

ONLINE RECORDINGS OF NORTH AMERICAN BEE IDENTIFICATION CLASSES

Sam Droege, USGS Native Bee Inventory and Monitoring Lab.

Clare Maffei has organized a set of bee identification classes over the past several months. Those classes have progressed from how to use identification keys to how to identify bees at the genus level to now working at identifications of various groups of bees at the species level. Currently, we are going through species of *Osmia*. The emphasis is definitely on Eastern species, though when we discuss genera it applies throughout the continent. Over time, we hope to incorporate more people from out West (and would be open to doing this elsewhere in the world) and have dabbled in that in a couple of introductory talks by Westerners who have developed guides to the bee genera of their regions. You can join us on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. (Eastern time) by signing up with Clare (clare_maffei@fws.gov) for the live presentations. You can also look at the past videos (45 hours worth!) at the website kindly provided by Dan Kjar (<http://bio2.elmira.edu/fieldbio/beemovies/index.html>). We now have some pretty nice equipment that allows us to display specimens live on screen during the Microsoft Teams sessions that Clare has set up. Join us, and if you wish to give a talk on any aspect of bee identification we will be glad to turn over a Wednesday session (or part of one) to you.

Thanks, Sam (and Clare)
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