

Conservation Biology Graduate Program Weekly Newsletter

09 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

Enjoy the blue skies today! Weather forecasters are predicting up to 5 inches by tomorrow night!

Anne Cooper

Lectures/seminars on campus

Conservation Biology Seminar

Date and time: 09 April 4-5pm

Location: Room 335 Borlaug Hall

Title 1: Effects of macroinvertebrate availability, diet, and habitat on sculpin re-introductions in southeast Minnesota

Presenter 1: Rebecca Bronk, Conservation Biology Program

Notes 1: Slimy sculpin (*Cottus cognatus*) are benthic fish which were historically widespread across southeast Minnesota. Their habitat has been disturbed due to sedimentation of the streambed by agricultural practices and populations were extirpated from many streams. In 2001, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources began re-introduction efforts to protect the species and restore the biotic community; however, success has been varied. For this study, I am investigating the effects of prey availability, diet, and habitat on sculpin abundance and biomass across 10 streams in Minnesota's re-introduction program. I am interested in determining which factors contribute to the establishment of sculpin populations, so that we may better understand this species and increase the efficiency of re-introduction efforts.

– AND –

Title 2: Protecting an elephant corridor by "sustainable" resettlement of slash and burn farmers in Cambodia

Presenter 2: Sun, Hean, Conservation Biology Program

Notes 2: The Cardamom Mountains in Cambodia are one of the largest forested areas remaining in Southeast Asia. The area encompasses 1.8 million ha of forest and includes several protected areas as well as small pockets of slash and burn agriculture. One of these human settlements is gradually expanding into a traditional, seasonal migratory corridor. This corridor is one of 7 elephant corridors that have been identified as vital to long term elephant conservation in the region. Allowing this corridor to be destroyed will severely impact the core of the Cardamom Mountains which is noted for diversity of vegetation cover types, 14 globally endangered species and half the bird diversity found in Cambodia. Based on these biological

values, the government of Cambodia has established this area as the Southwest Elephant Corridor. There were two small villages, Chi Phat and Chay Ariang, near the center of this corridor and slash and burn agriculture practiced by the inhabitants of these villages was identified as a major threat to the corridor. The government decided that resettlement was needed to protect the region's biodiversity and to reduce future human elephant conflicts. At the same time the government realized that local people had traditional rights to the areas that extend back more than 40 years. I describe an approach to resettlement that involved a high level of compensation to the resettled community and then discuss steps to ensure long term sustainability of the project.

PhD Defense

Date, Time and Location: Monday, April 9, 2007, 11am-12pm, 490 Hodson Hall

Title: Empowering Conservation Decisions: Towards a Theory of Authentic Arenas for Environmental Conflict Management

Presenter: Fiona Nagle, Conservation Biology/Conflict Management

Notes: Environmental decision-making is challenged by the complexity and intensity of environmental problems, social needs, and moral values. One way to address these challenges is to facilitate empowered and effective problem-solving arenas such as courts or roundtables. Toward this end, I have synthesized the Authentic Arena Theoretical Framework (AATF). The AATF is a holistic, interdisciplinary, utilitarian, and theory-based approach to creating and improving the arenas for environmental decision-making. I have based it on an early definition of authentic arenas, a broad and multidisciplinary literature review, and four case studies. The driving force of the AATF is the concept of authenticity, which acts to foster outcomes that are satisfactory, implemented, effective, and environmentally and socially sound.

In this defense, I analyze the authenticity of four arenas: the Land Use Commission of Hawaii, the Kona/Kohala Natural Resources Roundtable in Hawaii, the Resource Management & Planning Appeal Tribunal (RMPAT) of Tasmania, Australia, and RMPAT in the case of the Meander Dam Appeal. Each arena addresses disputes between conservation and development to varying degrees of success. My focus is on the functionality, empowerment, and effectiveness of the four arenas. Data collection included archival extraction, in-depth interviews, questionnaires, and personal observation. Using the AATF as the analytical framework, I diagnose strengths and weaknesses in each arena. A further comparative assessment suggests improvements for each arena, provides insights on the power of authenticity, and demonstrates the utility of the AATF as a problem-solving tool. I conclude that arenas with greater degrees of authenticity tend to have more capable decision-making and more effective decisions.

FR 8107 Seminar Series

Time, date, and location: Monday, April 9, 2007, 2:30 pm

Title1: Connecting National Wildlife Refuges with Green Infrastructure: From Patches to Networks

Presenter 1: Jared T Bowman, Graduate Student

Notes 1: Open space on the periphery of large urban areas is diminishing rapidly due to growing development pressures, land privatization, and fragmentation. Maintaining ecological connectivity at the broader scale for the benefit of both people and wildlife has become increasingly challenging because of this trend. One way this issue is being addressed is by the development of green infrastructure networks for use by planners and managers at all levels to set conservation priorities, plan for continued growth and development, and coordinate efforts for a sustainable landscape. This project looks at a 5-county region (Benton, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Sherburne, and Stearns) surrounding two National Wildlife Refuges

(NWR) on the edge of the expanding Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Using Sherburne and Crane Meadows NWR as ecological hubs, this study aggregates existing GIS data for a suitability analysis that identifies and prioritizes potential corridor areas between the reserves. This case study builds on current environmental planning models, but with modifications for the local landscape and data sources in Minnesota, with the goal of bringing the U.S. one step closer to a National Environmental Network.

--AND--

Title 2: Are We Stocking the Right Fish? An Assessment of the Genetic Population Structure of Slimy Sculpin, (*Cottus cognatus*), in Southeast Minnesota and its Use in Evaluating Reintroduction Efforts

Presenter 2: Emily R. Butler, Undergraduate Honors Program - Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology

Time: 3:00 pm

Notes: Slimy sculpins, *Cottus cognatus*, are a native fish found in the coldwater streams of southeastern Minnesota. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR) recently began a program to restore sculpin populations in streams in which they were extirpated. This program can be enhanced with genetic information in two ways: 1) genetic data can identify genetic variation among populations that is important to conserve as a component of biological diversity, and 2) genetic markers can determine which source populations perform best in restoration efforts. We identified a suite of genetic markers suitable for describing genetic structure among slimy sculpin populations. In a screening of 27 microsatellite DNA loci developed for related sculpin species, we identified eight loci that resolve genetic variation within and among slimy sculpin populations. Throughout southeastern Minnesota, populations showed strong genetic differentiation between major drainages and even within the same drainage, indicating highly isolated populations. Simulations showed that we could identify the source of an unknown fish based on its genotype with almost 100% accuracy, and could accurately identify hybrids between source populations. Therefore, genetic testing will allow us to identify the appropriate sources for restoration and will help the MNDNR to protect the genetic integrity of sculpin populations.

Environmental Resources Weekly Seminar

Date, time, and location: Monday, April 9 from 12:00-1:30 p.m. in Room 119 Classroom Office Building (please note room change)

Presenter: QQ Huang, Department of Applied Economics, U of M

Title: "Optimal Allocation of Groundwater Resource in the Hai River Basin: Managing Quantity and Quality"

Abstract: Despite the importance of groundwater in stimulating the growth of the Hai River Basin (HRB), serious problems have arisen in the both the resource's quantity (falling water tables) and quality (salinization of the aquifer). Hydrological and hydrogeological studies have shown that increases in the salinization of parts of the fresh water aquifers are closely related to the extraction of groundwater. Since the level of the groundwater and the degree of salinization are both related to the rate of extraction of groundwater, when determining how to use groundwater optimally, a framework that considers the interaction between water quantity and quality is required for an integrated and more efficient management of groundwater resources. This study aims to examine how the presence of the prehistoric saline water layer affects groundwater management.

Specifically, we will address three questions: 1.) How does the optimal allocation of groundwater resource (both the pumping path and the level of pumping lift and salinity level at the steady state) differ between the regions with salinization problems and regions without such problems? 2.) In regions with salinization problems, how would the impact of pumping on groundwater quantity and quality differ when water users extract in a cooperative way as if they were managed by a social planner and when water users extract in a non-cooperative way? 3.) What are the implications for policies that we can draw for managing groundwater in the HRB?

Candidate for Atmosphere biosphere-modeling position

Date, time and location: Tuesday, April 10, 3:00 – 4:00 pm 375 Borlaug Hall

Presenter: Peter Snyder

Title: A butterfly flaps its wings: The unintended regional and global consequences of Amazonian deforestation

Notes: Although it has been established that the biosphere has an influence on the atmosphere at local and regional scales, there is widespread disagreement over whether the biosphere is capable of influencing the global climate through large-scale changes to the atmospheric general circulation. Numerous studies have already identified the regional climate response to human modification of the landscape through changes to the biophysical exchanges of energy, water, and momentum between the land surface and the atmosphere. However, we still do not understand whether land use and land cover change are capable of influencing remote regions through teleconnection processes. Furthermore, given a specific surface forcing, it is not entirely clear where the response will occur, how strong it will be, or how large a surface forcing is required in order for a climate response to be felt globally. Tropical deforestation is one example of a surface forcing that has the potential to influence the global climate. Several studies have suggested that significant changes to the Northern Hemisphere climate may occur as a result of selective tropical deforestation in the Amazon basin, yet most of these studies have focused on the climate response in the extratropics with little explanation of the mechanisms responsible for propagating the signal out of the tropics. This has led to disagreement over whether these mechanisms are real or are, in fact, artifacts generated by “noise” in climate models.

I will present results from a coupled atmosphere-biosphere model, CCM3-IBIS (Community Climate Model, version 3 – Integrated Biosphere Simulator), to illustrate the potential influence of theoretical land use and land cover change on the global climate by way of atmospheric teleconnections. The results suggest that pan-tropical and Amazonian deforestation can have a strong influence on the Northern Hemisphere general circulation by way of changes to synoptic-scale dynamics and land-atmosphere feedbacks both in the Amazon and in Asia. The result is a large warming across parts of Asia in boreal winter. While theoretical, this approach illustrates the potentially important processes connecting regional land surface changes in the tropics to climate changes in far-removed regions.

PhD Defense

Time, Date, and location: 9:00am on Wednesday April 11th in Blegen 435.

Presenter: Farhana Sultana

Title: "Suffering for Water, Suffering from Water: Political ecologies of arsenic, water and development in Bangladesh".

EEB Weekly Seminar

Date, time and location: Wednesday, **April 11**, 4 p.m., 335 Borlaug

Presenter: Dr. Mike Wade, Dept of Biology, Indiana University

Title: "Maternal Genetic Effects and Evolution"

Notes: Maternal genetic effects are arguably the most important class of 'indirect genetic effects,' because they play a central role in development. Indirect genetic effects affect our standard notions of heredity and gene mapping and they are particularly important in the evolution of social behaviors and phenotypic plasticity. When a gene has a maternal pattern of expression, its level of replacement site diversity within a population is higher and its rate of divergence across taxa is also higher. As a result of their pattern of expression, maternal genes may be the cutting edge in the origin of evolutionary phenotypic novelty.

Hosts: Dr. Mark Borrello

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

The fifth annual William E. Larson and Raymond R. Allmaras lecture on Emerging Issues in Soil and Water

Date and time: Thursday **12 April** 2007, 2:00-4:30 PM

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.

If you need more information, please contact Dr. Satish Gupta, sgupta@umn.edu, 612-625-1241.

Betty J. Davidson

Ph.D. Defense

The Dept of Entomology would like to invite you to a Ph.D. Thesis Defense Seminar

Date: Friday, **April 13**, 2007

Title: Spatial Distribution of European Corn Borers, *Ostrinia nubilalis*, and the Response of the Specialist Parasitoid *Macrocentrus grandii* to Host Heterogeneity in the Field

Presenter: Cynthia (Simon) Hsu, Graduate Student, Department of Entomology, University of Minnesota

Time: Refreshments, 1:00 p.m. - Seminar 1:15 p.m.

Place: 490 Hodson Hall

Everyone welcome.

Announcements

Sustainability Studies Minor—Events

David Tillman Seminar

"The food-fuel-environment conflict: a path towards sustainability" **APRIL 19th!!** This timely discussion will be held in RM 100 Rapson Hall from 12:30 - 1:45 pm. **RSVP by April 16** to reserve a sustainable box lunch from Trotter's Cafe!!!

Sustainability Film Contest

MAY 3rd AT THE BELL!! <http://www.sustainability.umn.edu/greenshots/index.html>

The new Sustainability Studies Minor invites you to create a short (< 5 min) film expressing your thoughts on a sustainable and environmentally friendly world. This contest is open to all undergraduate students at the University of Minnesota. Top films will be screened and judged

at the Bell Museum on Thursday, May 3, 2007. Winning filmmakers will receive prizes including an Apple iPod. Check out our website to see our own Green Short!!!

Arid Lands at the Bell

THURSDAY • APRIL 12 • 7:00 PM Film screening at the Bell Auditorium

Arid Lands takes us into a world of sports fishermen, tattoo artists, housing developers, and radiation scientists living near the Hanford nuclear site in southeastern Washington state. Sixty years ago, Hanford produced plutonium for the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki. Today, it is the focus of the largest environmental cleanup in history. Followed by a panel discussion with co-director Josh Wallaert and U of M geographers Bruce Braun and George Henderson. Tickets \$5-7. www.sidelongfilms.com

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*!

It is time to clean up your department!

The Campus Cleanup will take place on: Beautiful U Day, Thursday, April 19, 2007. Hampers for old computer equipment, books and magazines, and office paper and files will be delivered to your office. In conjunction with Beautiful U Day, Facilities Management will provide additional cleaning products that will be available upon request on the 19th. In order to participate and for more information on the Campus Cleanup you must RSVP to Sara or Carrie at 4-8553 by Thursday, April 12!

GAPSA

As you may have heard, the President of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly will be chosen this year through an election of all graduate and professional students, held online, April 16-18. To let you learn about the candidates, you can find brief statements by each on the homepage of our website, www.gapsa.umn.edu.

There will also be a candidate forum this Thursday, April 5, from 7-8 p.m. in the West Bank Auditorium. The audience will be allowed to ask questions, so come prepared with your most pressing issues for graduate and professional students!

Finally, if you are interested in serving on the GAPSA executive board for the coming year, elections will take place at the April 25th Assembly meeting. The following positions are open:

- Executive Vice President (manages internal affairs, assists the President)
- VP for Finance (treasurer of GAPSA)
- VP for Administrative Affairs (Grad/Prof Student representative to the Board of Regents)
- VP for Programming (plans GAPSA social events and promotions)
- VP for Public Affairs (handles legislative and neighborhood affairs)
- VP for Grants (administers our grants programs)
- VP for Student Affairs (represents GAPSA on the Student and University Senates)

More detailed descriptions of the responsibilities of the executive board positions are available at: <http://www.gapsa.umn.edu/elections/index.htm>. If you have any questions, please e-mail gapsa@umn.edu.

Jobs

The Heinz Center

The Heinz Center, a Washington, D.C. based non-profit, is seeking applications for the position of research associate in its Saint Paul, MN satellite office. The successful candidate will work on The State of the Nation's Ecosystems report series, a major project at the Heinz Center designed to establish a suite of ecological indicators for the United States, analogous to the economic indicators. The Heinz Center conducts policy-relevant environmental research with a collaborative, multi-sector approach involving experts from business, environmental organizations, academia, and government (www.heinzctr.org/ecosystems).

The Position: Reporting to the Program's senior research associate, who is based at the University of Minnesota, the successful candidate will be an integral part of an eight-member project team that is split between offices in Washington and Saint Paul. This is a 9 to 12 month position, with some possibility of renewal. Target starting date is 01 May 2007.

Position involves widely varied responsibilities on a small project team. Selected candidate will work on all aspects of the project and have significant direct involvement with multi-sector committees. Position demands ability to grasp technical aspects of new issues very quickly; willingness to work on issues dealing with multiple terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem types; ability to work with committees with widely disparate views and backgrounds; and good written and oral communications skills. Candidates should have some willingness to travel. The successful candidate will be expected to work efficiently in an independent manner with a high degree of professionalism.

Qualifications: An earned Master's Degree or Ph.D. in natural science. Relevant work experience will be used in evaluating candidate's applications.

Application: Applicants should provide cover letter, resume / CV, the names of three references, and salary history to Kent Cavender-Bares, Senior Research Associate (bares@heinzctr.org; 612.435.4995 fax). The search will continue until the position is filled.

Visiting Professorship

Knox College invites applications for a 2/3 position as a visiting assistant professor or instructor in its Environmental Studies Program, for 2007-2008. Ph.D. preferred; A.B.D. considered. We seek an individual from within any field in the natural sciences, with interdisciplinary experience in environmental studies, whose expertise will strengthen and complement our present curriculum. Teaching responsibilities include: Introduction to Environmental Studies, Earth Science, and courses in the individual's specialty. The teaching load is four courses distributed over two trimesters. Evidence of excellent teaching is desired. Applications should include: (1) a curriculum vitae; (2) a letter of application which includes a statement of educational philosophy and a statement of teaching experience, effectiveness, and interests; and, (3) a sample of scholarship or research. Send applications to Dr. Peter Schwartzman, Chair, Environmental Studies Program, Knox College, K-63, 2 E. South St., Galesburg, IL 61401. Interested parties should contact Dr. Schwartzman by email (pschwart@knox.edu) before sending full applications. Applications will be considered as they are received and will continue to be accepted until the position is filled. Knox College is a private liberal arts college with 1,200 students. In keeping with the college's 168-year commitment to equal rights, Knox actively encourages women and members of other underrepresented groups to apply. Information about the Environmental Studies program at Knox College is available at: www.knox.edu/environmentalstudies.xml

University of St. Thomas Instructor Positions

The University of St. Thomas is seeking instructors to teach a variety of biology courses and associated labs in 2007-2008. I would be grateful if you could pass on this information to anyone who you think might be interested.

The courses are: Fall Semester 2007

- Diversity and Adaptation (first-year majors)
- Cellular and Molecular Biology (second-year majors)
- Comparative Anatomy and Physiology (upper division majors)
- Evolutionary Biology (upper division majors)

Spring Semester 2008

- Genetics, Evolution and Ecology (first-year majors)
- Global Ecology (second-year majors)
- Plant Biology (upper division majors)
- Advanced Physiology (upper division majors)

Pending administrative approval, we should be able to offer at least one Visiting Professorship (one-year, full-time, with benefits) for some of this instruction.

Additional information about these positions and the application process can be found in the attached advertisement.

Thank you in advance for any assistance you may be able to provide. I will follow up this email with a print copy of the advertisement if you would be willing to post it within your department.

Sincerely,

Simon K. Emms, Chair, Department of Biology, OWS 390

University of St. Thomas

St. Paul, MN 55105

skemms@stthomas.edu

651 962-5228

We're here to help

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 – 4/17, 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. 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!

The James P. Houck Lecture on Food and Consumer Policy

Date, time and location: Tuesday, **April 17th**, 2007, 3pm, Cargill Building for Microbial and Plant Genomics

Host: The Food Industry Center will host

Title: "A Houckian's Perspective on Several Contemporary Issues"

Presenter: Dr. Michael V. Martin, President, New Mexico State University

<http://www.onestop.umn.edu/Maps/CargillB/>

Notes: James P. Houck was known for applying wit and wisdom to his teaching of economics and to his writing. He believed that "everything should be made as simple as possible, but no simpler." He was fond of quoting Shakespeare, Frost, and Tennyson and interjecting their thoughts into the lessons of economics trade theory. Houck was adamant about clear communication often using metaphors such as the University being like a Feudal Society. President Michael Martin, a former student of Dr. Houck's, will be honoring James P. Houck by injecting some "Houckian" wit into his lecture on current affairs.

To register for this free lecture sponsored by The Food Industry Center and the Department of Applied Economics, please visit the Applied Economics web site at: http://www.apec.umn.edu/houck_lecture07_registration.html

James P. Houck Lecture on Food and Consumer Policy

The Minnesota Lectures on Applied Economics and Policy presents the second James P. Houck Lecture on Food and Consumer Policy on Tuesday, **April 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. Michael V. Martin, President of New Mexico State University. He will present, "A Houckian's Perspective on Several Contemporary Issues?"

Dr. Martin is an academic leader whose career has been dedicated to the land-grant mission of teaching, research and extension service. Before moving to NMSU, he served for six years as vice president for agriculture and natural resources at the University of Florida, leading the University's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. He was elevated to senior vice president of the University of Florida shortly before being selected as NMSU's president. Previously, he was vice president for agricultural policy and the Dean of the College of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences at the University of Minnesota.

James P. Houck was known for applying wit and wisdom to his teaching of economics and to his writing. He believed that "everything should be made as simple as possible, but no simpler." He was fond of quoting Shakespeare, Frost, and Tennyson and interjecting their

thoughts into the lessons on the economics of trade policy. Houck was adamant about clear communication often using metaphors such as the University being like a Feudal Society. President Michael Martin, a former student of Dr. Houck's, will be honoring James P. Houck by injecting some "Houckian" wit into his lecture on current affairs.

There is no charge for this event. If you are interested in attending, please go to our Department website at: <http://www.apec.umn.edu/houcklecture07.html> and follow the online registration instructions.

*Sincerely,
Rob King*

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>.

Annual Distinguished Teaching Awards Ceremony

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to attend the Annual Distinguished Teaching Awards ceremony on Monday, **April 23**, 2007. This event will begin at 3:30 p.m. in the McNamara Alumni Center's Memorial Hall. All members of the University community are invited to this special ceremony and reception to honor 12 distinguished teachers for their contributions to undergraduate, graduate, and professional education.

Award recipients are inducted into the Academy of Distinguished Teachers, in recognition of the significance of their teaching excellence. Recipients join their Academy colleagues from all four campuses to provide important leadership to the University community, serving as mentors, advisers, and spokespersons for the University's teaching mission.

I hope you will join me for this important occasion, as we celebrate the University's teaching mission and recognize the contributions made by 12 of our colleagues. To register for this event, go to www.alumni.umn.edu/distinguishedteaching or call 612-625-9174.

The Kermit A. Olson Memorial Lecture

Date, time, and location: Wednesday, **April 25**, 2007 at 4:00, 110 Green Hall, Saint Paul Campus

Dr. Tomasz Anisko, Curator of Plants at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania

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

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.evolutionsociety.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.

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

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

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.

Carol E. Macpherson Memorial Scholarship Funds for 2007-08

These are one-time awards of \$1,000-4,000 designed to provide financial support for non-traditional aged women returning to higher education after a break of 5 or more consecutive years in their pursuit of higher education. See eligibility requirements below and download application materials at <http://www.umn.edu/women/scholar.htm> Deadline: **April 30**, 2007

SUBMIT TO:

OFFICE FOR UNIVERSITY WOMEN

185 Klaeber Court

320 16th Avenue SE Mpls. MN 55455

(Campus Delivery Code 3013) Phone: 612.625.9837

Eligibility Requirements:

- * Women students (28 years or older) who have had five-year or longer consecutive break in their post-secondary education
- * Demonstrated Financial Need
- * Admission or pending admission to undergraduate or graduate/professional degree or credit certificate program at any U of M campus
- * Meet half-time enrollment status minimum
- * Provide academic transcripts of all college/post-secondary enrollment
- * Complete 2007-08 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and submit the Student Aid Report with your scholarship application
- * Good academic standing at the University of Minnesota
- * Submit support letters from 2 references who have known student & her educational goals

Additionally, applicant selection is "weighted" by the following characteristics:

- * First generation in family to attend college
- * First undergraduate degree (though graduate students are still eligible to apply)

Review Criteria:

Evidence of academic achievement, strength of applicant's personal statement, reference letters indicating educational goals and academic promise, financial need, and special circumstances. Completed application and ALL required materials must be submitted by the April 30, 2007 deadline.

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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