

# Conservation Biology Graduate Program Weekly Newsletter

16 October 2006

A weekly newsletter of the Conservation  
Biology Graduate Program

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

Submissions to [coop0162@umn.edu](mailto:coop0162@umn.edu)



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## Editor's Corner

Welcome to the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of October! We've seen the extremes of Minnesota weather within the last couple of weeks and I can't wait for the snow to start sticking around. Ski season is just around the corner! I've been off exploring America's National Parks, west coast cities, and everything in between. It was a grand tour of volcanic wonders, environmental destruction, and rebirth. I drove through vast clear cuts of the Olympic rainforest, stopped to see seals on their pupping grounds in the Muir Wilderness, just steps outside of San Francisco, and at Pier 39 I watched a few hundred California Sea Lions basking in the sun. The howls of wolves and browsing elk woke me up in the Grand Tetons, and the sight of foraging black bears kept me from sleeping soundly in Lake Tahoe. I'm back in Minnesota refreshed and excited to power through my dissertation experiments so I can get out into the world. I highly recommend such a trip for everyone, however, there are some great seminars this week, so don't take off just yet!

*Anne Cooper*



*Remembrance. English Beach, Vancouver, B.C.*

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## Course Notes

### FW 8352

The Introduction to Conservation Biology class had three guest lecturers in October while Dr. Dave Smith was out of the country dealing with the WWF tragedy in Nepal. Adam Barlow lectured on metapopulations, Erin Roche on population viability analysis (PVA) and Pete Cutter on habitat loss and fragmentation. Students then led class discussions on the lecture topics. Before each discussion, students were asked to read additional journal articles on the topic, augmenting textbook material. Examples of particularly interesting discussions were on 1) PVA modelling and its limitations, and 2) different types of protected areas (e.g., national parks and Ramsar wetlands). Classmates from Cambodia and Kenya described the types of protected areas in their countries and the conflict of respecting the interests of local residents while protecting biodiversity.

After Dr. Smith returned from Nepal, he lectured on land-based conservation strategies, habitat degradation and invasive species.

*Genya Dana*

*1<sup>st</sup> Year PhD student advised by Dr. Anne R. Kapuscinski*

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## Lectures/seminars on campus

### Conservation Biology

Date: 16 October 2006

Time: 4:05-5:00

Location: Room 140, Plant Growth Facility

Just go to the "Seed of Knowledge sculpture at the corner of Gortner and Folwell, head through those doors and take a right.

Presenter(s): Dr. Kristen Nelson

Topic: "What does theory look like in practice? Social networks as a dynamic mechanism for conservation systems"

Notes: This seminar is the second of four talks in our mini-series "Integrating Theory & Application in Conservation". Do social networks exist and if so why would it matter for conservation biology? What characteristics would an "ideal type" of a network have? Does that constitute a theory? It is certainly hypothetical. Help me look for them and think about how they function in two applied examples: wildfire preparedness and multifunctional agricultural systems.

*This should be a great talk! Please join us--all are welcome and as always, refreshments will be provided.*

See you then!

*The CB Seminar Coordinators*

*Liz Johnson*

*Derric Pennington*

*Rachel Brummel*

### M.S. Thesis Defense Seminar

Time and Date: Tuesday, October 17, 9 am

Presenter: Carlene Henneman

Title: Habitat associations of red-shouldered hawks in central Minnesota landscapes  
Location: Room 365, Borlaug Hall  
Refreshments will be provided

### Water Resources Science Seminar

Date: Monday, October 16, 2006

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Location: 415 Alderman Hall–St. Paul Campus

Presenter: Steve Morse, Executive Director Minnesota Environmental partnership

Topic: "Stakeholder engagement that matters: Who's in control anyway?"

### Ecology, Evolution and Behavior

Date: 18 October 2006

Time: 4:00-5:00

Location: 335 Borlaug Hall

Presenter: Dr. Antonio Gonzalez Rodriguez

Topic: "Genetic structure of oak hybrid zones in Mexico"

Notes: Hybridization and introgression are considered important influences in the adaptive evolution and diversification of many plant groups. The oaks (genus *Quercus*) are notorious for producing interspecific hybrids in many combinations with a high frequency, but the general significance of hybridization in the evolution of this diverse and important woody plant genus is not clear. Mexico has almost 200 oak species, with over 100 of them endemic to the country. Therefore, studies of oaks in Mexico offer the opportunity to discern the patterns, dynamics and outcomes of hybridization among species with various degrees of relatedness, from different geographic distributions and in contrasting ecological contexts. I will present a series of morphological, population genetics and phylogeographic studies conducted on three different hybridizing species groups, and discuss prospects for future research.

Host: Jeannine Cavender-Bares

Snacks: Coffee/cookies served outside 100 Ecology at 3:30

### Forest Resources

Date: 18 October 2006

Time: 3:00 pm

Location: 203 Green Hall

Presenter: Stephanie Grayzeck, NRSM Master's Student

Topic: Defining the Wildland Urban Interface: A Dialogue between Federal, State, and Local Actors in Community Wildfire Planning

Notes: The wildland urban interface (WUI) is where urban lands meet wild and rural lands. As more and more people move out to fire prone areas, the expanding WUI has become a major factor in fire management, as more lives and property are at risk. The severe and costly wildfire seasons in the past several years have prompted legislation that encourages collaborative prevention and planning efforts between local, state, and federal entities. In 2003, the federal Healthy Forests Restoration Act called for at-risk communities across the country to develop Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) that address fuels reduction and fire prevention. This presentation outlines a research project that will look at CWPPs to identify what communities consider when creating the wildland urban interface, and how such

factors as scale, participants, and land ownership play a role in deciding on a WUI area.

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## Announcements

### CB Website

Anup is in a process of setting up student pages in CB web site for first year students. If anyone wants to update their current profile this will be good opportunity to do so. Please provide following information along with a picture (electronic version only) by October 20, 2006.

**Degree:**

**E-Mail:**

**Work Phone:**

**University Address:**

**Advisor (s):**

**Research:** A brief description of your research project in 1 or 2 paragraphs.

**Research Interest:** Please choose from following list only!

1. Ecological and/or Genetic Issues in Conservation
2. Conservation of Populations, Species, and Ecosystems
3. Landscape Analysis
4. Economics and Policies of Conservation and Sustainable Resource Use
5. Social and Cultural Aspects of Conservation
6. Plants
7. Mammals
8. Birds
9. Fish
10. Invertebrates
11. Reptiles and Amphibians

Thanks,  
Anup

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## News you can use

The Sustainable University <http://chronicle.com/>

*Join the discussion online at the Chronicle of Higher Education*

Thursday, October 19, at 2 p.m., U.S. Eastern time

Colleges and universities have recently been constructing green buildings, buying renewable energy, serving local food, and establishing living wages, all in the name of sustainability, a burgeoning movement in academe that may pervade both campus operations and the curriculum. But sustainability is a complicated concept, little understood and difficult to carry out. Is the movement in academe a genuine effort to run institutions sustainably, or is this mere "greenwashing"? Will colleges and universities apply their newfound sustainable ethics to difficult issues, like their investments?

- Click here to [ask a question](#).
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## Fellowships

### A New Graduate Traineeship Program Supported by the National Science Foundation at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

"Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development in Southwest China"

Exceptional students interested in interdisciplinary and international environmental study are invited to apply for an NSF IGERT PhD Traineeship at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. These traineeships have a generous stipend, tuition waiver, and health benefits. Meeting the major challenges of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development requires understanding the interactions of biological, physical, social, and economic forces. IGERT trainees will address these issues by pursuing a PhD in one of over a dozen departments and participating in IGERT seminars, workshops, language training, and field research in the Himalayas of Yunnan, China-a "biodiversity hotspot." For more information and application instructions, please visit <http://www.swchina.wisc.edu>. The application deadline for this program is January 15, 2007.

NOTE: UW-Madison also is home to a second new IGERT program, Certificate on Humans and the Global Environment (CHANGE), focused on issues of vulnerability and sustainability of the global environment. For more information, please visit <http://www.sage.wisc.edu/igert>.

Terilyn D. Allendorf, PhD

Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development IGERT Program Manager  
University of Wisconsin-Madison 240 Agriculture Hall 1450 Linden Drive Madison, WI 53706

Telephone: 608/262-3946

Fax: 608/262-8852

<http://www.swchina.wisc.edu/>

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## Conferences

### 2nd Annual Coral Reef Conservation and Management Conference

November 8-9, 2006-James L. Knight International Center-Miami FL

Registration Fees:

Early Bird Rate (before October 14, 2007) - \$399

Full Conference Rate - \$499

Student Rate - \$99

<http://www.informalearning.com/coralreefs>

### Conserv-vision

This a reminder that the deadline for abstracts and proposals for the conference (4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> July 2007) is the end of this month, October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Confirmed plenary speakers include **Jeffrey A. McNeely**, IUCN Chief Scientist ; **Daniel Simberloff**, PhD (*Harvard*) Professor of Environmental Science, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, The University of Tennessee; **Vandana Shiva**, PhD, Director, Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Ecology, New Delhi; winner of the *Global 500 Award* of the *United Nations Environment Programme* (UNEP); **Geoff Park**,

PhD (*Australian National University*) Wellington-based ecologist and writer, author of *Nga Uruora* and *Theatre Country*; **Ross Cullen** PhD (*Otago*), Professor of Resource Economics, Lincoln University.

We expect that the conference will be an inspiring exchange of the visionary and the practical. We hope that it brings together scientists, policy-makers and members of the community. We hope that each of you will note the date in your calendar.

Registration fees will be

Early bird student ( <i>if paid before 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2007</i> ):	\$100
Standard student:	\$150
One day registration ( <i>no discount for Early bird</i> ):	\$150
Early bird full registration: ( <i>if paid before 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2007</i> )	\$450
Standard full registration:	\$550
Conference Dinner:	\$75
Half day field trip:	\$40
Whole day field trip:	\$60

We look forward to receiving a proposal from you,

Kind regards

Mairi Jay, MA *Brit Col.* MA. *Waterloo.* PhD, Waikato. MNZPI

Senior Lecturer

University of Waikato

<http://www.waikato.ac.nz/wfass/subjects/geography/rep>

<http://www.waikato.ac.nz/wfass/Conserv-Vision/>

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## Job Opportunities

Society for Conservation Biology's Policy Director (previously Policy Coordinator) position.

Qualified applications with enthusiasm and talent should apply no later than 3 November 2006. See below for details of application submission.

Job Title: Policy Director for the Society for Conservation Biology

Job Type: full-time permanent position

Opportunity location: Washington, DC, US

Closing date (if specified): 3 Nov 2006

The Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) is a global community of conservation professionals with over 12,000 members (resource managers, educators, government and private conservation workers, informed members of the public, and students) dedicated to advancing the science and practice of conserving the Earth's biological diversity. More information about SCB can be found here: <http://www.conbio.org>.

The SCB seeks a Policy Director (PD) to fill two critical roles: to participate directly in the policy process and to empower the membership by providing them with the information and skills necessary to influence the policy process themselves. Generally the PD is responsible for coordinating all policy activities of the Society, is expected to maintain an

office in the Executive Office of SCB in Arlington, Virginia, and reports to the Executive Director. This position requires significant abilities and experience in communications, a broad understanding of SCB's mission and philosophies, sensitivity to maintaining an objective role for SCB scientists in the policy arena, and a clear vision for SCB's role in influencing conservation policy and compelling ideas on how to achieve it. The position requires initiative, flexibility, and the ability to maintain a high level of confidentiality. A major focus of this position in the first two years will be policy related to North America...

#### Instructions to Applicants

Applicants should send cover letter (including statement of interest) and resume to: Alan D. Thornhill, PhD., Executive Director, Society for Conservation Biology, [athornhill@conbio.org](mailto:athornhill@conbio.org). Email applications preferred. Please use "SCB Policy Director Application" as the subject line of all emails related to this employment opportunity. Applicants who successfully advance to the first round of interviews will be asked for 2 references and a writing sample.

#### Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies and Conservation Biology

Ursinus College invites applications for a tenure-track assistant professor of environmental studies with expertise in conservation biology to begin in fall 2007. This position will be housed in the Ursinus Environmental Studies Program. A Ph.D. in conservation biology or related field is expected by the start of employment. We seek a broadly trained individual with expertise in both conservation science and environmental teaching and research. Prior experience teaching in an interdisciplinary environmental program is desirable. Teaching responsibilities will include courses and labs in biology (introductory, conservation biology, and topics within the candidate's field of expertise), and interdisciplinary environmental studies. The successful candidate must demonstrate a strong commitment to undergraduate teaching in a liberal arts setting and will be expected to participate in the College's liberal studies freshman seminar, establish a research program that involves students, and participate fully in the continuing development of the Environmental Studies Program and its many extracurricular programs.

Send a letter, c.v., undergraduate and graduate transcripts, statement of teaching philosophy, a plan for research involving students, and three letters of recommendation (at least one of which must address teaching) to Dr. Richard L. Wallace, Director, Environmental Studies Program, Ursinus College, P.O. Box 1000, Colledgeville, PA 19426. Applications must be received by October 15, 2006. For inquiries contact Dr. Wallace at [rwallace@ursinus.edu](mailto:rwallace@ursinus.edu) (no e-mail applications, please). Ursinus College, established in 1869, is a highly selective, independent, co-educational, residential liberal arts college of 1600 students located 25 miles northwest of center city Philadelphia. Ursinus College is an EEO/AA employer. In keeping with the college's historic commitment to equality, women and minorities are especially encouraged to apply.

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#### **Date Saver**

#### ADA COMSTOCK DISTINGUISHED WOMEN SCHOLARS LECTURE

Date: 25 October 2006

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Cowles Auditorium, HHH Center

The Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost, The Graduate School, The Office for University Women, and University of Minnesota Libraries invite you to attend the \*Fall 2006 Ada Comstock Distinguished Women Scholars Lecture\* featuring \*/Professor Karlyn Kohrs Campbell/\* in a lecture about Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Campbell is an outstanding scholar in the field of communication studies and a pioneer in feminist rhetorical discourse and theory. Please mark this date and join us for an informative lecture by an exceptional University scholar (more information will follow in print invitations).