

**KANSAS STATE
UNIVERSITY**
Division of Biology Presents:

The Burmese Python Invasion and the Collapse of Native Mammals

Monday, October 20th, 2025 • 3:30 PM • 232 Ackert Hall



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Professor

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The invasion of Burmese pythons in South Florida has led to a dramatic collapse of native mammals, fundamentally altering the region's ecosystems. Over the past decade, our research has traced the cascading ecological consequences of this apex invader—from sharp declines in native mammal populations to disruptions in food webs and disease dynamics. Our work reveals that native species show little behavioral defense against python predation, contributing to their vulnerability. Having established the scope and severity of the problem, we are now focused on innovative solutions. Our current efforts leverage live and robotic lures, coupled with AI-based detection systems, to aggregate, identify and remove pythons. This seminar will follow our journey from identifying an ecological crisis to pioneering new tools for invasive species management.

If you would like to visit with Dr. Bob McCleery, please contact Dr. Jesse Nippert at nippert@ksu.edu. Additional information regarding Dr. McCleery's work can be found on his website, <https://www.themccleerylab.org/>.

Coffee & snacks served preceding the seminar in Ackert Hall, Room 225