

The organizing committee and the “Associazione Culturale Montanari Bertonesi” cordially invite you to attend the meeting “**Al confine con le api. L’ignoto da esplorare**” on 3rd – 4th August 2024. The meeting will be held at Beeodiversity Park in Montebello di Bertona, in Gran Sasso and Monti della Laga National Park within the 6th edition of the Bee Natural Festival.

The event is organized with the contribution and the collaboration of Gran Sasso and Monti della Laga National Park, Municipality of Montebello di Bertona, World Biodiversity Association onlus, Bioapi, WWF Italia, Regional Nature Reserve of Lago di Penne, RadioApi24, Vola Volè, Resilient Bee Project, Life 4 Pollinators e Pronubò.

The meeting “**Al confine con le api. L’ignoto da esplorare**” will be a unique and stimulating event to explore current and emerging issues related to the conservation of pollinators and biodiversity, mainly focusing on the new perspectives and initiatives for the future, current problems, and mandatory challenges for a sustainable beekeeping.

The meeting will be in both Italian and English language and will focus on four main topics:

1. Restoration law for biodiversity retrieval

Change in land use followed by habitat modification are the main causes of ecosystem degradations, which contributed to the loss of biodiversity. Awareness of the impacts of such changes and of biodiversity loss has strongly increased in the last decades, leading to the approval of the “Nature Restoration law” by the European Parliament in February 2024. To date, the common goal is the identification of suitable strategies of management and habitat restorations to restore the ecosystems functions and interactions within organisms.

2. Impact of beewashing on bee conservation

Global decline faced by pollinators has become an environmental issue of great relevance and concern, which arouses growing interest in politicians, scientists, environmental associations, the media and citizen. In this context, more and more initiatives, identifiable with the term “beewashing”, have become increasingly popular. Although such initiatives appear as a state for the preservation of health ecosystems and for the fight against bee declines, neither scientific support nor an adequate approach is applied in the most of beewashing practices. Nowadays beewashing has become a rampant and emerging marketing strategy for promoting products and services, adopted by several companies, which poses a worrying threat to efforts made so far to conserve declining wild bees and promote their health.

3. Bee-technologies

Human has always been inspired by nature to find the adequate solutions to satisfy his daily needs or to make some processes and products more efficient. This approach is defined as “biomimicry”, a term coined in 1960. Biomimicry is a discipline that studies and imitates the biological and biomechanical processes of nature and living beings as inspiration for the progress of human activities and technologies. In this context, also bees and other insect pollinators have provided important inspiration source for the creation of innovative materials, technological tools, algorithm and much more. Technological development has in turn represented an important innovative tool supporting protection policies and biodiversity conservation. To improve the work management in apiary and the well-being of bees, technology has been integrated in the beekeeping sector since several years. Numerous technological tools, such as sensors, bioacoustic tools, and A.I., are also used to support monitoring activities and management policies of wild bees.

4. The new challenges of beekeeping

Several new challenges of global relevance constantly affect beekeeping such as altered climate trends, unpredictability of the honey market, the invasion of non-native predators and parasites (e.g., *Vespa velutina* and *Aethina tumida*). Among these, arise the great challenge of the genetic conservation of the honey bees, increasingly necessary due to the current and progressive genetic erosion of this species and of the native subspecific entities. Since more and more consumers take

careful towards ethics questions, animal welfare is another emerging challenge for beekeeping which should be performed in respectful of single bee colony welfare. In this context, the development of new approaches and tools for the assessment of bee rearing sustainability and animal welfare are desirable for a beekeeping that finds itself between localisms and globalisation, and that relies on a key role of bees as measure tool in the “One Health Approach”. Beekeeping can also represent a further challenge in the development and implementation of social projects as therapeutic programs for people with disabilities and training courses with inclusive purposes. Such activities constitute the opportunity for both personal and collective development, representing at the same time exemplary educational practices for the growth of environmental awareness.

HOW TO PARTECIPATE:

Participation and registration are for free. Authors which would like to present a contribution, the deadline for registration and abstract submission is: 31-05-2024. To register, please fill out the form at [this link](#).

HOW TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT CONTRIBUTIONS:

Abstracts must be formatted by using the template available for download at [this link](#), indicating the typology of contribution (i.e., oral communication or poster) presented. Abstract file must be called as “Last name and Name of the author presenting the contribution.doc/.docx.” and sent it by mail at the following address: bnf@beeodiversitypark.com, by indicate the title of the congress “**Al confine con le api. L’ignoto da esplorare**” in the subject line.

Each author is expected to submit a maximum of 2 oral communications and 2 posters. The Scientific Committee reserves the right to select oral contributions based on the number of requests, the originality of the contribution, the completeness of the abstract and its relevance to the themes of the conference. In case of non-inclusion in the oral sessions, the contributions will still be admitted to the poster session. Acceptance of contributions will be communicated by 1/07/2024.

Guidelines for abstracts:

Language: Italian-English

File extension: Word.docx/.doc

Title: Times New Roman font, pt 12, centered and bold.

Last Name and Name of authors: Times New Roman font, pt 11, small caps, centered

Author affiliations: Times New Roman font 10 pt, centered

Text: Times New Roman font, pt 10, justified

Words: max 3.000 characters, including space – Title, authors list and affiliations are not included in the count.

Interline: 1.0

Abstract must clearly present the aim of the work, methodologies used, the result obtained and the implications on the topic.

Guidelines for posters:

Posters must be formatted by using the template that will be provided on the congress web page, after the approval of contributions.

Language: Italian-English

Dimensions: 70x100 cm

Font: Times New Roman

Certificate of participation will be sent via email at the end of the event to all participants registered for the meeting. Scientific and Organizing Committee: Antonio Felicioli, Paolo Fontana, Marta Galloni, Marco Valentini, Chiara Benedetta Boni, Francesca Coppola, Gianni Crescia, Edoardo Orofino, Nicola Tormen, Giorgio Davini.