

## AARON N. SEXTON

Department of Biology, University of Louisville, 139 Life Sciences Building, Louisville, Kentucky 40292.  
email: aaron.sexton.1@louisville.edu • website: aaronsexton.com • (he/him)

### EDUCATION

---

- 2017-pres. Ph.D. University of Louisville, Department of Biology (Ecology track)  
Advisor: Dr. Sarah Emery  
Dissertation Title: “*Local and landscape level effects of urbanization on wild bees and their floral resources.*”
- 2013-17 B.A. University of Denver, Ecology & Biodiversity  
Advisor: Dr. Robin Tinghitella

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

---

- 2020 Adjunct Faculty, Spalding University
- 2018-pres. Educational Consultant, Idlewild Insectarium. Developer and instructor for a series of educational courses open to the public at an urban insectarium. Work includes lectures and workshops covering a variety of entomological topics for ages 13+, depending on the course.
- 2013-17 Research Technician, University of Denver. Responsibilities: data collection, insect rearing, manuscript and proposal writing.
- 2016 Research Technician, Bonanza Creek LTER Alaska. Part of a team working with the LTER, USFS and Alaska DNR to collect data in the field and implementing a large-scale field study.

### PUBLICATIONS

---

- Sexton, A. N.**, S. F. Benton, and S. M. Emery. 2021. Urbanization and plant diversity influence different parameters of floral phenology. (*in peer-review at Ecology*)
- Sexton, A. N.**, S. F. Benton, A. B. Browning, and S. M. Emery. 2020. Reproductive patterns of solitary cavity-nesting bees responsive to both local and landscape factors. *Urban Ecosystems*.
- Sexton, A. N.** and S. M. Emery. 2020. Grassland restorations improve pollinator communities: a meta-analysis. *Journal of Insect Conservation*.
- Jenck, C. S., W. R. Lehto, B. T. Ketterman, L. F. Sloan, **A. N. Sexton**, and R. M. Tinghitella. 2019. Phenotypic divergence among threespine stickleback that differ in nuptial coloration. *Ecology & Evolution*.

### GRANTS AND AWARDS

---

- 2017-21 University of Louisville, Graduate Fellowship, \$44,000
- 2021 Cornett Entomological Research Grant, \$500
- 2021 Furnish Teaching Award, Top Graduate Student Teacher in U of L Biology Dept.
- 2020 Joan Ehrenfeld Award (*Top Student Presentation in Urban Ecology at ESA*)
- 2020 Kentucky Native Plant Society, \$500

- 2020 Beechmont Garden Club, \$1,000  
 2019 University of Louisville Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, \$248  
 2019 National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship, Honorable Mention  
 2018 Kentucky Academy of Sciences, Marcia Botany Fund, \$1,565  
 2018 Kentucky Natural History Society, \$800  
 2018 University of Louisville College of Arts & Sciences, \$500  
 2018 University of Louisville Biology Graduate Student Association, \$175  
 2018 University of Louisville Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, \$250  
 2016 University of Denver, Dean's Scholarship, \$500  
 2015-16 University of Denver, H&B Agnew Scholarship, \$500 (*Two-time awardee*)

## **PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS**

---

- 2020 Sexton, A.N., Emery, S.M., Benton, S., Browning, A., *Urbanization and native plants: How local and landscape level factors influence solitary bee communities*. Ecological Society of America  
 2020 Sexton, A.N., Garces, K.R., *Urbanization influences floral reproductive output but not floral phenology*. Graduate Network of Arts & Sciences Symposium  
 2019 Sexton, A.N., Emery, S.M., *Floral phenology influenced by soil moisture, not urbanization*. Kentucky Academy of Sciences  
 2019 Sexton, A.N., *How urban areas are influencing plant-pollinator interactions*. Graduate Student Council Research Conference  
 2019 Sexton, A.N., Emery, S.M., Benton, S., *Floral phenology influenced by soil moisture, not urbanization*. Ecological Society of America  
 2018 Sexton, A.N., Emery, S.M., *Can urban prairie restorations support stable solitary bee communities?* Graduate Network of Arts & Sciences Symposium

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

---

### **Instructor**

- 2019-20 Environmental Biology (BIOL 263), University of Louisville  
 Instructor of record for both lecture and lab. (24 Students)  
 Instruction was face-to-face in 2019 and hybrid in 2020. Responsibilities: course design, lecturing, assessment & lab management  
 2020 Environmental Science (ENVS-101), Spalding University  
 Instructor of record for Environmental Science. (12 students)  
 Adjunct Faculty. taught online because of COVID-19. Responsibilities: course design, lecturing & assessment

### **Teaching Assistant**

- 2021 Diversity of Life (BIOL 242), University of Louisville  
 Teaching the recitation section of Diversity of Life (40 students)  
 Responsibilities: lecturing, lab management & assessments  
 2020-21 Quantitative Biology (BIOL 244), University of Louisville  
 Teaching the lab section of Quantitative Biology (60 students)

Responsibilities: lecturing, lab management & assessment.

2017-18 Laboratory for Biology: Current Issues and Applications (BIOL 104), University of Louisville. Teaching lab section (80 students/semester)  
Responsibilities: lecturing, lab management & assessment. Lab design in 2018.

### **Undergraduate Research Supervision and Mentoring**

2020-pres Ally Michels – Guided on floral phenology data collection and storage, plant watering, root and shoot biomass collection.

Project title: *Effects of soil microbes on above and belowground biomass on Chamaecrista fasciculata.*

2020 Marissa Huber – Guided on pollinator observations, floral phenology counts, biomass data collection and general data formatting and storage.

Project title: *Effects of urbanization and pollinator limitation on Chamaecrista fasciculata*

2019-20 Adam Browning – Guided on floral phenology data collection, pollen storage and identification and general data formatting and storage. Guided on grant writing.

Project title: *Can bee pollen usage protect solitary bees against parasitism?*

Received two grants during mentorship totaling \$3,500

2018-pres Lisa Heng (High School and Undergraduate) – Guided on field work, data collection, arthropod identification. Project title: *How does land management affect tick abundances in urban parks?* 2<sup>nd</sup> place Regional & State Science Fair

2018 Kristen Ehringer – Guided on pollen storage and identification

2018-19 Sarah Fosnight – Guided on floral phenology data collection, plant biomass processing and method development. Awarded Summer Research Opportunity grant (\$3,000)

2018-19 Heather Griffith – Guided on field work, soil processing and experimental design

2016-17 Tutor, University of Denver (Ecology courses and labs)

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

---

2021 “*Other Pollinators*” invited talk, Yew Dell Botanical Gardens

2021 FirstBuild Video Series, Bee expert, “*Prototyping A Solitary Bee Bath House For Home Conservation, Gardening, And Pollination*”

2021 Kentucky Conservations Conversations, Radio interview

2021 Jefferson County Master Gardener Conference, invited speaker. “*Whats the buzz? Natural history, ecology and maintenance of solitary bees*”

2020 Forward Radio, Interview

2020-21 Lead Organizer, University of Louisville Biology Dept. Fall Seminar Series

2020 Kentucky Master Gardener Conference, invited speaker: “*Whats the buzz? Natural history, ecology and maintenance of solitary bees*”

- 2020 Beer with a Scientist, invited speaker & organizer: *Urbanization and native plants: impacts on solitary bee communities*
- 2019-20 TriBeta Association, Entering Graduate School Panel, Panelist
- 2018-20 Kentucky Science Center STEMinar Series, invited speaker: *Urbanization and native plants: impacts on solitary bee communities*
- 2018-20 Manual High School, Science Fair Judge
- 2019 WCHQ Community Spotlight, Interview
- 2019 Louisville Metro Parks Department, Safety event teaching students about plants and insects in the parks
- 2019 Chance Elementary, Earth Day Event, invited speaker discussing pollinators
- 2019 Manual High School, Mentor for STEM research and careers
- 2018-19 Central High School, advisor for science fair project
- 2018-20 Moore Middle School, Day of Science event. Students visiting the University of Louisville, engaging them in the scientific process, plants, seed dispersal and experimentation

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

---

Ecological Society of America

University of Louisville Biology Graduate Student Association

**President** 2020-2021

**Outreach Chair** 2019-20

Sigma Xi

Kentucky Academy of Science

Kentucky Society of Natural History

Louisville Science Policy and Outreach Group