



# HONEYBEE DEMOCRACY

2015 ROBERT H. WOODWORTH LECTURE IN THE SCIENCES

The bees in a swarm of honeybees make their choice of their new dwelling place collectively and democratically. They stake their future on a process that includes collective fact-finding, vigorous debate, and consensus building. Thomas Seeley will lead a conversation about how these bees evaluate potential nest sites, advertise their discoveries to one another, engage in open deliberation, and choose their new home. This exploration of animal behavior shows that decision-making groups, whether honeybee or human, can be smarter than even the smartest individuals in them.

Thomas Seeley is a professor at Cornell University, where he teaches animal behavior and conducts research on the functional organization of honey bee colonies. He has received the Alexander von Humboldt Distinguished U.S. Scientist Prize, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Gold Medal Book Award from Apimondia, and he has been elected a Fellow of both the Animal Behavior Society and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His efforts to ensure scientific research is accessible to general audiences makes him a frequent commentator in the media. His most enduring honor is to have had a species of bee named after him: *Neocorynurella seeleyi*.

## THOMAS SEELEY

**NOVEMBER 5, 2015**

**7:30 PM | CAPA SYMPOSIUM**

## SCIENCE WORKSHOP

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2015**

**1:00–2:00 PM | DICKINSON 232**

*Writing about Science for a General Audience*

**THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC | MORE INFORMATION [www.bennington.edu](http://www.bennington.edu)**