



Gathering Partners of Natural Resources

Conference Keynote 2018

Needle in a Haystack Research Projects for Environmental Protection: Two Down and One to Go

Friday, May 18

With an insatiable attraction to what many consider intractable, needle-in-a-haystack research challenges, Dan Molloy and his research teams have dealt knockout blows to two pest critters by developing environmentally-safe biological control agents. The first target was black flies – those clouds of tiny gnats that can torment folks by their hovering and biting, and the second was zebra mussels – the poster child of aquatic invasive species – those tiny fingernail-sized bivalves that by the millions foul water pipes and disrupt ecosystems. But both latter commercialized biocontrol agents require reapplications to continually knock down the next pest generation. That's why his next project will be ever the more challenging – developing a biocontrol agent which may never need to be reapplied – a [project](#) that will require more persistence, creativity and luck than he and his band of research colleagues have ever mustered before.

An expert in aquatic invasive species and the diseases of aquatic invertebrates, Dan's research has focused on developing ecologically-sound, biocontrol methods for managing aquatic invasive species – in particular, fouling invasive dreissenids(zebra/quagga mussels) – and other nuisance aquatic invertebrate pests, such as biting black flies and mosquitoes.

He is a Research Scientist/Adjunct Professor at the State University of New York Great Lakes Center at Buffalo and also maintains affiliations with the State University of New York at Albany and the University of Illinois Natural History Survey at Urbana-Champaign. In addition, he directs Molloy & Associates, LLC – a firm specializing in developing credible prevention, detection, rapid response, and eradication/control programs for zebra/quagga mussels and other aquatic invasivespecies.

Marked by a passion for environmental protection, his international research activities have resulted in a variety of scientific contributions as evidenced by his publications, presentations, patents, and biological control agent commercialization successes.