

# Conservation Biology Graduate Program Weekly Newsletter

19 March 2007

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 Spring! The newsletter was delayed this week because my flight was delayed and I'm attending the Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society meeting. Of course there is plenty to do this week around and off campus. I've tried to include most of the offerings in this week's newsletter.

Before I close I would like to congratulate some fellow CBers, Rachel Brummel and Hadas Kushnir, who have won major awards to further their research. Congratulations! Let's keep those awards coming!

*Anne Cooper*

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## Lectures/seminars on campus

### Conservation Biology Seminar

Date and time: 19 March 4:00-5:00pm

Location: 335 Borlaug

Title: Local, regional, and global issues in grassland bird conservation

Presenter: Dr. Maiken Winter, Visiting Fellow, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University

Abstract: Local, regional, and global issues in grassland bird conservation inspired by a round-table discussion on grassland bird conservation that I co-organized last summer at the International Ornithological Conference in Hamburg, Germany, I will give an overview over grasslands and the state of grasslands and grassland birds in North-America and across the world. Using my own research as example, I will describe some of the factors that influence grassland bird populations, and how these factors can vary with scale. This overview will point out some of the major challenges we face in grassland bird conservation in the states and elsewhere in the world.

### Special presentation by Friends of the Mississippi River and the Mississippi and Watershed Management Organization

Presenter: Dr. Tyrone Hayes

Date and time: March 20, 6:30 p.m.

Location: Cowles Auditorium, Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 301, 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis

Pre-registration to [srich@fmr.org](mailto:srich@fmr.org) required

Notes: Do pesticides cause sexual malformation in frogs? If so, how might they affect humans and other living things in the Mississippi River watershed?

Eminent University of CA/Berkeley Biologist Dr. Tyrone Hayes, whose research is focused upon finding answers to these questions, will speak to a public audience about the impacts of atrazine and other pollutants on aquatic life and reproduction.

Read more at [http://www.fmr.org/hayes\\_20\\_mar\\_2007.html](http://www.fmr.org/hayes_20_mar_2007.html)

#### University of Minnesota Computer Science Department

Dr. Carlis will present his seminar on how to write a one-draft thesis. This should be useful information for any graduate student hoping to write a thesis.

Date and time: Monday March 19th at 3:30 pm

Location: 239 Gortner on the St. Paul campus

Title: "How to write a one draft thesis"

Notes: Since a successful thesis requires both a student and an advisor, advisors are encouraged to attend as well. The speaker requests that those attending the seminar read his article on writing a one draft thesis (attached PDF) and also looks at some completed theses for structural information before the seminar.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IN EUROPE

Visiting professor from Germany, Kristine Kern, will present the European Union's policy on sustainable development and compare it to the debate in the United States. Free lunch will be served. Please RSVP to Lin-Ching Nieh at <[niehx002@umn.edu](mailto:niehx002@umn.edu)> if you plan on attending. Details are on the ISSS.

Kristine Kern, Visiting Professor at University of Minnesota. She worked in various research institutes in Berlin such as the Institute for Urban Research and Structural Policy, the Social Science Research Center and many outstanding universities. Her research focuses on environmental policy and sustainable development in Europe and North America. More importantly, she got the Joachim Tiburtius Award (Dissertation Award of the Federal State of Berlin) in 1999.

Presentation Overview: The presentation will focus on the European Union's approaches in the area of environmental policy and sustainable development. It will concentrate on historical developments, general principles and the impact of EU enlargement on environmental policy and sustainable development in Europe. Furthermore, it will be asked how the EU handles the increasing risks of climate change and how this approach differs from the debate on global warming in the US.

Location: Room 202, [St. Paul Student Center](#) at St. Paul, Campus Speaker presentation followed by group discussion. Refreshment also provided. Join us and Free Lunch will be served. Please RSVP to [LinChing\\_Nieh](mailto:LinChing_Nieh) at [niehx002@umn.edu](mailto:niehx002@umn.edu) if you plan on attending.

#### The Farm Bill and the Food Pyramid Conversation: Confusing Messages for Consumers and Their Health

Presenter: Dr. Fred Kirschenman, Iowa State University and Dr. Allen Levine, CFANS Dean

Date and time: Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm - 2:00 p.m.

Location: 105 Cargill Genomics Building

Brief reception follows

Notes: Dr. Allen Levine, Dean of CFANS will explore the messages that consumers are receiving about their health with Dr. Fred Kirschenman, Distinguished Fellow of the Leopold Center at Iowa State University. The event will be 1:00 - 2:00p.m., March 19th in the Cargill Genomics Building in room 105 on the St. Paul campus.

### The Future of Agriculture: Fossil Fuels and Fossil Water

Presenter: Dr. Fred Kirschenman, Distinguished Fellow, Leopold Center, Iowa State University

Presenter: Professor of Religion and Philosophy

Date and time: Monday, March 19, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Location: 306 Borlaug Hall

Guest Speaker Background Information: Dr. Fred Kirschenman is a longtime national and international leader in sustainable agriculture. He holds a doctorate degree from the University of Chicago in Philosophy and is a Professor of Religion and Philosophy at Iowa State University. He has written extensively on the areas of ethics and agriculture. In November of 2005 he was appointed as Distinguished Fellow for the Leopold Center for sustainable agriculture at Iowa State University. From July 2000 to November 2005 he served as the Leopold Center Director. He also manages the Kirschenman Family Farm, a 3,500-acre certified organic farm located in south central North Dakota.

Dr. Kirschenman has worked to organize and lead many organizations in the area of sustainable agriculture. He has helped found Farm Verified Organic, Inc., an international private certification agency, and the Northern Plains Sustainable Agricultural Society. He has served numerous national and international appointments including the USDA's National Organic Standards Board, the North Central Region's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Administrative Council, and the Henry A. Wallace Institute for Alternative Agriculture Board of Directors.

### Behavior Faculty Candidate Seminar Ecology, Evolution and Behavior

Presenter: Dr. Mike Wilson, Gombe Stream Research Centre, Tanzania, University of Minnesota

Title: "Socioecology of territorial behavior in wild chimpanzees"

Date and time: Monday, March 19, 4 pm

Location: 150 Ecology

Notes: Observations of chimpanzee territorial behavior, including intergroup violence, have inspired many comparisons with primitive human warfare. Theoretical considerations suggest that numerical asymmetries play an important role in intergroup contests, and may account for the species distribution of lethal intergroup fighting, which in mammals appears largely restricted to chimpanzees, humans, and several social carnivores. To test whether chimpanzees base their response to intergroup threat on numerical assessment, I conducted playback experiments and observations on chimpanzees in Kibale National Park, Uganda. To examine the long-term consequences of numerical asymmetries, and to identify the social and ecological correlates of territorial behavior, I examined long-term data from Gombe National Park, Tanzania. Results of experiments and observations in Kibale supported the expectation that chimpanzees base their response to intergroup threat on numerical assessment. Adult males rarely traveled to the periphery of their range except when in parties with many other adult males, and they were more likely to approach and call in response to a simulated intruder when in parties with at least three adult males. Analysis of long-term data from Gombe indicated that numerical asymmetries have important long-term consequences. The large Kasekela community was more likely to win intergroup events with the smaller Mitumba community, and over the years the Kasekela chimpanzees have greatly expanded their range at the expense of their smaller neighbors. Preliminary data indicate that the abundance and distribution of food resources influence the frequency and timing of intergroup interactions.

Host: Dr. Anne Pusey, Refreshments in Ecology lobby at 3:30

### Forest Resources

Date and time: Monday, March 19, 2007, 2:30 p.m.

Location: 203 Green Hall, St Paul Campus

Title: "Making Sure the Sprawl Stays Green: Parks for Minnesota's New Outstate Urban Areas"

Presenter: Michael Wietecki, Graduate Student

Notes: Minnesota has entered a new era of development where rapid population growth is occurring outside the traditional metropolitan areas. Thanks to the low cost of transportation and communication, and the advent of the internet, people are able to live in remote sites and have nearly the same access to communication and information as people living in metropolitan areas. Thus, individuals and families are flocking to live and work in areas where they traditionally just vacationed. Longer and healthier lives are also making it possible for retirees to move to these outstate amenity areas.

The goal of this presentation is to identify outstate areas that will be undergoing the highest rate of population growth through 2030, quantify the amount of • Regional Parkland• that they need to maintain equity with the Metropolitan Council Regional Park System, and suggest a new strategy to maintain the: natural integrity, open space character, historic character, value as an amenity destination, and competitiveness in the global marketplace of Minnesota's natural assets.

### Departments of Forest Resources and Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior

Presenter: Dr. Carol Adair, University of Minnesota

Title: Causes and consequences of exotic species invasion along Colorado's Front Range

Date and time: Wednesday, March 21, 4 pm

Location: 335 Borlaug

Hosts: Sarah Hobbie, Peter Reich

Refreshments at 3:30 in the EEB lobby.

### Environmental and Resource Economics

Date and time: Monday, March 19 from 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Location: Room 230 Classroom Office Building

Presenter: Sangwon Suh, Bioproducts/Biosystems Engineering, U of M

Title: "Life Cycle Thinking in Perspective."

Abstract: Life Cycle Thinking (LCT) is a paradigm that provides a holistic picture of an entire product system including resources extraction, material processing, transportation, manufacturing, distribution, use, disposal and reuse/recycling. In this seminar, the concept of LCT is discussed in the management and environmental policy contexts. We will also talk about Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) as a quantitative tool to support LCT. Finally, LCT is discussed from the perspective of emission reduction possibility frontier. LCT incorporates a wide range of approaches in reducing environmental impacts considering the entire life-cycle of a product. Exploring possible options of reducing environmental impacts throughout the life-cycle, one can choose least-cost technology to meet certain environmental impact reduction goal.

### Additional Environmental and Resource Economics Seminar

Date and time: Friday, March 23, 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Location: Room 119 Classroom Office Building.

Presenter: Professor John List, Department of Economics, University of Chicago

Title: "Field Experiments, with Applications to Charitable Fundraising."

Refreshments will be served

### Water Resources Seminar

Date and time: Friday March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 3:00-4:00

Location: 375 Borlaug Hall University of Minnesota - St. Paul Campus

Presenter: Martin O. Saar, Assistant Professor, Department of Geology and Geophysics, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

Title: Aquifers as Selective Filters for Natural Groundwater Flow Tracers

Refreshments: 2:30-3:00

### Ph.D. Defense Seminar

Date and time: Monday, March 26th, 1 p.m.

Location: Ecology 150, Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior

Presenter: Lilian Pintea, Ph.D. Candidate

Title: "Applying remote sensing and GIS for chimpanzee habitat change detection, behavior, and conservation"

Notes: Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*), our closest living relatives, are declining alarmingly in abundance and distribution all across Africa. Clearing of forests and woodlands has one of the most rapid and devastating impacts, leaving chimpanzees in isolated, small populations that face edge effects and elevated risk of extinction. Satellite imagery could be a powerful tool to map chimpanzee habitats and threats at the landscape scale even in the most remote, difficult to access areas. However, few applications exist to demonstrate how these remote sensing methods can be used in Africa for chimpanzee research and conservation in practice. This study is the first to integrate remote sensing and chimpanzee behavior data. In chapter one, I investigate the use of Landsat MSS and ETM+ satellite imagery to monitor dry tropical forests and miombo woodlands change between 1972-1999 inside and outside Gombe National Park, Tanzania. In chapter two, I use 25 years of data on Gombe chimpanzees to investigate to what extent vegetation variables detected from multi-temporal satellite images can be applied to understand changes in chimpanzee feeding and party size. In chapter three, I use 1972, 1991 and 2003 Landsat and SPOT satellite imagery as the basis for Threat Reduction Assessment to evaluate conservation outcomes of a ten year community based conservation project in Tanzania. The findings suggest that the remote sensing methods applied in this study could provide new exciting prospects for socioecological research and a baseline to measure our conservation success.

Coffee and refreshments are available before the seminar.

### Conservation Medicine (TTM) Seminar

Sponsored by the University of Minnesota, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases and International Medicine & Region's Hospital/HealthPartners: Center for International Health & International Travel Clinic

We are pleased to announce the March Conservation Medicine/TTM meeting. The announcement and directions will be available at [www.tropical.umn.edu](http://www.tropical.umn.edu) (under "Schedule 2007"). Presentations will be made available at this website following the meeting for those of you unable to attend.

The seminar will be held on March 22nd, at Shriner's Hospital for Children on East River Road. Dinner will be provided. It will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room (as usual) from 6:00 pm until 8:45ish pm.

*The schedule is as follows:*

6:00 Dinner and Announcements

6:15 - 6:45 Global Health Update & Introduction to Conservation Medicine. Jonathan Sellman, MD Infectious Disease Consultant, HealthPartners Medical Group and

Clinical Scholar Assistant Professor, Division of Infectious Diseases, University of Minnesota

6:45 - 7:00 BREAK

7:00 - 8:00 Atrazine, Frogs, and Endocrine Disruption. Tyrone Hayes, PhD, Professor, University of California, Berkeley. Eminent University of CA, Berkeley environmental endocrinologist, Dr. Tyrone Hayes will speak about his research connecting environmental pollutants, amphibian developmental abnormalities, and human health. For more information about Dr. Hayes, see his University website:

[http://ib.berkeley.edu/research/interests/research\\_profile.php?person=85](http://ib.berkeley.edu/research/interests/research_profile.php?person=85)

We would like to sincerely thank Mark Prueter and Shelly Golden from GlaxoSmithKline for their ongoing support. All are welcome; there is no fee. We hope you may attend. RSVP's are appreciated (email: [stauf005@tc.umn.edu](mailto:stauf005@tc.umn.edu) or phone 612-722-3389).

If you know of potential speakers, or are interested in presenting, please contact Jonathon Sellman or Bill Stauffer. Please express your gratitude to the presenters and supporters as all participants volunteer their knowledge, time and services. Also, we appreciate your ongoing feedback as we strive to make this a high quality seminar series.

*Bill Stauffer & Jonathan Sellman & David Boulware*

#### Ada Comstock Distinguished Women Scholars Lecture

Presenter: Professor Catherine French, Civil Engineering

Title: "Shake, Rattle, and Roll: Testing Structures to Their Limits"

Date, time and location: **March 22**, 2007, 7:30 p.m., Cowles Auditorium, Hubert H. Humphrey Center

Reception follows lecture.

FREE. RSVP: 612-625-9837 or [women@umn.edu](mailto:women@umn.edu)

This program is co-sponsored by the Office of the Vice President and Provost for Academic Affairs, the Office for University Women in the Office of the Vice President and Vice Provost for Equity and Diversity, The Graduate School, and University Libraries

#### Water Resources Science Seminar

Friday, March 23, 2007 @ 3:00

Martin Saar from the Department of Geology & Geophysics will be the speaker.

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## **Announcements**

#### Craig Groves Visit to Campus

Craig Groves, conservation biologist and planner with Wildlife Conservation Society, will be visiting the University of Minnesota early next week. If you are interested, there are few times in his schedule for 30-minute meetings with individuals or groups next Monday, 3/26 and Tuesday, 3/27. The meetings will take place on the Minneapolis campus at Rapson Hall. His H.W.S. Cleveland lecture/CB seminar will be at 5:45 PM on Monday, March 26 at the Rapson Hall Auditorium (room 100). His lecture is co-sponsored by the Department of Landscape Architecture, College of Design, and the Conservation Biology Program. If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me.

*Best regards,*

*Laura Musacchio, Associate Professor Landscape Architecture and CB Program*

### Slow Food on Film

Great films about food from Slow Food International's juried competition Brazil, Serbia, India, France, Sweden, Germany, & Japan

St. Paul Campus Student Center University of Minnesota 2017 Buford Avenue St. Paul, MN 55108

Saturday, March 24, 2007 † 4:00 to 6:30 pm

\$10 at the door

Proceeds for Slow Food Minnesota delegates to Terra Madre 2008 (an international gathering of farmers, chefs and researchers)

Sponsors: Crossroads Resource Center, Edible Twin Cities magazine, Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture, Slow Food Minnesota, University of Minnesota Public Health Nutrition

For more information: [www.slowfood.mn.org/events.html](http://www.slowfood.mn.org/events.html)

### GISSO Career & Networking Fair

At the end of March, the MGIS program's student organization (the GIS Student Organization or GISSO) is hosting a Career & Networking Fair on our St. Paul Campus and we are hoping to network with students from other departments such as Forestry.

Here is a link with details for our event - please feel free to distribute!

<http://www.socsci.umn.edu/~gisso/jobfair/>

Thursday, March 29, 2007 from 11 – 4, Northstar Ballroom, St. Paul Student Center

### COGS

This is a reminder that the third General Assembly Meeting of the semester will take place this Wednesday, March 21 at 5pm in the Mississippi Room of Coffman Memorial Union on the East Bank. I have attached the agenda and pasted it below as well.

Dinner will be from Burrito Loco. Hope to see you all there!

*Will Cremer*

*Council of Graduate Students*

### Invitation to join Pi Lambda Theta, International Honor Society and Professional Association in Education

CEHD students are invited to become members of Pi Lambda Theta, an international honor society and professional association in education. The mission of PLT is to honor outstanding educators and inspire them to be effective leaders who address critical issues in education.

The U of M Epsilon Chapter, one of the oldest established chapters, promotes academic excellence and seeks to develop leadership for the profession.

The Epsilon Chapter meets approximately four times a year, typically on Saturday mornings. Each year the chapter selects a program theme and invites local experts to speak on a various aspects of the theme. There is no cost to attend the programs other than optional lunches.

Qualifications for student candidates. Membership is open to any graduate or undergraduate student who is nominated by their institution or invited by a chapter. Minimum eligibility requirements are an intent to pursue a career in education (broadly defined), a cumulative grade-point average of 3.5, and current enrollment in a qualified degree program. (You do NOT need to provide proof of GPA.)

Undergraduates must have achieved at least a junior standing in a baccalaureate degree program or pre-baccalaureate degree program in education that meets prerequisites for a baccalaureate degree program.

Graduate students must have completed at least two courses in a graduate degree program or post-baccalaureate certification or credential program.

Each year the Epsilon Chapter celebrates new initiates with a formal initiation ceremony and dinner. To become a member you must participate in the initiation ceremony. This year's event will be held on Thursday, April 26, 5:30 p.m., in the President's Room of Coffman Memorial Union. The program will also include a presentation by Robin Sakamoto, the recipient of the Chapter's 2006 Mary Lampe Scholarship.

Pi Lambda Theta's Epsilon Chapter initiation fees and dues are \$66 and are divided as follows: International annual dues and initiation fee \$41.00; Epsilon Chapter annual dues \$19; Chapter initiation (one-time) fee \$6.00. The initiation dinner is half-price (\$15) for new initiates.

Additional information about PLT can be found at [www.pilambda.org](http://www.pilambda.org)

### 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\*!

### New Awards for CEHD Students

The following awards are being offered this spring and CEHD students are eligible for each award. The due date for nominations is **March 21** at 4 PM.

The awards are:

David L. Giese Service Award

Excellence in Academic Advising

Excellence in Discovery Award

Multicultural Recognition Award

Multicultural Recognition Award for Undergraduate Students

Outstanding Student Award

For more information on these awards please see:

<http://intranet.education.umn.edu/Committees/HAC/awards-HAV.html>

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## **We're here to help**

### GETTING WHAT YOU WANT: TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEW

Date and time: Tuesday, **March 27**, 2007, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Location: 231 Smith Hall, East Bank

Map: <http://onestop.umn.edu/Maps/SmithH/SmithH-map.html>

Presenter: Dr. Kathryn Hirsh, Co-founder of Hirshworks, a consulting company that specializes in career development and coaching for the past 19 years.

Notes: The goals of this workshop are to share a model of personality, based in the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator®, that will help inform your approach to informational interviewing and to offer strategies for attacking the informational interview process that are tailored to your personality preferences. By becoming more aware of your own preferences - your style of interacting, making decisions, gathering information, and structuring your environment - you will be able to ask better questions and receive needed feedback in your quest to discover the career path that uniquely suits you.

Click to register: <http://www.grad.umn.edu/career/workshops/register.asp?id=138>

## WRITING FUNDABLE GRANT PROPOSALS--ALL DISCIPLINES

Date and time: Thursday, **March 29**, 2007, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Location: 102 Fraser Hall, East Bank

Map: <http://onestop.umn.edu/Maps/FraserH/FraserH-map.html>

Presenter: Dr. Jeanine Ferguson, Grants Coordinator, Office of the Executive Vice President for System Academic Administration

Notes: This presentation is aimed at graduate students and postdoctoral associates/fellows planning to apply for research grants or fellowship funding in all disciplines. Strategies for developing successful grant proposals will be highlighted, along with an overview of resources for prospecting grant sources within federal, state, private and University funding pools. Dr. Ferguson has been teaching grant writing at the U of MN for 20 years. She opened two research/sponsored project development offices in CLA and CEHD and assisted in securing over \$40 million in external funding for projects.

Click to register: <http://www.grad.umn.edu/career/workshops/register.asp?id=141>

### 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:* American Community Survey - a new product from the Census Bureau - 3/12, 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 – 2/27, 3/20, 4/4, 4/24, 5/3, 5/16, Keeping Current In the Sciences – 4/11, Searching:14 Habits of Highly Effective Searchers – 3/8, 4/10, Create your Poster in PowerPoint – 3/20, 4/3, 4/6, 4/17, Grant resources: Locating Grants in your Field – 4/10, 5/15, SciFinder: Web Access to Chemical Abstracts – 4/18, Unique Indexes Every Researcher Should Know – 4/5

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

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## **News You Can Use**

### Institute on the Environment:--News from CFANS

The University of Minnesota's Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment (IREE) has been brought within the University's new system-wide Institute on the Environment. As part of the Institute on the Environment, IREE will continue to build on its accomplishments and history in the areas of renewable energy and the environment. This new arrangement consolidates and focuses environmental research and outreach resources and is designed to maximize the University's impact in creating innovative solutions to critical environmental issues, such as renewable energy solutions.

### GAPSA Tax Workshop this Wednesday

For the first time in the history of GAPSA we are hosting a tax workshop. The Tax Workshop will be Wednesday **March 21st** in room 303 of Coffman Memorial Union between 10:00am to 11:30am. Prof. Mark Sellner will lead the workshop. We will primarily go over the form 1040 for people filing their taxes as domestic individuals. This workshop is primarily aimed at graduate and professional students.

Please come prepared with your tax forms, W2, and any questions that you may have.

### A Service for busy students

We're happy to announce a new grocery delivery service at the University of Minnesota.

You can now log on to [www.GopherGrocery.com](http://www.GopherGrocery.com), shop online, and have groceries delivered directly to your apartment, house, or dorm for just \$2. Browse over 6,000 items that can be delivered to your door with just a few clicks. No more driving to the store, fighting crowds, or lugging groceries up the stairs. Best of all, our prices compare to Cub Foods. Visit [www.GopherGrocery.com](http://www.GopherGrocery.com) and as an added bonus -- use the coupon code FREEDELIVERY during checkout and we'll give you free delivery on your first order. Order today, get groceries tomorrow, it's that simple! We hope you will soon enjoy the Gopher Grocery experience - where groceries arrive fresh and fast, and delivery costs less than a gallon of gas!

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## **Date Saver**

### Visiting Conservation Biologist / Veterinarian

Dr. Holly Ernest from the [Wildlife and Ecology Unit](#) of the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory at the University of California Davis will be on campus next Wednesday (March 28) and Thursday (March 29). Dr. Ernest is veterinarian and conservation biologist with extensive experience with mammal and bird populations. Her visit is being sponsored by the Dept. of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology and the Conservation Biology Graduate Program.

Please note the following opportunities to interact with Dr. Ernest during her visit:

### Seminar--Dr. Holly Ernest

Title: "Population Genetic Studies of Mammal and Bird Populations in California: Field Methods and Conservation Significance"

Date and time: **Wednesday 28 March**, 4-5 pm

Location: 146 McNeal Hall

The seminar will focus on her lab's work with mountain lion population genetics.

Individual/Group Meetings: On Thursday morning from 9-11:30, Dr. Ernest will be available (by appointment on a first come, first served basis) for meetings with individuals or groups.

Roundtable Pizza Lunch: On Thursday from 12-1:30 she will be leading a pizza lunch/roundtable discussion on conservation genetic issues. The talk is open to anyone. However, please contact Peter Cutter ([cutt0016@umn.edu](mailto:cutt0016@umn.edu)) in advance if you are interested in scheduling time with Dr. Ernest or participating in the Thursday roundtable lunch.

### Environmental and Resource Economics Seminar

Date and time: **Monday, March 26** from 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Location: Room 230 Classroom Office Building

Presenter: Jerome Malmquist from Facilities Management at the U of M

Title: "Sustainability, Energy Management and Carbon Trading"

### Pre-thesis seminar

Where: Hodson 395

Date: **Monday March 26th** at 3pm

Title: "The Effects of Brood Density and Predation on Mallard Duckling Condition and Survival in North-central North Dakota"

There will be snacks, beverages, and it will be finished in plenty of time for the CB departmental seminar

Presenter: Courtney Amundson, PhD Student in Wildlife Ecology and Management,  
Advised by Dr. Todd Arnold

Abstract Density-dependence is a central tenet of waterfowl management, yet few studies have looked at the role of brood density on duckling survival. Classical thinking suggests that increased brood density would lead to reduced duckling survival through food limitation, and possibly greater predation risk through increased inter-wetland movements. But brood density could also enhance duckling survival by reducing predation risk (i.e., through a dilution effect, or increased ability to detect predators). Research will be conducted on study sites with varying duckling density. Densities will be manipulated through ongoing research that reduces medium-sized mammalian predators on study sites (thereby increasing nest success, hen success and brood density) and by utilizing control sites known to have moderate to low duckling densities. To ensure sites exhibit the necessary variability in duckling density, brood surveys will be conducted utilizing recently developed methodologies that adjust for sightability-bias. Body condition of ducklings from several dabbling duck species will be examined to determine whether increases in brood density impact duckling condition. In addition, mallard duckling survival will be studied to 30-days post-hatch on these sites of varying brood density. I predict that: 1) duckling survival will decrease as duckling densities increase, 2) predator reduction will lead to increased duckling survival, but that benefit will be reduced by increased brood density on trapped sites, and 3) duckling body condition will be lower on sites with higher duckling densities.

#### William E. Larson and Raymond R. Allmaras lecture

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

#### Forest Resources

Date and time: Monday, **March 26**, 2007, 3:00 p.m.

Location: 203 Green Hall, St Paul Campus

Title: "Taking the Scenic Route: How the Reroute of the North Country National Scenic Trail through Northeastern Minnesota has been Influenced by Public and Non-Profit Agencies, Regional Recreation, and Politics"

Presenter: Terry Serres, Graduate Student

#### 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>.

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## Jobs

### Renewable energy strategic planning opportunity

The College of Biological Sciences has been contacted by the BioBusiness Alliance of Minnesota, who are looking for two graduate student level individuals to help with their renewable energy strategic planning project. They have contracted with Sandia National Laboratory for overall scientific help, but they need local help as well, as described in the attachment. Most of the work will be carried out between the first of April and the end of July, with many of the meetings occurring at UEL between the two campuses. This could be an interesting opportunity for any of your graduate students interested in working in renewable energy to obtain some experience in this area of research.

Could you pass this on to any students in your graduate program that might have an interest in doing this?

*Thank you,*

*Huber R. Warner, PhD, Associate Dean for Research, College of Biological Sciences*

### Invasive Species Unit Supervisor, MN Dept of Natural Resources

Location: Division of Ecological Services, St. Paul, MN

Employment Condition: Full-time, permanent

Salary Range: \$ 52,764 - \$ 76,316 annually

Application Closing Date: April 9, 2007

Anticipated Start Date: June 13, 2007

The Invasive Species Program in the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is one of the largest, oldest, and best-funded programs in the country\*. The program is being elevated to Unit status within the Division of Ecological Services and this position will lead the newly formed unit. This position will plan, manage, and supervise the activities of the new Invasive Species Unit. Only candidates with a minimum of 4 years of advanced-level professional work experience focused on invasive species (aquatic or terrestrial) will be considered. Additional information about the position and requirements is available on the State's website (<https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting/View?posting=07DNR000164>). To apply, submit a letter of interest (NOTE - this letter must outline specific education and work experience qualifications that are included in the job posting at the web address listed above) and a resume to Nathan Smith, Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, Box 49, St. Paul, MN 55155-4049 or e-mail [nathan.smith@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:nathan.smith@dnr.state.mn.us) by April 9, 2007. Questions about the position should be directed to David Wright, 651-259-5155 or [dave.wright@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:dave.wright@dnr.state.mn.us). The State of Minnesota is an equal opportunity employer. see [http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/ecological\\_services/invasives/annualreport\\_summary.pdf](http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/ecological_services/invasives/annualreport_summary.pdf)

### Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District Position Announcement

Position: District Manager  
Salary: Starting Pay DOQ's plus benefits  
Location: USDA Service Center 1160 South Victory Drive, Mankato, MN  
Closing Date: Wednesday April 4th, 4:30 p.m.

The District Manager is the chief administrative officer directly responsible to the Blue Earth County SWCD Board of Supervisors for the guidance and direction of the everyday functions of the district.

The District Manager provides leadership in the development, planning and administration of the County's vision for Soil and Water Conservation. The District Manager directs a group of professional staff to address the natural resources of Blue Earth County.

Position duties include but are not limited to: Manage the everyday operations of the district; Perform personnel functions and supervise staff; Provide administrative support to the Board of Supervisors; Supervise the management of the financial affairs of the district; Provide technical assistance and support to staff and landowners; Implement local and state conservation programs; Implement special program and resource inventory functions; Prepare professional quality plans and reports for the district; Perform conservation planning and application functions.

QUALIFICATIONS: Knowledge of: Office computers, word processing, data base management and spreadsheet software; Agriculture, urban conservation, forestry, water quality and point source and non-point source pollution; Proper correspondence formats; Soil and Water Conservation District policies and programs; Natural Resource Conservation programs and operations; Local, state, and federal conservation programs; Guidelines for planning, survey, construction and checkout of installed conservation practices.

Ability to: Effectively manage BESWCD program activities and operations; Communicate effectively and efficiently in oral and written forms; Efficiently utilize the office computers and software programs and other office machines; Establish and maintain an effective working relationship with individuals, staff, local, state and federal agencies; Read and understand the soil survey, aerial photos and other maps necessary to perform the duties of this position.

Education and Training: Minimum 2 year college degree in natural resource or closely related field and/or related experience; Knowledge to assist in NRCS procedures and design; Working knowledge of wetland delineation; Working knowledge of state and local government agencies and programs; Rural background or interest in natural resources preferred.

WORK ENVIRONMENT: Work is performed in a County or other Governmental office building. Some travel is required. Equipment used may include, but is not limited to, computer, printer, telephone, calculator, copy and fax machines, electronic devices and survey equipment.

SELECTION PROCESS: The examination/selection process for this classification will consist of a rating of your training and experience from the application materials submitted. The top scoring candidates will be interviewed for further consideration.

### Field Ecologists for the Minnesota County Biological Survey

The Minnesota County Biological Survey is hiring two field ecologists to conduct surveys in Northern MN. These are 2 year appointments.

Working Title: Plant Ecologist / Botanist Class/Option: NR SPECIALIST INT-ECOLOGICAL SVCS Position: 1092832 Location: St. Paul Bargaining Unit: MAPE Employment Condition: Limited Full-time - 100% FLSA Status: exemptpro Temporary

Position End Date: 06/30/2009 Days of Work:  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday Hours of work: 08:00 AM-04:30 PM  
Work Area: Previous Incumbent: N/A

View at: [https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting/View?\\_posting=07DNR000147](https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting/View?_posting=07DNR000147)

Working Title: Plant Ecologist / Botanist Class/Option: NR SPECIALIST INT-  
ECOLOGICAL SVCS Position: 1092833 Location: St. Paul Bargaining Unit: MAPE  
Employment Condition: Limited Full-time - 100% FLSA Status: exemptpro Temporary  
Position End Date: 06/30/2009 Days of Work:  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday Hours of work: 08:00 AM-04:30 PM  
Work Area: Previous Incumbent: N/A

View at: [https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting/View?\\_posting=07DNR000160](https://statejobs.doer.state.mn.us/JobPosting/View?_posting=07DNR000160)

*Carmen Converse*  
Supervisor Minnesota County Biological Survey  
[carmen.converse@dnr.state.mn.us](mailto:carmen.converse@dnr.state.mn.us)  
(651) 259-5083

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## Conferences and Meetings

### North American Section of the Society for Conservation Biology

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

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

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

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

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

*Reed Noss*

*President, North American Section*

### The American Society of Naturalists (ASN)

The annual meetings of The American Society of Naturalists (ASN) <http://www.amnat.org/>, Society of Systematic Biologists (SSB) <http://systbiol.org/>, and the Society for the Study of Evolution (SSE) <http://www.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](http://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** For early bird discounted registration rates - **March 31, 2007** Delegates can register early and submit titles no later than the deadline above. Information on travel to New Zealand and accommodation options for the conference can be found on the conference web site.

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

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

Tuesday, **May 1, 2007** . Cowles Auditorium, Hubert H. Humphrey Center . University of Minnesota. Register at [www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu/conferences/if.php](http://www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu/conferences/if.php) or email [lawvalue@umn.edu](mailto: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](mailto:lawvalue@umn.edu), Telephone: 612-625-0055

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## **Funding opportunities**

### Midwest Coalition for Human Rights Fellowships

On behalf of the Midwest Coalition for Human Rights, I am pleased to announce five paid fellowships being offered for summer 2007. The Midwest Coalition for Human Rights is a network of organizations collaborating to promote and protect human rights in our Midwest region, in the United States, and internationally. Working together, the 35+ Coalition members provide broader visibility for urgent human rights issues in the Heartland and project a strong Midwest advocacy voice in the national and international human rights debate.

Each fellow will work in one of five member organizations. Fellowships are open to upper level undergraduate, graduate, and law students, as well as to qualified community members (see each organization's listing for specific requirements.) Each fellow will be paid a \$3,000 stipend for the summer

If you have any questions about the fellowships or the application process, please feel free to contact me at 612-626-7947, [rhammer@midwesthumanrights.org](mailto:rhammer@midwesthumanrights.org).

### Bell Fellowship in Avian Conservation

The Bell Museum announces a competition for a research fellowship in the general field of avian conservation for graduate students currently enrolled at the University of Minnesota. The project ideally would involve a field component, and must be directed at some aspect of avian conservation. Projects designed to assist avian conservation

efforts through an improved understanding of bird biology will be given preference. Please follow guidelines given below. Send your application (hard copy or email) by **April 6 2007** to: Robert M. Zink, Bell Museum 100 Ecology Bldg. Univ. of Minnesota St. Paul, MN 55108 [zinkx003@umn.edu](mailto:zinkx003@umn.edu)

#### Guidelines for Bell Fellowship in Avian Conservation

Length: Maximum 5 pages single-spaced 12 pt type (excluding Lit. Cited). Three tables and three figures maximum. Tables, figures and budget do not count in the page limit.

The proposal should include a general overview of the research, and why it is significant to the field of bird conservation. This must be clear to a general reader. Have a graduate student colleague in a different field read your proposal to determine that it is clear to a scientist outside of your immediate area.

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

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

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

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

Budget: Include an explicit budget, one with totals in all relevant columns. Awards will not exceed \$10,000.00 (the amount of this award will fluctuate annually). Field travel will be funded at the rate of 35 cents per mile. Funds cannot be used for student stipends. If you purchase equipment for amounts of \$100 or more, it becomes property of the Bell Museum upon completion of your project. Do not make requests for items such as raincoats or other personal items. If other proposals for the research are pending, list the funding agencies and when you expect to hear; we retain the option to withhold funding until these proposals are acted upon.

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

Be sure your advisor has submitted a separate letter of recommendation; it can be emailed to [zinkx003@umn.edu](mailto:zinkx003@umn.edu).

#### Compton Graduate Fellowships

I serve on the committee that awards graduate fellowships for the MacArthur Program, aka the Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change. Our committee is interested in recruiting more students in the area of environment, natural resources, and agriculture. There are two fellowships that stand open for students from Africa and Latin America through the Compton Fellowships and preference will be given to "St. Paul campus" students.

The Compton Fellowships are for students from Africa or Latin America who intend to return to work in Africa or Latin America upon finishing their degrees. The fellows' area of interest should have interdisciplinary dimensions and fall broadly under the topic of human security, including food and natural resources.

Please contact Karen Brown, Phone: 612-624-0255, [kbt@umn.edu](mailto:kbt@umn.edu) for additional information and to submit applicants for the Compton Fellowship.

### New Funding for International Scholarly Activities

The following are new funding programs to promote a global network of scholarship and engagement and encourage interdisciplinary and transnational partnerships. The programs are administered and funded by the Office of International Programs. Guidelines and application materials:

<http://www.international.umn.edu/funding/strategic.html> Questions: Karen Brown, 612-624-0832 or [kbt@umn.edu](mailto:kbt@umn.edu)

### National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial

#### **Scholarship Program-Deadline: April 13, 2007**

In honor of the National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial, the Walt Disney Company (<http://www.disney.com/>), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (<http://www.fws.gov/>), and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (<http://www.nfwf.org/>) are supporting the 2007 National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Scholarship Program. The NWRS Centennial Scholarship Program seeks to support students whose research will contribute toward improved management and understanding of the diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources found on National Wildlife Refuges (<http://refuges.fws.gov/>). Under this competitive scholarship program, a minimum of ten one-year scholarships will be awarded to support students' research expenses, tuition, fees, books, and room and board.

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

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

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