

Giant invasive bees could threaten native pollinators

By Ashley N Biles
for CAES News

University of Georgia entomologists are seeking citizen help to document the presence of the sculptured resin bee — also known as the giant resin bee — an invasive bee that could threaten the native carpenter bee population.

The sculptured resin bee is native to Japan and China and was first found in the U.S. in North Carolina in 1994. While they are not aggressive to people, these bees have the potential to create problems for native carpenter bees by taking over their nests, where they then lay their own eggs. Sculptured resin bees take advantage of the cavities created in wood by carpenter bees because they do not have the mandible strength to bore into the wood on their own.

Dan Suiter, a professor in the Department of Entomology on the UGA Griffin campus, added that although he doesn't see resin bees frequently, they are

known to be a good pollinator of some plant species.

"We don't see this bee very often," said Suiter, noting that he is occasionally sent a sample of a resin bee to identify. "But we know that it's invasive and uses kudzu as a food source."

Becky Griffin, community and school garden coordinator at UGA's Georgia Mountain Research and Education Center in Blairsville, is assisting UGA entomology research efforts by recruiting volunteers to determine where sculptured resin bees are showing up throughout the state. Griffin coordinates the Great Georgia Pollinator Census in August each year.

"They asked me to gather the troops of bug watchers to help determine where in Georgia the sculptured resin bee is located," said Griffin. "We just want to document where they are."

When identifying the sculptured resin bee, it is important to note that it is of similar size to the carpenter bee, with a few

distinct differences. The thorax and abdomen of the carpenter bee are connected, and those parts are bald and smooth — or as Griffin puts it when speaking to school-aged children, "Carpenter bees have a shiny hiney." In the sculptured resin bee, females have a pointed abdomen, while the males have a blunt edge. Both males and females have a striated abdomen with raised bands.

"If you look for the big bees, take note of the abdomen and thorax and that will give you a good, educated guess," said Griffin. "We are starting to see small sightings all over the state already, and I think the peak time will be in the next couple of weeks as we see more summer-like temperatures."

If possible, bee spotters should submit photos of suspected sculptured resin bees, as entomologists can examine the photos to determine exactly what species is shown.

"Right now we are on a fact-finding mission. We are working with local Extension offices as well and will be sending out more information in the next few weeks," Griffin said.

Anyone observing sculptured resin bees in Georgia is asked to submit their photos through the iNaturalist website under the project Wanted! Sculptured Resin Bees in Georgia. On the project page, observers can view posts from other citizen-scientists and see an interactive map that shows where the bees have already been spotted.

Findings can also be sent directly to Griffin at beckygri@uga.edu. Submitters are asked to include photos as well as the location where the bees were spotted.

Planning, zoning meetings

The City of Lincolnton Planning & Zoning Board meetings for 2021 are scheduled as follows: June 29, July 27, Aug. 31, Sept. 28, Oct. 26, Nov. 30, Dec. 28. These meetings will be held in City Hall at 5:30 p.m. each month if there is an agenda.

Super Crossword

K	I	E	V	I	R	A	N	I	A	M	E	S	B	A	L	E	R			
O	R	E	O	N	I	S	A	N	M	I	S	T	T	R	I	U	L	E		
P	I	A	R	L	O	R	G	A	M	E	P	A	T	I	O	G	R	I	L	L
G	N	A	S	H	R	A	S	E	L	S	E	S	E	I						
P	L	E	A	D	G	U	I	L	T	Y	P	E	L	L	G	R	A	N	T	
L	A	W	T	S	P	A	I	N	T	I	O	O								
O	C	E	A	N	T	W	A	H	E	A	P	E	S	S	A					
P	E	L	L	E	T	G	U	N	P	I	E	R	S	T	A	N	G	U	L	F
S	Y	L	L	E	O	R	E	G	A	R	A	N	N	O	M	A	R			
O	P	P	O	C	O	C	O	O	N	T	R	U	M	B	O					
P	O	S	T	E	R	G	I	R	L	P	L	A	T	E	G	L	A	S		
E	R	E	S	T	U	N	O	D	D	E	D	R	I	E	L					
R	B	I	I	N	F	O	F	I	S	S	Y	N	M	A	M	A				
P	I	N	O	T	G	R	I	G	I	T	O	P	E	A	G	R	A	V	E	L
S	T	E	P	I	L	L	S	H	E	W	A	N	I	T	A					
R	A	F	A	H	E	A	D	M	E	N	L	E	N							
P	L	A	Y	E	D	G	O	D	P	R	I	S	O	N	G	U	A	R	D	
O	A	T	R	I	O	T	O	I	D	O	C	T	E	T						
P	U	B	L	I	C	G	O	O	D	P	G	H	I	R	T	E	E	N		
P	R	A	T	E	E	E	R	O	A	L	T	A	R	E	L	L	A			
Y	A	R	D	S	T	S	A	R	N	O	O	S	E	R	I	F				

Across The Savannah

Flee civilization for a preserve

By TOM POLAND
tompol@earthlink.net



Needing adventure, I took back roads and made my way to a tract belonging to nature. It's a place where man is a guest, Stevens Creek Heritage Preserve. It's in McCormick County, close by Edgefield County.

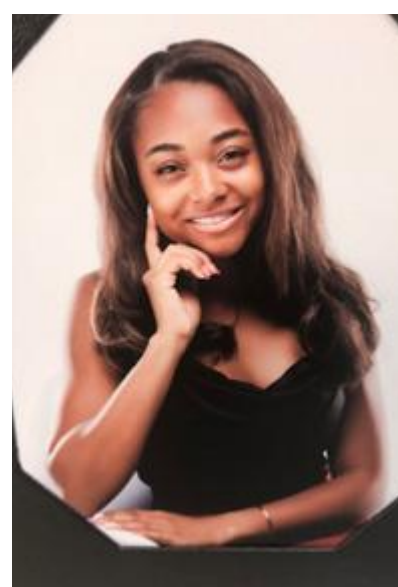
There's a bit of parking off State Road 33-88 (Garrett Road) near the trailhead. Striking out, you'll pass through pines but soon the trail plunges into hardwoods, boulders, and streams and you'll swear you're in the mountains. The trail, rated moderate, appeals to hikers, runners, and nature enthusiasts. It's accessible year-round, and it's a good place to escape civilization.

Watch your feet now and then. No, not snakes, wildflowers. The not quite two-mile loop trail features wildflowers. Take a wildflower guide and see how you fare at identifying them. It's not easy. Take photos to study later.

A long time ago I grew up across the Savannah not far from Stevens Creek. Not as quite a long time ago, I joined South Carolina DNR when Stevens Creek Bluff was a major interest. I recall hearing colleague, Steve Bennett, talk about the place. Steve worked in the Heritage Trust program and you couldn't miss the excitement in his voice. All these years later I understand why. Rare plants and animals live here. The land itself, rock ledges, hillsides studded with massive boulders—some chalk white—are a marked departure from what you see from highways with mown shoulders, which is nothing.

Deep in the preserve in spring you'll be awash in green. All the hardwood leaves rain green light and pockets of ferns contribute their share. You'll hear birdsong, wind, the chime of streams, but few sounds from civilization, save maybe an airplane or distant train.

The place has an interesting history as SC DNR provides: "In 1959, the late Dr. Albert E. Radford of the University of North Carolina wrote a scientific paper on the discovery of a 'relict plant community' in South Carolina. The paper documented an interesting bluff that he and Dr. Julian Harrison of the College of Charleston had found on Stevens Creek. Dr. Radford concluded that Stevens Creek bluff harbored a group of plants that had probably been here since the latter part of the Pleistocene or the last Ice Age."



BROOKE HEARST

Hearst named to Dean's List for Spring semester

Brooke Hearst was named to the Dean's List at The University of Miami for the Spring semester.

This is Brooke's second semester in a row as a marketing major achieving the Honor of Excellence.

The Dean's List is composed of those undergraduate students who are enrolled in a degree-seeking program and have attained high scholastic achievement for the semester.

To attain the Dean's List, a student must, for the semester:

- have registered for and have completed 12 or more graded credit hours
- have attained a quality point average of 3.50 or higher for the semester
- have no courses with pending grades (I or NG).

Brooke is the daughter of Garrison and Jennifer Hearst of Johns Creek, Georgia, paternal grandparents are Johnny and Mary Hearst of Lincolnton, Georgia and maternal grandparents are Otis and Earlene O'Neil of Chicago, Illinois.

From SC DNR also which I paraphrase: "Today, Stevens Creek bluff is part of the 434-acre Stevens Creek Heritage Preserve. The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources purchased the preserve with assistance from The Nature Conservancy. On Stevens Creek bluff and in its associated coves, you'll find 15 rare plant species, including the Florida or Miccosukee gooseberry, a small, perennial shrub known only from here and Lake Miccosukee in Florida. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lists it as threatened. The preserve is also home to Webster's salamander, a secretive, state-listed (endangered) species rare in South

Carolina. The dark brown, zigzag-striped terrestrial salamander occurs at widely scattered sites from eastern Louisiana, into Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and into the western Piedmont of South Carolina."

When the city lures me back, I take places like Stevens Creek Heritage Preserve with me. It keeps me sane when I see power lines, potholes, and pavement. It gives me hope when I see clogged interstates and house shoulder to shoulder. It calms me when I see people tossing litter onto highways. I imagine woods and waters where a mall stands. Fleeing civilization will do you good too.



Stevens Creek Heritage Preserve in McCormick County, close by Edgefield County is a good place to escape civilization. (Photos by Tom Poland).



The trail, rated moderate, appeals to hikers, runners, and nature enthusiasts.



Take a wildflower guide and see how you fare at identifying them. It's not easy. Take photos to study later.



All the hardwood leaves rain green light and pockets of ferns contribute their share.



Deep in the preserve in spring you'll be awash in green.

The community is invited to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of B&G Car Wash. 11 a.m. - Saturday, June 5. Free food, games, door prizes & more! Hwy 378 - McCormick Hwy.

NOW OPEN 8 AM - 5:30 PM MON - FRI. TIRES • OIL CHANGE • BRAKES. JTW JUN'S TIRE WAREHOUSE. 236 Andrew Drive, Washington, GA 30673. 706-678-4194. PRESENT THIS AD FOR 10% DISCOUNT ON YOUR NEXT OIL CHANGE OR FOUR (4) SET OF NEW TIRES!

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES! NEW GRADUATES RECEIVE 20% OFF ANY EYEWEAR* WITH 2021 DIPLOMA. Our Vision is Your Vision. www.LC-Optical.com. LINCOLNTON OPTICAL. 706-359-2020. NOW OPEN! MONDAYS-SATURDAYS! 116 Main Street - Downtown Lincolnton (next door to City Pharmacy)

Answers VBS. MYSTERY ISLAND. Tracking Down the One True God. Vacation Bible School at LINCOLNTON BAPTIST CHURCH. JUNE 13TH - 17TH. SUNDAY: 4-6 PM, MON - THURS: 9 AM - 12:30 PM. 4 YEAR OLDS - 5TH GRADE. 235 S. PEACHTREE ST., LINCOLNTON, GA. 706 359-3303. To preregister go to lincolntonbaptist.org and click the VBS link!