



NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Media Advisory

THE BIRDS, THE BEES & THE GNP *How Pollinator Decline Can Affect the U.S.*

Washington, DC – June 22, 2007 –Research on the implications of pollinator declines on agriculture and ecosystems in the U.S. will be presented at the fifth 2007 National C-FAR Hill Seminar by Dr. May Berenbaum, from 12:30-1:25 in 1302 LHOB.

“Pollinator decline is one form of global change that has real potential for profoundly altering the shape and structure of the terrestrial world,” said Berenbaum, Entomology Department head at the University of Illinois. “Pollination is not a free and limitless ecosystem service, and America's birds, bats, bees, and butterflies can no longer be taken for granted.”

“We are honored to feature Dr. Berenbaum, who chaired the NAS pollinator committee and is a leading researcher on the Colony Collapse Disorder impacting honey bees,” said Joe Layton, President of National C-FAR. “This is an excellent example of how food and agriculture researchers can produce the scientific outcomes needed to meet 21st century challenges and opportunities.”

“We are delighted that National C-FAR is ‘cross-pollinating’ its education efforts by launching National Pollinator Week with Dr. Berenbaum’s presentation on the fate of pollinators who are so critical to the future of agriculture and the food we eat,” said Laurie Davies Adams, Executive Director of the Coevolution Institute, which manages the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign and national Pollinator Week.

Professor May Berenbaum heads the Department of Entomology and holds an endowed chair and appointments in the Department of Plant Biology, the Program in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and the Center for Ecological Entomology at the Illinois Natural History Survey. Dr. Berenbaum chaired a distinguished National Academy of Sciences Committee that released a timely report last October on the status of pollinators in North America. The report contained a number of recommended actions to address pollinator declines. Berenbaum is a leading researcher in current efforts to decipher the Colony Collapse Disorder that has been devastating honey bees.

The seminar is open to the public and the media. Questions related to the presentation should be directed to National C-FAR Executive Director Tom Van Arsdall [tom@vanarsdall.com or (540) 785-0949] or Dr. Berenbaum [maybe@life.uiuc.edu or (217) 333-7784].

The **COEVOLUTION INSTITUTE**'s (CoE) mission is to catalyze stewardship of biodiversity. CoE facilitates the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) and the Pollinator Partnership.

NAPPC is a tri-national collaboration working to promote awareness and scientific understanding of pollinators; gather, organize and disseminate information about pollinators; provide a forum to identify and discuss pollinator issues; and promote projects, initiatives and activities that enhance pollinators. National Pollinator Week (June 24-30, 2007) was established through actions by the U.S. Senate and the Secretary of Agriculture to celebrate and raise public awareness about our pollinating partners and the need to take actions that protect pollinators and their habitat. For more information, go to <http://www.pollinator.org>.

NATIONAL C-FAR IS a nonprofit, nonpartisan, consensus-based and *customer-led* coalition that brings food, agriculture, nutrition, conservation and natural resource stakeholders together with the food and agriculture research and extension community, serving as a forum and a unified voice in support of sustaining and increasing public investment at the national level in food and agricultural research, extension and education. National C-FAR's Hill Seminar Series regularly presents leading-edge researchers working to provide answers to pressing issues confronting the public and Congress. Interviews with National C-FAR President Joe Layton are available by request. For additional information, go to www.ncfar.org; or contact Tom Van Arsdall, Executive Director, at tom@vanarsdall.com.