

Conservation Biology Graduate Program Weekly Newsletter

07 May 2007

A weekly newsletter of the Conservation
Biology Graduate Program

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

Submissions to coop0162@umn.edu



Editor's Corner

Welcome to the last newsletter of the semester!

The CB seminar series is over and most of the major funding deadlines have passed. Therefore, it is time to wrap up the CB Newsletter for the year. Congratulations are due to many Cbers for obtaining awards and fellowships for this summer and next year. Most recently, Olivia LeDee was selected for a 2007 President's Student Leadership and Service Award. In addition, Tony Gamble, Kelly Paulson, Michelle Wieland, and I were awarded Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships from the Graduate School. Such awards rarely result from the work of just one person. Through various seminars, courses, lab and committee meetings, many faculty, staff and students provide insightful and constructive feedback to students on experimental design and research proposals. It is the collective input from the community of scholars involved in the CB Program that support us all in achieving great things.

Thank you,
Anne Cooper

Events

Thesis Defense

Date, time and location: Wednesday **May 9** at 2 pm, Room 365 Borlaug Hall

Title: Examining Detection Probabilities in Waterfowl Pair and Brood Surveys in northeastern North Dakota.

Presenter: Anthony Pagano

Ph.D. Defense Seminar

Date, time and location: WEDNESDAY, **MAY 9**, 9:00 AM: Refreshments, 9:15 AM:
Seminar, Room 150 Ecology Building

Presenter: Jacob Egge, Graduate Candidate Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior Graduate Program

Title: "Patterns of speciation and spine evolution in madtom catfishes"

FWCB Spring Picnic

The Annual FWCB Spring Picnic will be held on Sunday **13th of May** at Anne Kapuscinski's home. Her address is:

2173 Folwell Ave
Saint Paul, MN 55108

(651) 647-0694

The picnic will begin at 4:30 PM. Drinks and grilling items will be provided. Please sign up in the office to bring other food and beverage items.

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>

RefWorks Basics –5/16, Keeping Current In the Sciences –Grant resources: Locating Grants in your Field –5/15

Philip M. Raup Lecture on Land and Environmental Policy

The Minnesota Lectures on Applied Economics and Policy presents the second Philip M. Raup Lecture on Land and Environmental Policy on Thursday, May 17, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. in the Cargill Building for Microbial and Plant Genetics on the St. Paul Campus. I am pleased to invite you to attend.

The speaker will be Dr. Daniel W. Bromley, Anderson-Bascom Professor of Applied Economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He will present, “Crafting Environmental Policy in the Teeth of Possessive Individualism: Whose Land Is It?”

Daniel W. Bromley is Anderson-Bascom Professor of Applied Economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Professor Bromley has published extensively on: (1) the institutional foundations of the economy; (2) legal and philosophical dimensions of property rights; (3) economics of natural resources and the environment; and (4) economic development. He has been editor of the journal, Land Economics since 1974, and is a Fellow of the American Agricultural Economics Association. He recently completed a three-year term as Chair of the U.S. Federal Advisory Committee on Marine Protected Areas. He is an advisor to the State of Alaska on crafting a new fisheries policy in the Gulf of Alaska.

He has been a consultant to the Global Environment Facility; the World Bank; the Ford Foundation; the U.S. Agency for International Development; the Asian Development Bank; the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development; and the Ministry for the Environment in New Zealand. He has worked and lectured in over 20 countries around the world. He is now advising the government of Sudan on economic development strategies following over 20 years of civil war in the south, as well as in Darfur.

This event is free and open to the public. If you are interested in attending, please go to our Department website at: <http://www.apec.umn.edu/rauplecture07.html> and follow the online registration instructions.

Fulbright Scholar Info Meetings

The Graduate School Fellowship Office is pleased to announce six Fulbright Information Sessions for students who are interested in conducting research abroad during the 2008-09 academic year. Excellent opportunities are available to over 140 countries. Applicants must be U.S. citizens. The UM campus application deadline is Monday, September 10, 2007.

Please forward this message to students in your program. Those who would like to attend should call the Graduate School Fellowship Office at 625-7579 or email gsfellow@umn.edu to reserve a place at one of the six meetings.

Meetings are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, May 23, at 10:15 a.m., Room 433 Johnston Hall

Wednesday, May 23, at 2:15 p.m., Room 433 Johnston Hall

Thursday, June 7, at 9:15 a.m., Room 433 Johnston Hall

Monday, June 11, at 1:15 p.m., Room 433 Johnston Hall

Tuesday, June 19, at 9:15 a.m., Room 433 Johnston Hall

Wednesday, June 20, at 2:15 p.m., Room 433 Johnston Hall

Announcements

Grad Student Parking

Representative from the Council of Graduate Students and the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly are working together to negotiate discounted prices and programs for parking for graduate and professional students. To best serve you, we need to know what your needs are and if the proposed programs are appealing. We've created a quick survey (about 10 questions), and we would greatly appreciate your feedback. You can also be entered in a drawing for a \$50 Borders Gift Card just for taking a few minutes to answer the questions! The survey is located here: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=488753814179>

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*!

Jobs

TNC

The Migratory Bird Program of The Nature Conservancy is looking to fill the new position of Director for the Prairie Wings Program. I would appreciate your help in circulating this to interested parties and appropriate applicants. Note the tight application deadline of May 11, 2007.

Thank you, Dave Mehlman

Director Migratory Bird Program, The Nature Conservancy

1303 Rio Grande Blvd NW, Suite 5

Albuquerque, NM 87104 USA

ph: +1-505-244-0535 ext 24; fax: +1-505-244-0512

e-mail: dmehlman@tnc.org; web: nature.org/birds

Army Corps Student Position

We are trying to fill a Biologist Student Position within the Environmental and Economic Analysis Branch of the St. Paul District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and hope you can help. There will be a fair amount of field work during the summer, mainly mussel surveys. We will train the student on the use of GPS, mussel surveying equipment, and other environmental field sampling equipment. There will also be some character building mundane tasks like data entry, filing, property account inventory, etc. GIS skills would be a plus but we can train in that area as well.

The position could be filled under the Temporary Student Employment Program (summer hire) or under the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP). You can find out more regarding benefits/required application forms/etc at the web page below. This latter program allows a student to work part-time during the school year and full time during the summer & breaks. Upon graduation, it allows the student to apply for positions within the Federal Government (comparable to the old co-op program). This position can be filled at either the undergraduate or graduate level.

The duty station would be at the St. Paul District Office in downtown St. Paul with most of the field work taking place on the Upper Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers between St. Paul, MN and Guttenberg, IA.

If you think you might have students interested in and qualified for this Position, please have them contact my Team Leader, Dennis Anderson, by telephone (651-290-5270) or email (dennis.d.anderson@usace.army.mil) to discuss the specifics of the position. He should be in the office most of next week.

Student Employment link on our web page
<http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/employment/default.asp?pageid=563>

I also anticipate having one or more additional positions like this available in the next year or two as current staff reach retirement age.

Thanks for helping make this announcement available to your students.

Terry Birkenstock, Chief Environmental & Economic Analysis Branch and EGIS Team

US Army Corps of Engineers - St. Paul District

190 Fifth Street East, Suite 401, St. Paul, MN 55101-1638

651.290.5264

Conferences and Meetings

Minnesota Water Resources Conference

October 23-24, 2007

Earle Brown Heritage Center, Brooklyn Center, Minnesota

You are invited to submit a proposal for presentation or poster session at the Minnesota Water Resources Conference scheduled October 23-24, 2007 at the Earle Brown Heritage Center in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota.

Topics for submission include but are not limited to:

- Agriculture Water Quality and Quantity Management
- Surface- and Ground Water Supplies and Adequacy, Threats
- Stream or River Ecology and Restoration, Geomorphology and Bank Stabilization
- Storm Water Management – BMPs, Runoff, Reuse and Reduction, Non-Degradation
- Water Resources Construction, Operation and Maintenance
- Wetlands – Regulations, Issues, Approaches, and Lessons Learned
- Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)
- Preventing and Managing Emerging Contaminants of Concern
- National/International/World Projects and Issues
- Lakes, Lake Management, and Lake Restoration
- New Water Demands, Availability, Scarcity, and Reuse
- Education and Citizen Involvement in Water Resources
- Designs That Have Made a Difference
- Applied Hydraulic Design

The deadline for abstract submission has been extended to **April 30**, 2007. Abstracts can be submitted at the following web site: <http://www.cce.umn.edu/waterresources/submit/>.

Contact Electra Sylva at conferences5@cce.umn.edu or 612-624-3708 with any questions.

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

Courses

Teaching Enrichment Series

It's not too early to plan ahead - sign up today for the August 2007 Teaching Enrichment Series! Sponsored by the Center for Teaching and Learning, the series offers workshops on August 27, 29, and 30. A New TA Orientation will be held on Tuesday, August 28.

For complete workshop descriptions and to register for the workshops and/or New TA Orientation, go to <http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/teachlearn/faculty/enrichment/index.html>

Each morning, four workshop topics are offered at two sessions: 9 a.m. (Session 1) and 10:30 a.m. (Session 2). Participants may register for two workshops each day. Choose among 12 workshop topics including:

- Course Design
- Designing Multiple Choice Exams
- Resolving Conflicts in the Classroom
- Teaching Through Active Lectures
- Student Ratings of Teaching

For further information, please contact the Center for Teaching and Learning at teachlrn@umn.edu or call 612-625-3041.

Short course on changes in seasonality of climate and phenology in the past, present, and future

If you have not registered, please register by emailing me or Avery (cook0311@umn.edu). You can register for just a day or the whole thing, but **please register**.

- **May 8th**, 4pm, the Geology Department Library in Pillsbury Hall, room 204. Beer will be \$1.25. **Dr. Xainfeng Wang** will lead a discussion of *The role of seasonality in abrupt climate change* from Denton et al, 2005. (paper is attached, I am also attaching a paper that you can read in addition if you like).
- **May 9th**, 9am - 4pm, **Dr. Masaki Hayashi** will lecture, lead discussion, and work with computer models on hydrology and seasonality of climate. Meet in Rapson (the architecture building) room 47. **Lunch will be provided!**
- **May 10th**, 9am - 4pm, **Dr. Eric Grimm** will lecture and lead discussion on phenology and seasonality of climate in the paleorecord. Meet in Rapson room 54. **Lunch will be provided!**
- **May 11th**, 9 - 10am (flexible end time) **Dr. Peter Harris** will lecture and then lead a discussion on a Minnesota phenology network. (after a brief break) 10:30 am - 12pm **Dr.**

Kurt Kipfmüller will lead a round table discussion where everyone is invited to speak about how phenology and seasonality of climate play a role in their research. Feel free to bring data or any other material from your research to show to others for discussion.

Thanks,
Anna and Avery

PFF Retreat

The Center for Teaching and Learning Services is again offering the "Preparing Future Faculty Retreat"

WHO: Grad students, teaching assts, or post-docs who have NOT yet participated in GRAD 8101, Teaching in Higher Education

WHERE: 525 Science Classroom Bldg, East Bank

WHEN: Wednesday, May 16, 2007 - 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

COST: \$10.00 registration fee includes workshops, refreshments, and lunch

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: May 9, 2007

To register, please visit: <http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/teachlearn/pff/retreat.html>

KSU Aquaculture: Principles of Aquaculture

A Video-Based Online Course In Summer and Fall 2007

Course Available at Graduate and Undergraduate Levels

This three-credit-hour online course is different than most Internet courses. Each class will include video lectures, combined with PowerPoint presentations, in short subject-specific modules. The course also contains online tests, external links to Internet resources, discussion boards and other tools for interaction between instructor and students, as well as among students themselves.

The course will be taught by Dr. Jim Tidwell, Chair of the KSU Division of Aquaculture. Dr. Tidwell has over 90 publications in refereed journals on a number of different species, and is a Past President of the World Aquaculture Society.

The undergraduate course is cross listed as both a Biology course (BIO 422) and an Aquaculture course (AQU 422). A student should choose the course prefix that is appropriate for his/her transcript requirements. The graduate course (AQU 522) is intended for students who already have a bachelor's (or higher) degree.

What about tuition and fees?

Tuition - Undergraduate, (BIO 422 or AQU 422) \$720.00

Tuition - Graduate, (AQU 522) \$900.00

No additional fees.

Summer classes begin June 1 and extend through July 27. Fall classes will start about August 20. Consult the KSU Web site (www.kysu.edu) for details.

Prospective students are encouraged to contact Ms. Barbara Wilhelm (barbara.wilhelm@kysu.edu) to discuss course specifics and receive registration information for the course. A working e-mail address is required for each student.

For more information on Kentucky State University's Aquaculture Program, check our Web site at www.ksuaquaculture.org.

ESPM 4242/5242: Methods for environmental and natural resource policy analysis

T/Th, 10:15 - 11:30 am, 203 Green Hall

Instructors: Dennis Becker, Forest Resources, drbecker@umn.edu, Mike Kilgore, Forest Resources, mkilgore@umn.edu

Course Description: A fundamental skill for those involved in the management and use of natural resources is the ability to analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of our policies and programs. Through readings, lectures, discussions and case analyses, this course will

introduce graduate and advanced undergraduate students to the methods and processes used to analyze environmental and natural resource policies and programs. The practical application of policy analysis tools to address contemporary problems will be emphasized, recognizing the politically-charged environment within which decisions over the use, management, and protection of these resources occurs.

Course prerequisites include familiarity with economic concepts and principles applied to environmental and natural resource management problems, as well as an understanding of the process by which policy is developed and implemented. Students who have taken ESPM 3261/5261 (Economics of Natural Resources Management) and ESPM 3241W/5241 (Natural Resource and Environmental Policy), or comparable courses will have sufficient background to be successful.

Please feel free to contact the instructors with questions about the course!

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 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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Phone: 651-793-6539
Fax: 651-772-7974

FW8465: Fish habitats and restoration

Fall 2007, 3 cr.

10:15 - 11:30 T-Th, 19 Green Hall

Instructor: Bruce Vondracek

Office: 318 Hodson Hall

Phone: 624-8748

e-mail: bvondrac@umn.edu

Course Description: Examination of abiotic and biotic factors underlying physiology, behavior, and ecology that shape fish assemblages with an emphasis on north temperate habitats and current techniques and planning procedures for restoration of streams with a watershed perspective.

Objectives: This course is designed to give a broad overview of fish ecology in stream and lake habitats and stream habitat restoration. Sufficient detail and a reliance on primary literature will provide a knowledge base and background of recent concepts to aid students in research and to make informed management decisions.

Philosophy: The course covers a diversity of current topics in fish ecology with a focus on fish-habitat and fish-fish interactions, to provide an understanding of ecological mechanisms in aquatic systems. The course builds on fish-habitat interactions to cover a larger landscape perspective using stream rehabilitation with the watershed as the focus. A landscape perspective also provides for an introduction of natural resource management in a socio-economic context. The course also provides knowledge of how to develop a plan of action, using stream rehabilitation as the focus, but the basic approach is widely applicable to teaching, research, and management.

CBIO8201: How to excel in graduate school

Fall 2007, 1 credit

3:00-4:15 PM, Wednesdays, 19 Green Hall

Instructor: Bruce Vondracek

Office: 318 Hodson Hall

Phone: 624-8748

e-mail: bvondrac@umn.edu

Course Description: An overview of the history and philosophy of science to provide a framework for writing a thesis or dissertation, how to conduct research, and time management during graduate school to become a successful scientist. This seminar is designed to provide students with some tools to complete a graduate degree efficiently and in a timely fashion.

Objectives: Cover a number of topics in sufficient depth to provide a brief discussion of the history and philosophy of science and information on time management during graduate school, tips on how to write a thesis or dissertation, and how to conduct research.

Philosophy: The course covers a limited number of topics focusing on the spectrum of duties and responsibilities of a graduate student and methods to balance those duties and responsibilities. Further the seminar explores how science is conducted, the development of the scientific approach, and the philosophy that underlies the enterprise of science.

Risk Analysis for Science and Technology Policy Fall 2007 PA 8790

1.5 credits

12:45 p.m.-2 p.m. Tuesdays, HHH 20 (West Bank)

Instructor: Prof. Jennifer Kuzma

Contact: 612-625-6337, or kuzma007@umn.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2:30-4:00 p.m. (it will be announced in class if there is a cancellation)

SCOPE: This class will focus on the interplay between risk analysis, government decision making, and policy for societal issues involving human, environmental, and ecological health and well-being. The role of S&T in risk analysis, either as the subjects or the tools, will be explored. A mix of readings, discussions, and group projects will be used to facilitate understanding of technical risk assessment methods, risk management, role of uncertainty, risk communication, and risk perception. The embedded scientific, technical, social, political, and ethical issues for select case studies will be discussed. The class will also touch upon how to formulate questions for policy research in this and other areas. Please note, however, that this is not a class to learn "how to do" public policy research or risk assessments. We will discuss the methods and techniques only at a general level.

PFF

The Preparing Future Faculty Program (PFF) offers graduate students and post-doctoral fellows opportunities to develop teaching skills, understand ways in which students learn, explore faculty roles in higher education, and prepare job search plans and documents with supportive colleagues and mentors.

Read on to discover how our Retreats and Courses might help you prepare for your future career -- and increase effectiveness in your current teaching and learning roles on campus.

Retreat: May 16, 2007

Workshops focus on The Academic Job Search, Using PowerPoint for Active Learning, Active Learning in Lecture Settings, with a lunch time panel addressing the process of Finding an Academic Position that Fits.

A \$10 registration fee includes food and workshop materials. Your early registration allows us to prepare materials for a smooth retreat -- and to assure you a seat at the retreat.

For Retreat Registration:

<http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/teachlearn/pff/retreat/index.html>.

Fall 2007 Courses:

You'll find a time schedule for each of the PFF courses below. For fuller descriptions of the courses, see

<http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/teachlearn/pff/index.html>.

****GRAD 8101: Teaching in Higher Education (3 credits)****

Participants discuss engaged learning theories, link strategies to their own teaching philosophy, practice teaching and draft the essential documents of a teaching portfolio -- CV, teaching philosophy and course syllabus.

Fall 2007

Mondays 2:30-5:30 / Minneapolis

Tuesdays 2:30-5:30 pm / Minneapolis

Thursdays 5-8 pm / Minneapolis

Fridays 9:05-12:05 / St. Paul

****GRAD 8102: Practicum for Future Faculty****

(3 credits, prerequisite GRAD 8101 or equivalent department teaching course; e-mail pff@umn.edu for equivalent courses and/or permission number) As future faculty and administrators, participants will examine a variety of institutional contexts in higher education and work also with a faculty mentor they select. In this course, students gain valuable

teaching experience at a host institution, explore faculty life beyond the classroom, analyze contemporary academic issues, and create a targeted job search portfolio.

Fall 2007

Tuesdays 2:30-5:30 pm / Minneapolis

Thursdays 5-8 pm / Minneapolis

****GRAD 8200: Teaching and Learning Topics in Higher Education**** (1 credit; may be repeated).

These course can be taken independent of other PFF courses, in conjunction with them.

Also, completing 3 sections of GRAD 8200 is an equivalent of taking the GRAD 8101 course.

Fall 2007

On Line. Teaching For Learning: A Course for New TAs.

Mondays Beyond the Academy: Practical Job Search Strategies for Ph.Ds. / 2:30-5:30 pm.

Course meets five times.

Wednesdays. Active Learning & Course Design in the Sciences. / 2:30-4:30 pm. Course meets six times.

Best,

Ilene D. Alexander, PhD

PFF Program Coordinator

<http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/teachlearn/pff/index.html>

Teaching with Writing

The Center for Writing is now accepting registrations for its two annual pre-fall Teaching with Writing seminars! These fill quickly, so plan ahead.

Teaching with Writing: A five-day seminar for faculty (9 AM-12:30 PM August 20-24, 2007)
Fireplace Room (135 Nicholson), Cap: 25

This faculty seminar presents a chance for busy instructors to focus exclusively on the ways they want to integrate writing into the specific courses they teach. Participants begin by considering the kinds of writing that are appropriate to their teaching contexts and then spend the rest of the week discussing and experimenting with an array of practical strategies. By week's end, each will have... discussed successful and unsuccessful writing assignments, designed brief in-class writing activities, devised (or revised) lengthier, formal writing assignments, practiced a variety of strategies for writing comments that will encourage revision, used and created assignment-specific grading schemes that ensure fair assessment, experimented with methods for increasing efficiency.

For descriptive flyer, please see <http://writing.umn.edu/prefallseminar/>

Registration: <http://writing.umn.edu/register-prefallsem.htm>

Commenting on and Grading Student Writing: A two-day seminar for TAs (9 AM -12:30 PM August 27-28) Nicholson 35, Cap: 90

In this seminar, new and seasoned teaching assistants will have opportunities to...learn some of the ways novice and experienced writers draft and revise their writing, discuss course and discipline-appropriate writing expectations, practice a variety of strategies for writing comments that will encourage revision, use and create assignment-specific grading schemes that ensure fair assessment, experiment with methods for increasing efficiency.

For descriptive flyer, please see <http://writing.umn.edu/taseminar/>

Registration: <http://writing.umn.edu/taseminar/Taregister.htm>

Funding and award opportunities

2007 John E. Skinner Memorial Fund Award

The John E. Skinner Memorial Fund was established in memory of John Skinner, former Chapter and Western Division American Fisheries Society President. The fund provides monetary travel awards for deserving graduate students or exceptional undergraduate students to attend the American Fisheries Society (AFS) annual meeting. The 2007 meeting will be held in San Francisco, California from September 2 to 6.

Any student who is active in fisheries or related aquatic disciplines is eligible to apply. Awardees are chosen by a committee of the AFS Education Section. Selection is based on academic qualifications, professional service, and reasons for attending the meeting. Travel support (up to \$800 per award) will be made available to successful applicants. Award winners will also receive a one year paid membership to the American Fisheries Society.

Completed applications must be received no later than **May 11, 2007**. Limit all answers to the space provided. Additional material will not be considered in evaluating applicants.

The application form can be found at:

<http://www.fisheries.org/afs/awards/skinner2007.rtf>

Link to award announcement (click on John E. Skinner Memorial Fund Award):

<http://www.fisheries.org/afs/awards.html>

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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St. Paul, MN 55103

651.221.0215

ikes@minnesotaiques.org www.minnesotaiques.org