



2019 Awards Ceremony
Pi Mu Epsilon Initiation &
Invited Address

MONDAY, APRIL 22 - 3:10 PM

Franklin Miller, Jr. Lecture Hall - RBH 109

Reception to follow in the lobby of Hayes Hall.



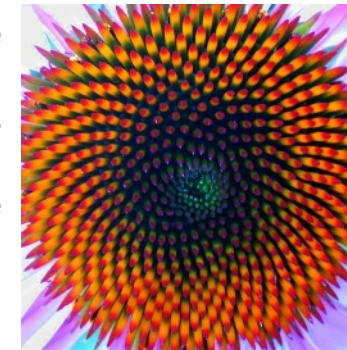
MATT BOELKINS
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“FIBONACCI’S GARDEN”

Abstract: Why do so many spectacular spirals appear in the coneflowers and sunflowers? Why are the seeds in each packed so efficiently? A marvelous combination of plant biology, mathematics, and a computer model enables us to generate seeds according to a

fixed angle of rotation and explore how the chosen angle impacts the distribution of seeds. As we investigate patterns in these flowers and some related mathematics, we’ll encounter some famous numbers long known to humankind, see

how there are often surprising connections between seemingly unrelated mathematical ideas, and ponder the magical power of abstract mathematics to explain phenomena in the world around us.



DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS