

press release

**THIRTEEN/WNET NEW YORK'S *NATURE* WINS PRESTIGIOUS PEABODY AWARD  
FOR *SILENCE OF THE BEES***

Cited Among Group Of Winning Films Described By The Peabody Board As Worthy, Diverse and Impressive

Special Encore Presentation Of The Film To Air June 15 on PBS Accompanied By Online Updates On Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) Featuring Exclusive Interviews With Key Experts, Beekeepers And Farmers

**New York, N.Y., April 3, 2008** – *NATURE*, produced for PBS by Thirteen/WNET New York, won its third Peabody Award when *Silence of the Bees* was honored for broadcast excellence. Winners of the 67th Annual George Foster Peabody Awards for the best in electronic media for 2007 were announced April 2 by the University of Georgia's Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication. *Silence of the Bees* was an inquiry into the unsettling decline in the world's honeybee populations, said the Peabody Board.

Honeybees are responsible for one of every three bites of food we eat. Each year, they pollinate \$14 billion worth of crops and seeds in the U.S. alone. Their total decimation would be catastrophic from the local to the global level. *Silence of the Bees*, which premiered October 28, 2007 on PBS, was the first in-depth documentary to cover this breaking story of ecological crisis. *NATURE* will broadcast the award-winning film in a special encore presentation Sunday, June 15 at 8 p.m. (ET) on PBS (check local listings). The film is available in High Definition. In addition to the broadcast, *NATURE Online* ([www.pbs.org/nature](http://www.pbs.org/nature)) will feature extensive updates on this critical phenomenon since the film's premiere. Online content will include interviews with featured scientists and farmers affected by the crisis; Dr. Diana Cox-Foster, Head of the CCD

working group; Dennis vanEngelsdorp, State Apiarist for Pennsylvania; and David Hackenberg, the beekeeper who first alerted officials on the massive die-offs of bees, among others. *NATURE Online* will also stream *Silence of the Bees* in its entirety.

*Silence of the Bees* is a production of Partisan Pictures and Thirteen/WNET New York. The film was written and produced by Doug Shultz. Peter Schnall was supervising producer and director of photography. *NATURE* is produced by Thirteen/WNET New York for PBS. Fred Kaufman is Executive Producer; William Grant is Executive-in-Charge.

*NATURE* pioneered and continues to evolve a television genre that is now widely emulated throughout cable and broadcast TV. Throughout the series' history, *NATURE* has brought the natural world into the homes of millions of viewers. The series has been consistently among the most-watched prime-time series on public television. Now in its 26th season on PBS, *NATURE* has won more than 450 honors from the television industry, the international wildlife film community, parent groups, and environmental organizations – including 10 Emmys, three Peabodys and the first award given to a television program by the Sierra Club. In 2007, the series won Emmy Awards for *Chimpanzees: An Unnatural History* and *Christmas in Yellowstone*.

*NATURE* video podcasts, available on iTunes and at *NATURE Online* ([www.pbs.org/nature](http://www.pbs.org/nature)), range from two to 10 minutes in length and feature behind-the-scenes interviews with filmmakers and producers, program excerpts and outtakes.

Last season, to celebrate the series' silver anniversary, *NATURE Online* launched a redesigned and expanded website. In addition to the weekly video podcasts, new features include a newsletter, streaming video clips, an RSS feed, user bulletin boards and polls, new teacher lesson plans, photo slideshows, and more. Online social networkers can join the *NATURE* fan group at Facebook and keep up with the latest videos, photos, and more.

Major corporate support for *NATURE* is provided by Canon U.S.A., Inc. and Toyota. Additional support is provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the nation's public

television stations.

The series is closed-captioned for the hearing-impaired and distributed with Descriptive Video Service (DVS) for the sight-impaired.

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Thirteen/WNET New York is one of the key program providers for public television, bringing such acclaimed series as *Nature*, *Great Performances*, *American Masters*, *Charlie Rose*, *Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly*, *Wide Angle*, *Secrets of the Dead*, *NOW With David Brancaccio*, *Exposé*, *Bill Moyers Journal*, and *Cyberchase* to audiences nationwide. As the flagship public broadcaster in the New York, New Jersey and Connecticut metro area, Thirteen reaches millions of viewers each week, airing the best of American public television along with its own local productions such as *New York Voices*, *Reel 13* and *Sunday Arts*. Thirteen extends the impact of its television productions through educational and community outreach projects – including the Teaching and Learning Celebration – as well as Web sites and other digital media platforms. More information can be found at: [www.thirteen.org](http://www.thirteen.org).

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