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# Reading BEE-tween the lines: Honey bees, colony collapse disorder, and the importance of wild bees to agriculture

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*Cornell University*

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**University of Wyoming – National Park Service  
2015 Harlow Summer Seminars at the AMK Ranch**

**THURSDAY, August 13<sup>TH</sup>, 5:30pm**

**“Reading BEE-tween the lines: Honey bees, colony collapse disorder, and the importance of wild bees to agriculture”**

**Mary Centrella  
Doctoral Student, Cornell University**

We rely on bees to pollinate 35% of global crops, yet we are still learning how to keep bees healthy. In 2009, American honeybee keepers reported colony losses as high as 90%. In this talk we will discuss this phenomenon, known as Colony Collapse Disorder, and factors that drive it, including habitat loss, pesticide use, inadequate floral resources, and bee management. We will discuss how scientists, bee keepers and crop growers are currently grappling with this multi-faceted problem, including solutions that have already been adopted. In the second part of the talk, I will briefly introduce you to the biology of the over 20,000 species of wild bees, their importance to agriculture, and research currently being conducted on wild bees in our labs in New York. We will talk about the latest research that offers solutions to preserve both honeybees and wild bees and the crops they pollinate.

Mary is a Jackson Hole native and received her bachelor’s degree in Zoology at the University of Wyoming. She spent a summer working at the AMK research station as a member of the maintenance staff and is delighted to be back as a speaker. She is currently a doctoral student at Cornell University in the Danforth and Poveda labs in the Department of Entomology. Along with her labs, she is researching the health of wild bees across agricultural landscapes. Her thesis asks how pesticides and floral diet affect mason bees in New York apple orchards.



***Barbecue at 5:30 with hamburgers, veggie burgers, hot dogs, chips, salads and dessert for a \$5 donation. The talk starts at 6:30 in the historic Berol Lodge at the AMK Ranch. Turn right when entering Leek’s Marina parking lot in Grand Teton National Park. Reservations not required.***