Predators are among the first species to disappear from an ecosystem as result of habitat loss, harvesting, and targeted culling, which is becoming more and more common, according to Michael McCoy, Ph.D. Yet, predators play an important role in the balance of the ecosystems by keeping prey populations in check, including species that are considered pests or that are vectors of diseases. McCoy’s research focuses on methods used to measure the proportion of the prey population killed by predation.

Join McCoy as he discusses:

- Humans’ fascination and fear of predators
- How the traits of predators and prey can direct the structure of food webs
- Why scientists need to learn what controls the rate of predation