The importance of forests in bumble bee ecology and conservation

When most people think of bumble bees, maybe they think of meadows, summertime flowers, and plump fuzzy bees buzzing about on a sunny day. However, there is a growing appreciation of the role early-season flowering habitats like forests play in bumble bee conservation. In this talk, Dr. John Mola will present some results from a long-term study of bumble bee food plant availability over 22 years in Illinois forests, meadows, and wetlands. Then, he will bring together a diverse body of work on the ways bumble bees interact with forests. Finally, Dr. Mola will address what bumble bees and sea turtles have in common.