

Conservation Biology Graduate Program Weekly Newsletter

02 April 2007

A weekly newsletter of the Conservation
Biology Graduate Program

<http://www.consbio.umn.edu/newsletter/>

Submissions to coop0162@umn.edu



Editor's Corner

The semester is moving along nicely—only 5 weeks left. This timeline incites both groans and glee depending on where you are in your program. As usual, there are way too many good seminars to choose from. I've tried to include most of the relevant choices here. Let me know if you would like to include any other seminars in the newsletter. Also take a look at the announcements—there's a plant sale this week, and the funding section—there's a new fellowship announcement from the Izaak Walton League of Minnesota.

Anne Cooper

Lectures/seminars on campus

Conservation Biology Seminar

Date and time: 02 April 4-5pm

Location: Room 335 Borlaug Hall

Title 1: Avian Community Patterns Along Urban Gradients

Presenter 1: Elizabeth Johnson, Conservation Biology Program

Notes 1: As our world becomes increasingly urbanized the study of urban ecosystems becomes increasingly important in the fields of ecology, conservation biology and landscape architecture, with potential to greatly impact both environmental and land use policy. Besides needing to increase the depth of our understanding of anthropogenic impacts on the environment, we also need to increase our knowledge of the new ecosystems created by urbanization and learn how to better incorporate people into our models of ecosystems and ecological processes. As our world becomes more urbanized we must be concerned with how biological communities adapt around us. By studying a well known taxa, birds, using a well established methodology, gradient analysis, I will be exploring how urbanization changes the structure of avian communities, the degree to which homogenization is occurring across the United States, and how certain life history characteristics might explain the patterns we see in order to inform future research.

– AND –

Title 2: What's it worth? Improving local land use planning by modeling and valuing ecosystem service delivery

Presenter 2: Heather Sander, Conservation Biology Program

Notes 2: The development of the American landscape is currently proceeding under incomplete assessments of the true costs of land use change. Current land transformation is, as a result,

endangering the delivery of ecosystem services. Few communities adequately consider these effects in planning, largely because they (1) lack systems for forecasting them and (2) find incorporating environmental amenities into market-driven land use decisions difficult as these amenities usually lack economic values. This project seeks to remedy this by generating a framework for modeling and valuing ecosystem service delivery that is targeted at planners and policy makers. In completing this project, I am taking a case study approach by working with a rapidly-developing community to model and value ecosystem services of interest to them (provision of views, recreational access, songbird habitat, flood control) under different future land use scenarios. This study's results will serve to inform development in this community so that it may occur in a more ecologically-sustainable manner and will provide an example for other communities to follow in considering the ecological impacts of land transformation in planning their future land use.

Forest Resources

Title: Do Birds See the Forest or the Trees? Sixteen Years of Monitoring in the Western Great Lakes Region

Presenter: Nick Danz, Research Fellow, Natural Resources Research Institute, University of Minnesota Duluth

Date, time and place: Monday, April 2, 2007, 2:30 p.m., 203 Green Hall St. Paul Campus

Community Forestry in Nepal

Presenter: Dr. Udaya Sharma, Chairman, Resource Development Initiative Center Kathmandu, Nepal

Title: Community Forestry in Nepal: Economic, Social and Political Implications

Date, time, and location: MONDAY, APRIL 2 100 SKOK HALL 3:00-4:00 PM

Notes: Dr. Sharma has been Chairman for the RDIC since 1980, and has been involved in research and training for natural resource management, social forestry, farm forestry and gender and environmental issues in Nepal.

Co-sponsored by CINRAM and International Programs-CFANS

Environmental Resources Weekly Seminar

Date and time: Monday, April 2, 2007, 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Presenter: Toshi Arimura, Resources for the Future (also affiliated with George Mason University and Sophia University)

Title: "Is a Voluntary Approach an Effective Environmental Policy Instrument? A Case for Environmental Management Systems."

This is a joint paper by Akira Hibiki, National Institute for Environmental Studies & Hajime Katayama, University of Sydney.

Location: Room 230 Classroom Office Building

Abstract: This paper examines the effectiveness of two voluntary environmental actions, implementation of ISO14001, the globally accepted certified Environmental Management System, and the publication of environmental reports. Previous studies on voluntary environmental actions focused on toxic releases. Using Japanese facility-level data derived from an OECD survey we estimate the effects of the aforementioned environmental actions on three new areas of impacts: natural resource usage; waste generation and wastewater effluent. The paper provides two main findings. First, we extend previous literature findings on chemical toxics by showing that ISO14001 reduces the three areas of impacts. Second, as a voluntary approach, assistance program is effective in promoting ISO14001. Third, the publication of environmental reports is more effective for wastewater effluent, than the more commonly used ISO14001. These findings suggest that promotion of both the voluntary actions is an effective environmental policy tool.

Soil, Water & Climate Department Seminar

Presenter: Mario B. Siqueira, Candidate for Atmosphere biosphere-modeling position
Research seminar

Date, time, and location: Monday, April 2nd, 2007, 1:00 – 2:00 pm 365 Borlaug Hall

Title: In search of harmony in scaling of the soil-plant-atmosphere system

Variations in the coupled energy-carbon-water cycles within terrestrial ecosystems exist over a wide range of spatial and temporal scales resulting in a combined dimensionality that is intractable. In time, key processes such as atmospheric turbulent transport have canonical time scales ranging from seconds to minutes, while stand development occurs over the course of several years or even longer when extrapolating to chronosequences. Similarly, in space, the water pathways in the soil plant system can range from tens of micrometers, as in stomata regulated gas exchange, to tens of meters characteristic of tree heights. Hence, the over-arching problem that must be confronted is the following: given a set of sub-macroscopic laws describing the flow of energy, water, and carbon within the various components of the soil-plant-atmosphere system, how do we derive macroscopic results while preserving the cross-scale information flow. While addressing all aspects of this problem remains a fundamental scientific quest in land atmosphere interaction studies, partial answers may be found from numerical modeling activities, laboratory and field experiments – the subject of this seminar. As a case study, we consider the problem of representing the effects of turbulent transport processes most relevant to mass and energy ecosystem exchange on short-time scales (turbulent to hourly) assuming that the structure of the canopy is known. Next, with this representation explored, mass and energy exchange is progressively scaled up in time to scales relevant to stand development (e.g. annual to inter-annual) whereby carbon allocation rules and carbon storage pools must be explicitly resolved to modify the canopy structure. We show that an imbalance in the representation of below- and above- ground processes may offset the predictive skill gains of resolving the spectrum of fast-processes pertinent to carbon and energy because the slow-processes relevant to the water cycle are not explicitly resolved (e.g. most pertinent to soil water redistribution and plant hydrodynamics). Next, we explore how hydraulic limitations may modulate the temporal spectrum of mass and energy flux variability using a newly developed numerical model that integrates soil water dynamics, plant hydraulics and stomatal responses to water availability.

Forest Resources

Date and time: Monday, April 2, 2007, 2:30p.m.

Location: 203 Green Hall, St Paul Campus

Title 1: Do Birds See the Forest or the Trees? Sixteen Years of Monitoring in the Western Great Lakes Region

Presenter: Nick Danz, Research Fellow, Natural Resources Research Institute, University of Minnesota Duluth

Global Warming: The Home Front

Featured panelist: Professor Elizabeth Wilson

Follow the link below to register or send me your name and e-mail address.

Date, time, and location: Tuesday, April 3, 7-8:30 p.m., Minnesota Public Radio studio, Downtown St. Paul

Notes: Concern about global warming is increasing in American households as warnings of a potential climate change catastrophe are proliferating in the media. Consumers are becoming more interested in sustainable products ranging from the laundry detergent they use to the cars they drive. In the end, can a change in consumers' behavior alter the course of global warming?

This Public Insight Forum will bring together consumers to discuss their concerns about climate change and if it is leading them to change their behavior. A group of experts ranging from economists to climate experts will help inform the discussion.

<http://events.publicbroadcasting.net/mpr/events.eventsmain?action=showEvent&eventID=561420>

Soil, Water & Climate Department--Candidate for Atmosphere biosphere-modeling position

Date, time and location: Wednesday, April 4, 2007, 1:00 – 2:00 pm 365 Borlaug Hall

Presenter: Andrew Richardson

Title: Model-data fusion for carbon cycle research

Notes: Eddy covariance has become a widely-used method for measuring carbon, water, and energy exchange between ecosystems and the atmosphere. However, several persistent challenges have limited the extent to which process-level information can be reliably and consistently extracted from the data. This talk will draw from recent publications in Agricultural and Forest Meteorology and Global Change Biology that address challenges faced when using eddy flux data in a data-model fusion context. These include issues related to data uncertainties (how do we deal with the fact that flux data are noisy, and the noise is non-Gaussian?) and model selection (how can we objectively choose from among a range of candidate models?).

EEB Weekly Seminar

Date, time and location: Wednesday, April 4, 4 p.m., 335 Borlaug

Presenter: Dr. John Wiens, Dept. of Ecology and Evolution, SUNY – Stony Brook

Title: "Explaining biogeographic patterns with evolution (and evolutionary patterns with biogeography)"

Notes: The field of historical biogeography considers the geographic distribution of organisms in light of phylogeny. Traditionally, historical biogeography has focused on using phylogenies to reconstruct geological relationships among areas. In this talk, I will describe how studies of historical biogeography can also help answer fundamental questions in ecology and evolutionary biology. To illustrate, I will focus on three general questions: (1) Why are there more species in the tropics? (2) How do new species arise? (3) Why does a trait evolve a given number of times in a clade? Conversely, I will also discuss the importance of considering ecological and evolutionary processes as explanations for biogeographic patterns. The talk will focus on three main examples, drawn from empirical research in my lab on reptiles and amphibians: (1) the latitudinal diversity gradient in treefrogs, (2) patterns of speciation in salamanders, and (3) multiple origins of snake-like body form in squamate reptiles.

Hosts: Dr. Sharon Jansa and Tony Gamble

Treats: Coffee/cookies served @ 3:30 in EEB lobby

Candidate for Adjunct Assistant Professor, FWCB

Date, time and location: 5 April (Thurs) 4-5 PM 203 Green Hall

Presenter: Dr. Mike Larson, (MN DNR Grand Rapids)

Title: "Manatees and Prairie-chickens: Examples in Monitoring Wildlife Populations."

MPGI 2007 Spring Seminar Series

Presenter: Dr. Eric Webb, Professor of Biology, Southern California University

Title: "Open ocean cyanobacteria: ecology, genomes, and evolution"

Date, time and location: Thursday April 5th, 2007, 3:30 p.m. Seminar Room 105 Cargill Building for Microbial and Plant Genomics

Notes: Bacteria play key roles in Earth's food chain dynamics and biogeochemistry. The factors that control their growth directly impact global processes. The open ocean cyanobacteria studied in my laboratory, including species of *Synechococcus*, *Trichodesmium*, and

Crocospaera, are prominent constituents of the marine biosphere that account for a significant percentage of global primary productivity. Additionally, the warm water diazotrophic cyanobacteria (i.e., Trichodesmium and Crocospaera) are vital components the global nitrogen cycle through their production of "new" nitrogen. One major scientific focus in my lab is the physiology and ecology of these marine and some freshwater cyanobacteria with particular emphasis on characterizing the mechanisms they use to acquire the essential element iron (Fe) from the environment. Since in many cases the nutrient constraining their growth and productivity in situ is difficult to define, I am also developing molecular diagnostics of nutrient limitation that can be implemented in the field.

Although these microorganisms are environmentally significant, relatively little is known about their metabolic capabilities at the molecular level in the laboratory and in the field. By studying their physiology using biochemical, genetic, proteomic, and genomic techniques, we will gain new insights into the factors that limit their growth in situ and greatly increase our understanding of how their metabolic capabilities impact global processes and ecosystem health.

Special Seminar in Herpetology

Presenter: Dr. John Wiens, Dept of Ecology and Evolution, SUNY-Stony Brook

Date, time, and location: Friday, April 6, 7 PM, 335 Borlaug

Title: "Treefrogs, trees, and the roots of tropical biodiversity"

Please contact Tony Gamble (gamb1007@umn.edu) if you would like to meet with Dr. Wiens.

Ph.D. Defense Seminar

Date, time and location: Friday, April 6, 2007, 12:30 p.m., 100 Skok Hall

Title: Toward the Sustainable Management of Commercially Harvestable Epiphytic Bryophytes

Presenter: Jeri Lynn E. Peck, Graduate Student, Forest Resources Department

Notes: Fat mats of tree-moss out in the Pacific Northwest have been valued in many ways over the years, as convenient sources of extra cash, habitat for slugs and bugs, attractive forest drapery, regulators of forest hydrology and nutrient cycling, and mainstays of local nontimber forest product buying sheds. I present here a summary of the conclusions of a decade of collaboration with harvesters, buyers, managers, ecologists, and modelers in the context of adaptive management.

Announcements

University Libraries Spring Book Sale

*Two days only - Monday, April 2 & Tuesday, April 3

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Wilson Library Basement

Thousands of used books for sale, all subjects.

Prices on Monday, April 2: \$2 per book

Prices on Tuesday, April 3: \$1 per book until 2pm.

Bag sale after 2pm on Tuesday

This will be the only Wilson Library book sale this semester, so mark your calendar. If you have any questions, or you want to get on the book sale email list, drop me a line: desro004@umn.edu <<mailto:desro004@umn.edu>> .

-- Mark Desrosiers

CBS Plant Sale

CBS Greenhouse & Plant Biology Phytograds

Date, time and location: **April 4 & 5**, Wednesday & Thursday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm, St. Paul Student Center

Jodi Bjork, College of Biological Sciences Greenhouse
612-625-4788

Weekly Happy Hour for FWCB and neighboring departments!!!

When: Wednesdays

Where: Ol' Mexico Restaurante & Cantina (1754 Lexington Ave N.)

What Time: Happy Hour!

Who: Anybody who would like to come. We would like to use this to meet more people in the department, and in other departments. Spouses, friends, and significant others welcome.

***Happy hour at Ol' Mexico Restaurante & Cantina is from 4-6:30 and includes a ***complimentary taco bar** *and *reduced prices on tap beers*!

Dance in the Archives

Explore and discover new worlds of knowledge at First Fridays, a series of thought-provoking discussions using materials from the University Libraries' Archives and Special Collections.

In this session, archivist Barb Bezat will discuss dance in its myriad forms with examples from the rich collections of the University Libraries' Performing Arts Archives; Halyna Myroniuk of the Immigration History Research Center will discuss dance as a method of preserving cultural heritage in America; and Jean Tretter of the University Libraries' Tretter Collection in GLBT studies will explore the ballet *Le Sacre du Printemps* (The Rite of Spring) and its connections to GLBT culture.

Save the Date Friday, **April 6**, 2007 Noon to 1:00 p.m., Elmer L. Andersen Library
<<http://mcsv.net/cgi-bin/redirect?MCid=5SACVOTs244snBXK2To8>>

Free & Open to the Public Feel free to bring your lunch; light refreshments will be served.

Made possible by a generous gift in honor of Dr. Edward B. Stanford by Governor and Mrs. Elmer L. Andersen For more information visit <<http://mcsv.net/cgi-bin/redirect?MCid=YZrA7MVZB24snBXK2To8>> For disability accommodations, or to receive this information in alternative formats, contact <<mailto:anderlib@umn.edu>> anderlib@umn.edu or (612) 625-9825.

Campus Biking

There are over 5 miles of dedicated bike paths and lanes throughout campus. Bike racks are located near most buildings. Bike lockers are available for rent. Call 612-626-7275. Bikes on Buses - To ease your commute, bike racks are installed on the front of all full-size campus shuttles, all Metro Transit buses and inside light rail cars.

Helmets and Headlights

Ride safe by purchasing a helmet and headlight set together for the low cost of \$20 (items also sold separately) at the Pharmacy in Boynton Health Service. The "Helmets and Headlights" program is intended to increase the safety of bike riders on university campuses. Each year, bicycle accidents result in 600 deaths nationally that are directly linked to head trauma. Use your head and wear a helmet. On a related note, nearly 50 percent of bicycle fatalities occur after dark. Ride safe and be bright.

Campus Bike Rules

Never ride on campus sidewalks (unless it is designated as a bike lane with pavement markings). Always yield to pedestrians. Ride on the right with traffic. Obey all traffic signs and signals. Rent a completely-enclosed bike locker to keep your bike safe from theft and guarantee your parking spot. Lock your bike with a cable and lock as well as a U-lock to deter theft.

Never lock your bike to a handrail (unless you want it to be impounded). Never attach your bike to trees, fences, bus shelters, or patio furniture. Don't leave your bike unattended for an extended period of time. Bikes will be tagged and removed if they have been abandoned.

Take advantage of the designated bike paths and lanes whenever possible. Be sure to follow the directional arrows on the pavement.

Click <http://www.parkandtrans.umn.edu/biking.htm> for more campus biking information.

Zipcar

A suggestion to bike enthusiasts: consider extending your transportation reach by becoming a Zipcar member. Members can use Zipcars for running errands over lunch or getting around on days when the weather takes a turn for the worst. Gas, insurance, designated parking and XM Satellite Radio are all included. There is no application fee or security deposit, and rates run \$8/hour or \$60/day. It only costs \$30 a year to become a member, giving you access to Zipcars conveniently located on each campus and across the United States. You must be a university student, staff and faculty member over the age of 21 to be eligible. To register for an individual membership or find out more about the U of M's Zipcar program, visit <http://www.zipcar.com/umn>.

We're here to help

Problems at the U?

If you have a problem or concern with:

- * Grading or instructional issues
- * Billing or financial aid complaints
- * University services
- * Academic progress
- * Scholastic misconduct or violations of the Student Conduct Code

We are here to assist you with ANY complaint or concern you have at the University. The Student Conflict Resolution Center (SCRC) is the on-campus resource providing a full range of resolution options for undergraduate and graduate/professional students.

Our services are free, confidential, and paid for by your student services fees. Call us at 624.7272 (SCRC) or stop by 211 Eddy Hall for help today! <http://www.umn.edu/sos>

Workshops at Magrath Library – Spring 2007

Attend a hands-on session to enhance your information-gathering skills Register at <http://www.lib.umn.edu/registration>

Featured classes: Journal impact factors, who is citing whom, and how often – 4/3, How do I know I found everything? - 4/18

Regular offerings: RefWorks Basics – 4/4, 4/24, 5/3, 5/16, Keeping Current In the Sciences – 4/11, Searching:14 Habits of Highly Effective Searchers – 4/10, Create your Poster in PowerPoint – 4/3, 4/6, 4/17, Grant resources: Locating Grants in your Field – 4/10, 5/15, SciFinder: Web Access to Chemical Abstracts – 4/18, Unique Indexes Every Researcher Should Know – 4/5.

For times and registration see <http://www.lib.umn.edu/registration>

Effective interviewing skills for jobs in academia for native speakers of English

Date, time, and location: Thursday, **April 12**, 2007, 5:00-7:00 p.m., 209 Akerman Hall

Map: <http://www1.umn.edu/twincities/maps/AkerH/AkerH-map.html>

Presentation will cover effective strategies to prepare before an interview and tips for during and after the interview. Participants will work in small groups for mock interviews and will receive feedback from facilitators and peers. Registration is taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. LIMITED TO 60 PEOPLE.

Presenters: Dr. Deborah Wingert, Instructor, Center for Teaching and Learning, Colleen Meyers, Instructor, Center for Teaching and Learning

Click below to register <https://www.grad.umn.edu/career/workshops/register.asp?id=140>

Effective interviewing skills for jobs in academia for non-native speakers of English

Date, time, and location: Thursday, **April 19**, 2007, 5:00-7:00 p.m., 209 Akerman Hall

Map: <http://www1.umn.edu/twincities/maps/AkerH/AkerH-map.html>

Presentation will cover effective strategies to prepare before an interview and tips for during and after the interview. Special focus will be on non-verbal communication, as well as key terms and phrases in the interview process that may assist non-Native speakers of English. Students will work in small groups for mock interviews and will receive feedback from facilitators and peers. Registration is taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. LIMITED TO 60 PEOPLE.

Presenters: Dr. Deborah Wingert, Instructor, Center for Teaching and Learning, Colleen Meyers, Instructor, Center for Teaching and Learning

Click below to register: <https://www.grad.umn.edu/career/workshops/register.asp?id=143>

Date Saver

Candidates for Adjunct Assistant Professor, FWCB

Date, time and location: **11 April** (Wednesday) 4-5 PM 495 Hodson Hall

Presenter: Dr. Marrett Grund (MN DNR, Madelia Wildlife Unit)

Title: Managing Deer in the 21st Century

Date, time and location: **17 April** (Tues) 4-5 PM 110 Green Hall

Presenter: Dr. Tony Sinclair, (Centre for Biodiversity Research, University of British Columbia)

Title: "Understanding ecosystems for the conservation of biodiversity: lessons from the Serengeti"

William E. Larson and Raymond R. Allmaras lecture

William E. Larson and Raymond R. Allmaras lecture on Emerging Issues in Soil and Water is set for 2:00-4:30 PM Thursday **12 April** 2007. The overall theme of the program will be "Trends in Land Use and their Implications on Society Needs". This will be an expanded program with two speakers: (1) Dr. Gary Petersen from the Pennsylvania State University on "Geospatial Technologies in Land Use Decision Making" and (2) Dr. Dr. Ronald Amundson, from the University of California Berkeley on "Are Soils Endangered?". Both lectures will be given in 335 Borlaug Hall, which is located at 1991 Upper Buford Circle, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN 55108. We are enclosing a flyer that briefly outlines the contents of these lectures. If you need more information, please contact Dr. Satish Gupta, sgupta@umn.edu, 612-625-1241.

Classes Without Quizzes

Food is a big part of our lives. The lives of our pets too. Come spend a Saturday morning talking about food with University of Minnesota experts. It's easy and fun. Best of all...there are no quizzes! Classes Without Quizzes offers these food-related sessions on **April 14**:

- * ***What Your Pet Really Wants for Dinner**** – Join Prof. Marshall Stern as he explains what pets need to eat right to stay healthy. This course will explain how to choose the best food from the dizzying array of choices
- * ***Eating and Exercising on the Go**** – Prof. Joanne Slavin will give you tips on how to *live healthier while maintaining a busy lifestyle
- * ***Eat Fish, but How Much?***** – Prof. Deb Swackhamer will help you resolve the dilemma of being urged* to eat fish for their protein and healthy Omega-3 fatty acids, while being warned to limit our fish consumptions due to contaminations
- * ***Minnesota** Wine: Who has the Best?***** Enologist Anna Katharine Mansfield explains what makes a great-tasting wine, and how the Minnesota wine community is improving the taste of locally-grown wine.

There are four more courses to choose from. Register today!

Join us on April 14, 8:15 a.m. to 12:15. Register by March 30 to receive early bird rates.

Faculty and Staff may register at the UMAA rate. More information is available at <http://www.cfans.umn.edu/cwq> or by calling (612) 624-0822. There's also an optional lunch, which includes a wine tasting featuring Minnesota grown wines.

Hope to see you there!

Valerie Were, 2007 CWQ Chair

P.S. Don't miss the opening session featuring Prof. Mark Seeley and WCCO-TV anchor Don Shelby talking about a citizen's agenda for climate change in Minnesota. Register today!

What's for Dinner?' features author Michael Pollan

Date and location: Thursday, **April 19**, 2007, 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: MacMillan Auditorium

Keynote: Michael Pollan, author and journalist

Conference: \$100 member / non-member (conference includes keynote, panel and special luncheon discussion)

Morning Session only: \$35 member / non-member

Co-sponsored by the University of Minnesota's Program on Agricultural, Food and Environmental Ethics and the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (MISA)

Notes: The University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum presents What's for Dinner? The Ethics and Aesthetics of Eating, featuring Michael Pollan, author of "The Omnivore's Dilemma." Pollan will present the keynote address, followed by a panel discussion including Allen Levine, CFANS dean, as well as regional experts, growers and distributors. The event is presented by the arboretum's Public Policy Program and sponsored by the [University of Minnesota's Program on Agriculture, Food and Environmental Ethics](#) and the [Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture](#). For more information and to register, call the Arboretum's Education Office at 952-443-1422 or go to <http://www.arboretum.umn.edu/education/adult/publicpolicy.htm>.

Hello Students

The GradSEHD Graduate Student Appreciation Party will be Friday, **April 27th** from 6:00-11:00 p.m. in the Terrace Room of the St. Paul Student Center (2017 Buford Ave St. Paul, MN 55108). Start to spread the word!

2007 Phillip C. Hamm Memorial Lecture

Title: "Steroid Signaling in Plants: The First Decade"

Presenter: Dr. Joanne Chory, Professor and Director, Plant Biology Laboratory, The Salk Institute for Biological Studies, The Howard Hughes Medical Institute

Date, time and location: Monday, April 30, 2007, 2:30 – 3:00 p.m. Awards, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Lecture, 105 Cargill Building, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Reception Atrium, Cargill Building
St. Paul Campus, University of Minnesota

EVERYONE WELCOME

Continuing Education Course

The Continuing Education Committee of the MN Chapter of AFS is giving a "head's up" on a 4-day workshop entitled: "Lake Habitat Protection and Restoration in Agricultural Landscapes" to be held at Cabelas in Owatonna and Waseca during Aug. 20 - 23 2007 (see below). This is a "save the date" memo for those of you who might be interested and need to work this into their field schedule. We are not taking any reservations yet and will formally announce the workshop later in May.

This year we will focus on lake and watershed issues in agricultural landscapes. In 2008, we are planning a similar workshop focused on Urban/Forest landscapes.

The CE committee looks forward to putting on this timely (if not overdue) workshop and are thankful for the experienced instructors we were able to enroll.

Cheers,

Ray

Continuing Education Co-chair

MN Chapter of The American Fisheries Society

Course Title: Lake Habitat Protection and Restoration in Agricultural Landscapes

Date and location: Aug 20th-23rd 2007, Owatonna, MN

Day 1: Watershed assessment and diagnosis of condition (Joe Magner, Greg Johnson, Pat Baskfield PCA)

- Hydrology 101

- Effects of tiles and ditches on distribution of water and water quality

- Field trip

Day 2: Strategies for Protection and Restoration – Identifying the battle front and identifying all resources available to win battles

- Collaborative and Educational Strategies for mitigation or restoration: Community involvement & essential relationships – From Regional coordination to sitting at the kitchen table with Farmer Brown (Beth Knudsen - DNR)

- State and Federal strategies for mitigation or restoration

- Federal Farm Bill and the CRP program (Wayne Edgerton – DNR)

- Emerging issue – Ethanol and biofuels

- Land Acquisition and Easements (Mike Halverson - DNR) – AMA's, WMA's, WPA's, RIM

- TMDL process (Tim Larson - PCA)

- Local Strategies

- Goings on with the Brown Nicollet Water Quality Board (Kevin Kuehner)

- Goings on with the Fairbault Co. Soil and Water Conservation District (Michele Stindman)

- Wrap-up: Are things getting better or worse in the Western Corn Belt and Plains? Challenges Ahead (Tim Larson - PCA).

Days 3&4: Shoreline restoration, Clear Lake, Waseca – John Hiebert (DNR Shoreland Habitat Mgr) and Leilani Peterson (DNR Shoreline Habitat Spec.).

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Conferences and Meetings

North American Section of the Society for Conservation Biology

The North American Section of the Society for Conservation Biology will be meeting jointly with the International Conference on Ecology & Transportation for their 2007 meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas, **May 20-25**. This meeting offers a wonderful opportunity for SCB members and Chapter members in North America to get together. The topic of road ecology, which dominates the conference, is very pertinent to conservation biology.

We invite NA Section members - and all members of SCB and SCB Chapters in North America - to attend this conference. We view this joint meeting as a way to "phase in" meetings of the North American Section in years when the SCB Global annual meeting is held outside the United States (i.e., as this year, in South Africa). The 2007 ICOET meeting will feature a half-day SCB-organized symposium, on May 24, on key topics in conservation biology that relate to roads, as well as a membership/business meeting of the North American Section and Chapters.

Among other items of business, we plan to discuss policy priorities for SCB in North America with SCB's new Policy Director, John Fitzgerald. The symposium program can be found at <http://www.conbio.org/Sections/NAmerica/AgendaforICOET.pdf>

For more information, and to register for the conference, see the ICOET website: <http://www.icoet.net/ICOET2007.asp>

I look forward to seeing many of you there! Best regards,

Reed Noss

President, North American Section

The American Society of Naturalists (ASN)

The annual meetings of The American Society of Naturalists (ASN) <http://www.amnat.org/>, Society of Systematic Biologists (SSB) <http://systbiol.org/>, and the Society for the Study of Evolution (SSE) <http://www.evolutionarysociety.org> are scheduled to be held June 16-20, 2007 at the Christchurch Convention Centre, Christchurch, New Zealand. Saturday June 16 is the arrival day (pre-conference tours, council meetings and opening reception), Sunday June 17 through Wednesday June 20 (scientific sessions) with closing awards banquet scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, June 20. Thursday June 21 is departure day. Full details on this combined meeting are available at the Evolution 2007 web site, www.evolution2007.com On line conference registration and talk/poster registration is now available at this site. Delegates intending to present a talk or display a poster at Evolution 2007, must first register through the on line registration process.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING DEADLINES For submission of talk/poster titles-**April 15, 2007**. Delegates can register early and submit titles no later than the deadline above. Information on travel to New Zealand and accommodation options for the conference can be found on the conference web site.

Managing Incidental Findings in Human Subjects Research: From Imaging to Genomics

This full-day conference is sponsored by the University of Minnesota in partnership with the Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences. This conference is supported in part by a grant from the National Human Genome Research Institute, National Institutes of Health, grant #1R01HG003178-01A1.

Tuesday, May 1, 2007. Cowles Auditorium, Hubert H. Humphrey Center . University of Minnesota. Register at www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu/conferences/if.php or email lawvalue@umn.edu.

This conference will present the recommendations from an NIH-funded project developing standards for the management of incidental findings identified during research with human subjects. Incidental findings are defined as unexpected findings beyond the domain of key interest in the research that have potential clinical significance. Presentations will focus on obtaining feedback from the public, researchers, research subjects, and regulatory bodies such as IRBs on a position paper outlining consent form language and IRB protocols.

For more information, visit our conference website: <http://www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu/conferences/if.php> Or contact the Consortium office at: Email: lawvalue@umn.edu, Telephone: 612-625-0055

Funding opportunities

Bell Fellowship in Avian Conservation

The Bell Museum announces a competition for a research fellowship in the general field of avian conservation for graduate students currently enrolled at the University of Minnesota. The project ideally would involve a field component, and must be directed at some aspect of avian conservation. Projects designed to assist avian conservation efforts through an improved understanding of bird biology will be given preference. Please follow guidelines given below. Send your application (hard copy or email) by April 6 2007 to: Robert M. Zink, Bell Museum 100 Ecology Bldg. Univ. of Minnesota St. Paul, MN 55108 zinkx003@umn.edu

Guidelines for Bell Fellowship in Avian Conservation

Length: Maximum 5 pages single-spaced 12 pt type (excluding Lit. Cited). Three tables and three figures maximum. Tables, figures and budget do not count in the page limit. The proposal should include a general overview of the research, and why it is significant to the field of bird conservation. This must be clear to a general reader. Have a graduate student colleague in a different field read your proposal to determine that it is clear to a scientist outside of your immediate area.

Emphasize the specific hypotheses, or observations you will make. Stress the feasibility and demonstrate that you have thought about how you will actually do the research. Is your project high risk or are you fairly certain that you can do it?

Exactly what is the nature of the data to be gathered, and how will they be analyzed? What sample sizes are needed to answer the questions posed? Imagine that you have gathered your data. How will you analyze them? What statistical tests are to be used? Can you actually falsify your hypotheses with your study design?

What have you done on this project to date? How is it relevant to this proposal?

If your work involves specimens, state that you have or will have proper collecting permits, and where your voucher specimens will be deposited. We expect students in all fields to preserve voucher specimens in the appropriate U of MN repository.

Budget: Include an explicit budget, one with totals in all relevant columns. Awards will not exceed \$10,000.00 (the amount of this award will fluctuate annually). Field travel will be funded at the rate of 35 cents per mile. Funds cannot be used for student stipends. If you purchase equipment for amounts of \$100 or more, it becomes property of the Bell Museum

upon completion of your project. Do not make requests for items such as raincoats or other personal items. If other proposals for the research are pending, list the funding agencies and when you expect to hear; we retain the option to withhold funding until these proposals are acted upon.

Include a current CV and a brief statement of the student's background (not part of the page limit).

Be sure your advisor has submitted a separate letter of recommendation; it can be emailed to zinkx003@umn.edu.

National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial

Scholarship Program-Deadline: April 13, 2007

In honor of the National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial, the Walt Disney Company (<http://www.disney.com/>), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service <http://www.fws.gov/>, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation <http://www.nfwf.org/> are supporting the 2007 National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Scholarship Program. The NWRS Centennial Scholarship Program seeks to support students whose research will contribute toward improved management and understanding of the diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources found on National Wildlife Refuges <http://refuges.fws.gov/>.

Under this competitive scholarship program, a minimum of ten one-year scholarships will be awarded to support students' research expenses, tuition, fees, books, and room and board.

Undergraduate, master's, and juris doctorate students are eligible to receive a one-time award of \$5,000; Ph.D. and D.V.M. students are eligible to receive a one-time award of \$15,000.

To be eligible, a student must be a U.S. citizen or legal resident enrolled in an accredited institution of higher education in the U.S. pursuing a graduate or undergraduate degree (sophomores and juniors in the current academic year only) in environmental science, natural resource management, biology, public policy, education, geography, political science, or related disciplines. Only those students working on a National Wildlife Refuge or whose work is directly applicable to resource management on a National Wildlife Refuge(s) are eligible. Visit the NFWF Web site for complete program details and application instructions.

Izaak Walton League of America

The Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America will award a scholarship(s) of not more than \$1000.00 to assist a person(s) who enter or continue in an education program in Environmental Education, Environmental Law, Wildlife Management, or some other conservation-oriented program. The application form is attached. The deadline for applications is **May 15, 2007**.

Thank you and please call or email if you have questions.

Noreen Tyler

Office Administrator Minnesota Division

Izaak Walton League of America

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