



Office of General Services

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'WILD BEES OF NEW YORK' PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT AT THE EMPIRE STATE PLAZA VISITOR CENTER

May 1 Opening to Feature Special Performance by the Holly Larson String Trio

RoAnn Destito, New York State Office of General Services (OGS) Commissioner, announced a special exhibit, "Wild Bees of New York," featuring the photography of Paula Sharp and Ross Eatman, will be on view outside the Empire State Plaza Visitor Center and Gift Shop from May 1 through June 25. OGS will celebrate the opening day of the exhibit with a free performance by a classical ensemble, the Holly Larson String Trio, from noon to 12:30 p.m. in the Plaza's north concourse, just outside of the gift shop.

"On June 19-25, New York State will observe Pollinator Awareness Week, which highlights the crucial role bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, and other important species play in our environment and in the production of our agricultural crops," Commissioner Destito said. "We're getting a head start on this observance at the Empire State Plaza with an exhibit of dazzling images and fascinating information about the bees that populate our state."

Paula Sharp and Ross Eatman conducted a two-year project photographing and identifying bees at the Rockefeller State Park Preserve and neighboring Stone Barns Center for Food & Agriculture in Westchester County. Information about the bees, their habits, and environment can be found at www.sharpeatmanguides.com.

Sharp is a photojournalist and writer who has traveled throughout the United States and Brazil photographing and documenting life here and in the Amazon. Eatman has been a nature photographer for 20 years and is a co-founder of the Sharp-Eatman Nature Guides, a photographic society dedicated to documenting conservation issues.

From noon to 12:30 p.m. on the opening day of the exhibit, Monday, May 1, the Holly Larson String Trio will perform outside the Plaza Visitor Center. The trio consists of local musicians and musical instructors who perform frequently in chamber ensembles in this region and internationally.

Primarily a classical violinist, Larson has had a varied career, having spent two years touring the United States and Canada with Broadway shows and performing at both the Saratoga and Montreal International Jazz Festivals. Since moving to the Capital Region, she has performed with the Albany Symphony in Carnegie Hall as well as with the "Music in Desperate Times" Chamber Orchestra's performances in New York City and Germany.

Additional information about the exhibit can be found online at www.ogs.ny.gov.

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Photo attached: *Small Carpenter Bee on Wild Rose* by Paula Sharp