Plant Biology: Blueberries, Bees, and a Belowground World

Wednesday, May 6, 2020, 3:00-3:45 pm
Open to all youth in grades 7-12
Register@ www.uvm.edu/extension/youth/announcements
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Approximately 80% of flowering plants require animal pollinators aboveground to successfully reproduce and, of these, more than 90% simultaneously interact with mycorrhizal fungi belowground. Although each of these interactions has been extensively studied independently, their combined effects on plant hosts has received much less attention. So, can belowground interactions affect aboveground interactions? In this week’s café, you will learn about plants, two of their most important mutualisms in the world, and how species interactions can become complex and connected within an ecosystem.

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER
Erin O’Neill is currently a master’s student in the Biology Department at the University of Vermont. She completed her bachelor’s degree in plant biology in 2018. This is where she first became interested in studying species interactions, specifically those involving plants and microbes. Now she researches multispecies interactions with a special focus on plants, pollinators and mycorrhizal fungi.

What is a Virtual Teen Science Café? It is a free, fun way for teens to explore science, engineering and technology with local scientists, engineers and technology experts. Teens will “meet a scientist”, learn about their work, and be able to participate in informal discussions.

Questions? Contact lauren.traister@uvm.edu
To request a disability-related accommodation to participate in this program, please contact the 4-H Office at 802-888-4972 or lauren.traister@uvm.edu by April 15, 2020 so we may assist you.