New England is home to a rich diversity of wild bees. In this introductory course, you’ll develop a deep appreciation for the diversity, ecology, and behavior of these charismatic pollinators. Throughout the week, we will explore a variety of habitats in search of bees and learn skills including, but not limited to, field identification to genus, voucher specimen collection, nest searching, photography, and journaling. Afternoon lab work will reinforce identification skills through microscopy. Coursework will be enriched with evening lectures on related topics including pollination biology, the role of bees in agriculture, and strategies for supporting bees in natural and cultivated spaces. This seminar will be of interest to naturalists, gardeners, farmers, landscape designers, and managers of public and private lands. Ultimately, we will aim to cultivate curiosity about the natural history of bees and their interactions with plants and animals, and leave you with practical, concrete skills for deepening this understanding on your own.

Instructors: Nick Dorian & Max McCarthy

When: June 25th – July 1st, 2023

Nick Dorian (dorianscale3@gmail.com) is a Ph.D. candidate at Tufts University where he studies population ecology of cellophane bees. He also runs the Tufts Pollinator Initiative (sites.tufts.edu/pollinators) to raise awareness for urban pollinators in the greater Boston area.

Max McCarthy (m.mccarthy0798@gmail.com) is a Ph.D. candidate at Rutgers University, where he studies populations of the rare parnassia mining bee and the pollination ecology of their host plant, Parnassia.