julie Urban[11], [1]USDA - ARS, Kearneysville, WV, [2]Univ. of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN, [3]Virginia Tech Univ., Blacksburg, VA, [4]Virginia Tech, Winchester, VA, [5]Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State Univ., Blacksburg, VA, [6]Univ. of Georgia, Athens, GA, [7]Rutgers Univ., Bridgeton, NJ, [8]USDA-ARS, Kearneysville, WV, [9]Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, [10]USDA - ARS, Byron, GA, [11]Pennsylvania State Univ., Univ. Park, PA

10:54 **97** Monitoring spotted lanternfly's (Lycorma delicatula) lifecycle in Pennsylvania vineyards. **Elizabeth Deecher** (lizdeecher@gmail.com)[1], Julie Urban[1], Brian Walsh[2] and Tracy Leskey[3], [1]Pennsylvania State Univ., Univ. Park, PA, [2]Penn State Extension, Leesport, PA, [3]USDA - ARS, Kearneysville, WV

11:06 **98** Spotted lanternfly (Lycorma delicatula) and mechanical grape harvesters; A recipe for unwanted, insect-based added protein in grape juice. **Brian Walsh** (Brw5318@psu.edu)[1], Elizabeth Deecher[2], Holly Shugart[2], Megan Luke[3], Jennifer Russo[4] and Julie Urban[2], [1]Penn State Extension, Leesport, PA, [2]Pennsylvania State Univ., Univ. Park, PA, [3]Penn State Univ. Extension, North East, PA, [4]Cornell Cooperative Extension, Portland, NY

11:18 **99** How do spotted lanternfly (Lycorma delicatula) counts in Virginia vineyards vary across the growing season? **Andrea Lopez** (aal339@vt.edu)[1], Benjamin L. Aigner[1], Erin Hassett[1], Thomas Kuhar[2], Tracy Leskey[3], Daniel Frank[1] and Stacy Endriss[1], [1]Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State Univ., Blacksburg, VA, [2]Virginia Tech Univ., Blacksburg, VA, [3]USDA - ARS, Kearneysville, WV

11:30 **100** The effect of host plant (grape vs. Ailanthus) on Dryinus sinicus parasitism and larval development on Lycorma delicatula. **Spiro Schramm** (spiro@udel.edu), Joe Kaser and Xingeng Wang, USDA-ARS, Newark, DE

Monday, March 16, 2026, Afternoon

Entomology Medley II: Submitted 10-Minute Presentations

Broadway 1&2 (The Saratoga Hilton)

Moderators: Brian Ruether[1] and Patricia Prade[2], [1]Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA, [2]Penn State Extension, Lebanon, PA

2:00 **101** The overlooked role of fungicides in biological and chemical control of turfgrass insect pests. **Matthew Brown** (msb330@sebs.rutgers.edu), Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, NJ

2:12 **102** Can floral phenology and host diversity influence parasite spread in bumble bees? **Mario Pinilla Gallego** (mspinillagal@umass.edu) and Lynn Adler, Univ. of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA

2:24 **103** Floral eDNA rivals traditional surveys for detecting bumble bee species of concern. **Eliza Stein** (estein@contractor.usgs.gov)[1], Tabitha Graves[2], Amanda Boone[3], Muruleedhara Byappanahalli[4], Ralph Grundel[4], Erica Sarro Gustilo[5], Marissa Kaminski[6], Yer Lor[6], Clint Otto[7], Kristina Parker[3], Alma Schrage[7], Dawn Shively[8], Stephen Spear[6], Ashley Spoljaric[8] and David Pilliod[3], [1]Contractor to the U.S. Geological Survey, West Glacier, MT, [2]U.S. Geological Survey, West Glacier, MT, [3]U.S. Geological Survey, Boise, ID, [4]U.S. Geological Survey, Chesterton, IN, [5]Univ. of Washington, Seattle, WA, [6]U.S. Geological Survey, La Crosse, WI, [7]U.S. Geological Survey, Jamestown, ND, [8]Contractor to the U.S. Geological Survey, Chesterton, IN

2:36 **104** Ecological immunology for plant protection. **Enakshi Ghosh** (enakshi@vt.edu), Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State Univ., Blacksburg, VA

2:48 **105** Naturalized roughs as arthropod diversity hotspot in urban landscape. **Sanjok Timalsina** (stimalsina@umass.edu)[1] and Olga Kostromytska[2], [1]Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, [2]Univ. of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA

3:00 **106** Examing the foregut of fourteen carabid species (Carabidae:Coleoptera). **Joseph Ingerson-Mahar** (patrobus@comcast.net), retired, Alloway, NJ

3:12 **107** A conservation success: The karner blue butterfly's recovery at the Albany pine bush. **Alexandria Soldo** (asoldo@albanypinebush.org), Steven Campbell and Neil Gifford, Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission, Albany, NY

3:24 **108** Pollen DNA metabarcoding reveals foraging landscapes of honey bee colonies in organic farming systems. **Laura McHenry** (lpm5858@psu.edu)[1], Selina Bruckner[2], Benedict DeMoras[2], Scott McArt[3], Robyn Underwood[1] and Margarita López-Uribe[1], [1]The Pennsylvania State Univ., Univ. Park, PA, [2]Auburn Univ., Auburn, AL, [3]Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY

3:36 **109** Queen presence in the Spring, and not in the Fall prior, affects the frequency of biting attacks on the larvae in the ant Temnothorax longispinosus. **Kenneth J. Howard** (howark2@sage.edu)[1] and Derek Larson[2], [1]Russell Sage College, Troy, NY, [2]Univ. of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine, Honolulu, HI

Getting the Bugs out of Science Communication: Better Stories for Public Understanding

Travers/Alabama (The Saratoga Hilton)

Moderators and Organizers: Anna Wallis[1], Amara Dunn-Silver[2], Joellen Lampman[3] and Hannah Tolz[4], [1]Cornell Integrated Pest Management, Highland, NY, [2]Cornell Univ., Geneva, NY, [3]Cornell Integrated Pest Management, Voorheesville, NY, [4]Cornell IPM, Highland, NY

2:00 Introductory remarks

2:10 **110** Best practices for science and risk communication from social and behavioral sciences – the role of behavior and trust. **Ameila Greiner Safi** (alg52@cornell.edu), Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY

3:40 **111** Science communication case study – "Don't Get Ticked NY". **Joellen Lampman** (jkz6@cornell.edu), Cornell Integrated Pest Management, Voorheesville, NY

4:10 **112** Framing and storytelling: Science communication strategies for the general public – EcoApple Case Study. **Kelsey Gosch** (kgosch@redtomato.org) and Michael Rozyne, Red Tomato, Providence, RI

5:40 Concluding remarks

Lessons Learned for the Next Invasive

Broadway 3&4 (The Saratoga Hilton)

Moderators and Organizers: Laura Nixon[1], Caroline Kanaskie[2], Julie Urban[3], Laura Nixon[1], Caroline Kanaskie[2] and Julie Urban[3], [1]Univ. of Maryland, Clarkesville, MD, [2]Univ. of New Hampshire, Durham, NH, [3]Pennsylvania State Univ., Univ. Park, PA

2:00 Welcoming remarks

2:02 **113** Join the Search: Lingering Hemlocks and Monitoring Plots. **Matthew Del Buono** (mjd378@cornell.edu), Cornell Univ., na, NY

2:22 **114** Amplifying invasive species outreach through multi-agency collaboration. **Christopher Logue** (christopher.logue@agriculture.ny.gov), New York State Dept. of Agriculture and Markets, Albany, NY

2:42 **115** Southern pine beetle in New York State. **Robert Cole** (robert.cole@dec.ny.gov), New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Albany, NY

3:02 **116** Recent expansion of crapemyrtle bark scale in Pennsylvania and the Northeast. **Michael Skvarla** (mxs1578@psu.edu), Pennsylvania State Univ., Univ. Park, PA

3:22 Break

3:32 **117** Research update on elm zigzag sawfly. **Nicholas Durinzi** (ndurinzi@esf.edu)[1], Nathan Siegert[2], Dylan Parry[1] and Melissa K. Fierke[1], [1]SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Syracuse, NY, [2]USDA - Forest Service, Durham, NH

3:52 **118** Evaluation of insecticide treatments for regulatory management of the invasive defoliator Cydalima perspectalis in the U.S.. **Jason Bielski** (jbiel654@vt.edu)[1], Gregory Simmons[2], Ignacio Baez[3] and Alejandro Del Pozo[1], [1]Virginia Tech Univ., Virginia Beach, VA, [2]USDA-APHIS-PPQ-S&T, Salinas, CA, [3]USDA-APHIS-PPQ-S&T, Raleigh, NC

4:12 **119** Spruce budworm outbreak and the early intervention strategy being used in Maine. **Angela Mech** (angela.mech@maine.edu)[1] and Neil Thompson[2], [1]Univ. of Maine, Orono, ME, [2]Univ. of Maine, Fort Kent, ME

4:32 **120** Does latitude affect EAB biocontrol efficacy. **Elizabeth Clifton** (elizabeth.marie.clifton@gmail.com)[1], Christine Dodge[2], Theresa Booth[3] and Jeff Garnas[1], [1]Univ. of New Hampshire, Durham, NH, [2]USDA-APHIS-PPQ-S&T, Buzzards Bay, MA, [3]USDA-APHIS-PPQ, Buzzards Bay, MA

4:52 **121** Discussion time: Invasive insects of concern in our region. **Daniel Gilrein** (dog1@cornell.edu)[1] and Laura Nixon[2], [1]Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, Riverhead, NY, [2]Univ. of Maryland, Clarkesville, MD

5:12 IDEP committee meeting

From Curiosity to Career: Stories of Growth, Challenges, and Discovery

Broadway 1&2 (The Saratoga Hilton)

Moderators and Organizers: Veronica Yurchak[1], Emily Struckhoff[2], Madeline Potter[3], Heather Kopsco[4] and Matthew Brown[5], [1]Univ. of Maryland Extension, Queenstown, MD, [2]Pennsylvania State Univ., Univ. Park, PA, [3]Univ. of Maryland, Ellicott City, MD, [4]Columbia Univ., New York, NY, [5]Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, NJ

4:00 Welcoming remarks

4:05 **122** What makes them tick: Following stakeholder needs across research sectors. **Jessica Brown** (jessica.brown@ct.gov), Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, CT

4:25 **123** Careers don't come with field guides: Building the path forward. **Jennifer Mora** (jmm924@scarletmail.rutgers.edu), Central Life Sciences, Schaumburg, IL

4:45 **124** Navigating early career transitions from graduate school to extension. **Hayden Schug** (hschug@umd.edu), Univ. of Maryland Extension, Bel Alton, MD

5:05 **125** From the pine barrens to a PhD: How NJ's largest wilderness taught me to think small. **Kelly Zimmerman** (kzimmerm@monmouth.edu), Monmouth Univ., West Long Branch, NJ

5:25 **126** I'm supposed to teach what? challenges and opportunities as a teaching professor **Rachel Skinner** (rbs5994@psu.edu), Penn State Univ. Brandywine, Media, PA

5:45 Panel discussion

Tuesday, March 17, 2026, Morning

Benefits & Risks of Neonicotinoid Seed Coatings: Building a Framework for Sustainable Integrated Pest Management Practices

Travers/Alabama (The Saratoga Hilton)

Moderators and Organizers: Scott McArt[1], Katja Poveda[1], Alejandro Calixto[2], Scott McArt[1] and Alejandro Calixto[2], [1]Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY, [2]Cornell Univ., Geneva, NY

8:00 **127** From risk to IPM alternatives: Understanding neonicotinoid seed coatings and their economic and ecological trade-offs. **Scott McArt** (shm33@cornell.edu)[1], Katja Poveda[1] and Alejandro Calixto[2], [1]Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY, [2]Cornell Univ., Geneva, NY

8:20 **128** Comparing early-season pest abundance and damage between neonicotinoid-treated and untreated seeds in field and vegetable crops in New York State. **Chloe Cho** (cyc58@cornell.edu)[1], Mike Hunter[2], Mike Stanyard[3], Erik A. Smith[4], Janice Degni[5], Katelyn Miller[6], Julie Kikkert[7], Marion Zuefle[2], Alejandro Calixto[2] and Katja Poveda[1], [1]Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY, [2]Cornell Univ., Geneva, NY, [3]Cornell Univ., Newark, NY, [4]Cornell Univ., Herkimer, NY, [5]Cornell Univ., Cortland, NY, [6]Cornell Univ., Jamestown, NY, [7]Cornell Univ., Canandaigua, NY

8:40 **129** Damage from early season crop pests: Understanding risk associated with management practices as we approach the ban on neonicotinoids in Vermont. **Heather Darby** (heather.darby@uvm.edu), Univ. of Vermont, St Albans, VT

9:00 **130** Soil context shapes the performance of plant defense seed treatments. **Sujay Paranjape** (sm3254@cornell.edu)[1], Swayamjit Ray[2], Alex Chavez[1], Terry West Jr.[1] and Jennifer Thaler[1], [1]Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY, [2]Univ. of Arkansas at Little Rock, AR, AR

9:20 Break

9:35 **131** Local management practices and their influence on seedcorn maggot damage in the absence of neonicotinoid treated seeds. **Lilly Elliot-Vidauri** (lve5@cornell.edu), Katja Poveda, Suleima Patt and Alexander Chautá, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY

9:55 **132** Consequences of replacing neonicotinoid seed treatments with alternatives for managing insect pests of vegetable crops. **Brian Nault** (ban6@cornell.edu)[1] and Leonardo Salgado[2], [1]Cornell AgriTech, Cornell Univ., Geneva, NY, [2]Cornell Univ., Cornell AgriTech, Geneva, NY

10:15 **133** Achieving policy balance among the agricultural commodities. **Christopher Logue** (christopher.logue@agriculture.ny.gov), New York State Dept. of Agriculture and Markets, Albany, NY

10:35 **134** Implementation of neonicotinoid restrictions in Vermont. **Steve Dwinell** (steve.dwinell@vermont.gov), Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, Montpelier, VT

10:55 **135** What's driving farmer decision-making: we know about uncertainty & risk, but what about politics, policy and trust? **Julie Suarez** (jcs433@cornell.edu), Cornell Univ., Albany, NY

11:15 **136** Seeds of change: Developments in regulatory approaches to neonicotinoid pesticides internationally and at the federal and state level. **Dan Raichel** (draichel@nrdc.org), Natural Resources Defense Council, Chicago, IL

Indirect Climate Impacts on Pollinator Communities

Broadway 3&4 (The Saratoga Hilton)

Moderators and Organizers: Caleb Bryan and Kelsey Fisher, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, CT

8:00 Welcoming remarks

8:05 **137** Plant mediated effects of climate-change on bumblebee communities. **Caleb Bryan** (caleb.bryan@ct.gov)[1], Brianne Symak[2] and Sean Prager[2], [1]Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, CT, [2]Univ. of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK, Canada

8:20 **138** Navigating IPPM in the modern era: Lessons from the apple orchard. **Shianne Lindsay** (sel255@cornell.edu) and Scott McArt, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY

8:35 **139** Structural vulnerability of pollinator habitat in managed landscapes. **Charlotte Brennan** (charlotte.brennan@uconn.edu) and Chadwick Rittenhouse, Univ. of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

8:50 **140** The impact of milkweed leaf age on monarch success: A potential phenological mismatch in Connecticut. **Kelsey Fisher** (Kelsey.Fisher@ct.gov), Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, CT

9:05 Break

9:20 **141** Hot sick bees: The interactive effects of heatwaves and pathogen infection in bumble bees. **Jennifer VanWyk** (vanwyk@ucdavis.edu), Univ. of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA

9:35 **142** Climate driven range shifts in wild bees. **Tracy Zarrillo** (Tracy.Zarrillo@ct.gov), The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, CT

9:50 **143** Phenology shapes thermal tolerances in wild temperate bees. **Margarita Lopez-Uribe** (mml64@psu.edu)[1], Grace Gutierrez[2], Nash Turley[2], Shalene Jha[3] and Ruud Schilder[2], [1]Penn State Univ., Univ. Park, PA, [2]Pennsylvania State Univ., Univ. Park, PA, [3]Univ. of Texas, Austin, TX

10:05 Concluding remarks

IPM Stories from the Eastern Branch

Broadway 1&2 (The Saratoga Hilton)

Moderators and Organizers: Kelly Hamby and Kelly Hamby, Univ. of Maryland, College Park, MD

8:00 Welcoming remarks

8:05 **144** Integrated pest management for the control of the invasive spotted-wing drosophila, Drosophila suzukii, in Maine wild blueberry. **Philip Fanning** (philip.fanning@maine.edu) and Benjamin Johnson, Univ. of Maine, Orono, ME

8:20 **145** Flower thrips in the garden state: Helping tomato growers weather the tomato spotted wilt virus storm. **Maria Cramer** (maria.cramer@rutgers.edu), Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Bridgeton, NJ

8:25 **146** Fewer bent nails thanks to softer hammers? **Karly Regan** (kregan@certisbio.com), Certis Biologicals, Sunderland, MA

8:30 **147** Maryland vegetable IPM: Reflections from 2025 and what's next in 2026. **Veronica Yurchak** (vjohnso4@umd.edu), Univ. of Maryland Extension, Queenstown, MD

8:35 **148** Progress developing a behavioral control strategy for striped cucumber beetle (Acalymma vittatum) using synthesized aggregation pheromone and floral volatiles. **Demian Nunez** (demiann1@vt.edu)[1], Thomas Kuhar[1] and Donald Weber[2], [1]Virginia Tech Univ., Blacksburg, VA, [2]USDA ARS Invasive Insect Biocontrol and Behavior Laboratory, Beltsville, MD

8:50 **149** Allyl isothiocyanate effect on pests and cole crops. **Donald Weber** (Don.Weber@usda.gov)[1], Parker Grebe[1], Justin Shelburne[1], Megan Herlihy-Adams[1] and Anna K. Wallingford[2], [1]USDA ARS Invasive Insect Biocontrol and Behavior Laboratory, Beltsville, MD, [2]New Hampshire Community Supported Research, Hampton, NH

8:55 Discussion

9:25 Break

9:30 **150** An IPM success story from New Hampshire: How trapping informs smarter spray decisions. **Amber Vinchesi-Vahl** (amber.vinchesi@unh.edu), Univ. of New Hampshire Extension, Durham, NH

9:45 **151** Evidence of field-evolved resistance in Ostrinia nubilalis to Bacillus thuringiensis Cry1Ab and Cry1A.105 + Cry2Ab2 sweet corn in Connecticut, USA. **Kelsey Fisher** (Kelsey.Fisher@ct.gov)[1], Brad Coates[2], Erik Dopman[3], Dom Rowland[1], Craig Abel[2], Jocelyn Smith[4] and Galen Dively[5], [1]Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, CT, [2]USDA-ARS, Ames, IA, [3]Tufts Univ., Medford, MA, [4]Univ. of Guelph, Ridgetown, ON, Canada, [5]Univ. of Maryland, College Park, MD

9:50 **152** Trap placement effects on Helicoverpa zea monitoring in sweet corn. **John Mahas** (jwm366@cornell.edu)[1], Kelly Hamby[2], Christophe Duplais[1], Daniel Gilrein[3], Jared Dyer[3], David Owens[4], Thomas Kuhar[5], Brian Currin[5], Heather Grab[6], Grace Tiwari[6] and Brian Nault[1], [1]Cornell AgriTech, Cornell Univ., Geneva, NY, [2]Univ. of Maryland, College Park, MD, [3]Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, Riverhead, NY, [4]Univ. of Delaware, Georgetown, DE, [5]Virginia Tech Univ., Blacksburg, VA, [6]Pennsylvania State Univ., Univ. Park, PA

9:55 **153** PLINAZOLIN technology: An innovative tool for effective broad spectrum pest management. **Erin Hitchner** (erin.hitchner@syngenta.com)[1] and Elijah Meck[2], [1]Syngenta, Elmer, NJ, [2]Syngenta, Greensboro, NC

10:00 **154** Alfalfa weevil management challenges on Delmarva. **David Owens** (owensd@udel.edu) and Ben Sammarco, Univ. of Delaware, Georgetown, DE

10:05 Discussion

10:35 Break

10:45 **155** Invisible signals, big impacts: The ecology of fear as a tool for aphid IPM. **Sara Hermann** (slh@psu.edu) and Mahendra Power, Pennsylvania State Univ., Univ. Park, PA

11:00 **156** IPM vs. auto-sprays in Virginia soybeans. **Tim Bryant** (btim2@vt.edu) and Sean Malone, Virginia Tech Univ., Suffolk, VA

11:05 **157** The role of rhizobial symbionts in Maryland soybean IPM. **Brendan Randall** (brandall@umd.edu)[1], Kimberly Komatsu[2], John Parker[3] and Karin Burghardt[1], [1]Univ. of Maryland, College Park, MD, [2]UNC Greensboro, Greensboro, NC, [3]Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Edgewater, MD

11:10 **158** Identification and virulence of locally isolated slug-associated nematodes. **Thabu Mugala** (mugala@udel.edu) and Michael Crossley, Univ. of Delaware, Newark, DE

11:15 **159** Dipping into discovery: How the bean dip bioassay provides powerful insights into insecticide efficacy. **Kemper Sutton** (klsutton@vt.edu)[1], Tim Bryant[2] and Thomas Kuhar[3], [1]Virginia Tech Univ., Painter, VA, [2]Virginia Tech Univ., Suffolk, VA, [3]Virginia Tech Univ., Blacksburg, VA

11:30 Discussion

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