

Conservation Biology Graduate Program Weekly Newsletter

20 November 2006

A weekly newsletter of the Conservation
Biology Graduate Program

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

Submissions to coop0162@umn.edu



Editor's Corner

Greetings from Hodson Hall! It's a short week with a long holiday weekend, and whether that means:

- 1) you've already left town for the holiday weekend,
- 2) you're in town and you didn't know that this a short week because that mountain of work on your desk obscures your view of the calendar; or
- 3) you're not getting anything done because hey, it's a short week

there are still plenty of things happening on campus to be reported on in this week's newsletter. Check them out below.

Since this week will also cover the start of the holiday shopping season I've included a piece from Slate magazine on the greening of your wardrobe. There are simple choices that we can make everyday our holiday purchases to reduce our CO2 load.

Lastly, if you're looking for some entertainment this weekend check out *Edgardo Mine* at the new Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis. The play explores the kidnapping of Edgardo, a Jewish child who was secretly baptized by his catholic nurse, by the Pope in Rome; and the political aftermath that resulted from the kidnapping. At the conclusion of each performance there is a discussion with the actors and there are further discussions with the priest and rabbi who consulted on the staging of the play. I saw several parallels between the play and many religious, cultural, and political situations playing out on the global stage today. It also gave me some insight into the types of situations that many of us work on in Conservation Biology. There are student and group discounts available. See <http://www.guthrietheater.org/> for more details.

Anne Cooper

Lectures/seminars on campus

Lunch with the candidate and seminar

Lunch: Graduate Students are all invited to 'lunch with the candidate'

Time and Location: Monday, November 20 12:00-1:30 in 505 Ecology.

Candidate: Dr. Kenneth Kozak Department of Ecology and Evolution SUNY Stony Brook, is interviewing for the amphibian and reptile curator position at the Bell Museum
Seminar Title: "Tempo, mode, and ecology of diversification in temperate-zone and tropical salamanders"

Time and Location: 4:00 PM Monday, November 20, 2006 33 McNeal Hall, St. Paul Campus

Please reply by Monday at 10:00 AM so I know how much pizza to order.

Tony Gamble
612-624-7225
gambl007@umn.edu

Conservation Biology

Date: 20 November 2006

Time: 4:00-5:00

Presenter: Michelle Wieland, PhD Candidate

Title: "Conservation Strategies, rural communities, and bushmeat: Challenges and opportunity in Congo"

Location: Room 140 in the Plant Growth Facilities Building (At the corner of Gortner and Folwell. Go through the doors behind the Seed of Knowledge sculpture).

Notes: Mammals in central Africa face serious threats from increased logging road networks, demand for bushmeat in urban markets, and overall population growth. Many conservation strategies to address this crisis include providing domestic meat to logging communities, increased patrols to stop hunters, and road blocks to stop the trafficking of meat to urban centers. These strategies directly affect people who cope with difficult regional political and economic forces, yet still depend on local bushmeat for their livelihoods. While these strategies may save wildlife the effects on the local communities, who should be conservation partners, are rarely considered. In this presentation I will argue that conservationists need to continue to reduce bushmeat, but that when doing so, attention needs to be paid to the ramifications of conservation strategies on local communities.

As always, coffee and snacks will be provided and all are welcome.

IGERT

Date and Time: November 20, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Location: Saint Anthony Falls Auditorium

Presenter: Dr. Jeff Gralnick Department of Microbiology and Biotechnology Institute

Title: "The Hopeless Complexity of our Environment: Attempting to make a difference one bacterium at a time."

Notes: I am interested in understanding the physiology of *Shewanella*, a species of gram-negative bacteria found throughout the world in aquatic environments. This group has the greatest diversity of compounds it can 'breathe' of any organisms studied to date. The act of respiring these compounds can impact geochemical gradients of compounds like sulfur, iron and manganese. For instance, *S. oneidensis* can respire insoluble manganese and iron oxide minerals, promoting their dissolution. The molecular mechanism that enables *S. oneidensis* to carry out these reactions and how these systems are regulated will be a main focus of research in my laboratory. By understanding the mechanistic details of these processes, not only can we begin to rationally engineer organisms like *S. oneidensis* for biotechnological applications, ranging from bioremediation to energy generation, but we will also begin to understand how *Shewanella* thrives in the environment.

Ecology, Evolution and Behavior

Date: Tuesday, November 21, 2006

Time: 9:30AM

Location: 375 Bell Museum

Presenter: Dr. Kenneth Kozak Department of Ecology and Evolution SUNY Stony Brook

Topic: "What can the evolutionary biology of Appalachian salamanders tell us about the future of biodiversity?"

Notes:

Snacks: Good coffee and store bought cookies served outside 100 Ecology at 3:30

The Lion and the Lamb, or the Facts and the Truth

Presenter: Fenton Johnson

Date and Time: Tuesday, November 28; 7:30 pm

Location: Weisman Art Museum, Shepard

Notes: Worldwide we are witnessing violence with its roots in the tension between reason and faith, science and religion, history and memory, the law and the heart, the facts and the truth. Are these forces inevitably mutually destructive, or can the magicians of the earth--its artists and scientists and writers--propose and negotiate peace? In a world in which fact is so malleable, what is truth, and how may we know and preserve it? Memoirist, novelist, and essayist Fenton Johnson discusses how a frank embrace of memory--including its fallibility--may be our best means for historically hostile disciplines to make constructive peace, in which the scientist will lie down with the priest, the historian with the fictionist, the lion with the lamb.

This is the kickoff event for a yearlong series that will bring in distinguished authors to explore the intersection of memoir and history.

For more information, visit:

www.whosgotthistory.umn.edu <<http://www.whosgotthistory.umn.edu>>

Major funding from: the University's McKnight Arts and Humanities Endowment, the Institute for Advanced Study, and the College of Liberal Arts Scholarly Events Fund.

Co-sponsors include: the School of Journalism and Mass Communications the Center for German and European Studies; the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies; the Center for Jewish Studies; the Creative Writing Program; the Department of American Studies; the Department of Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature; the Department of English; the Department of Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies; the Department of History; the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Ally Programs office; the Immigration History Research Center; the Institute for Global Studies; the Center for the Study of Politics & Governance; the Frederick R. Weisman Museum; the Loft Literary Center; the Minnesota Historical Society.

Forest Resources

Date: Wednesday, November 22, 2006

Times: 3:00pm

Location: 203 Green Hall

Presenter: Michelle Martin, Graduate Student

Title: Timber Harvesting Effects on Vegetation in Riparian Areas

Notes: Riparian areas are ecotones situated between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. These areas are vital to the composition, structure, and functioning of both aquatic and terrestrial systems and their ecological interactions. Although specific

definitions and values of riparian areas differ among natural resource groups, most agree that riparian areas provide many ecological services including species diversity, wildlife habitat, water quality protection, forest products, and recreation. Managing in riparian areas should be conducted with special care and consideration to sustain these important ecological roles and functions. This seminar will focus on the importance of riparian areas and their management and will conclude with presenting the beginning stages of a research project examining the impacts of timber harvesting on the composition and structure of riparian forest vegetation in Northern Minnesota. Specifically, the project investigates the response of tree regeneration and understory flora to different harvesting approaches (Tree Length, Cut-to-length, and no-cut buffers) in riparian areas.

Announcements

Rounding up the next batch of student presenters for CB Seminar spring semester

Just a reminder, you need to present twice before you graduate from the program.

If you want to present in the spring, e-mail me (brumm043@umn.edu) back with the following information:

- 1) The title of your presentation.
- 2) Any dates that you absolutely, positively, can't present.
- 3) Two of your preferred presentation dates.

I'm not able to promise you any particular date at this point, but at the very least, we will avoid those dates you for sure can't make. If you don't send me a title, I can not and will not reserve a spot for you. The deadline for submitting a title is Dec. 13th. When you are considering possible dates, remember that seminar is on Monday's and that student presentation slots are for half of a seminar session. The sooner that you e-mail me a title, the more likely you are to get a slot that works for you.

Thanks and have a great weekend,
Rachel Brummel [brumm043@umn.edu]

****2006 Frenatae Honey and Candle Sale****

This year's Honey and Candle Sale will be held: November 29- November 30th: 9am until 5pm (*,** see below for locations) December 1: 10am until 2pm (* see below for location)

*= Hodson Hall in front of the Entomology, Fisheries and Wildlife Library **= St. Paul Student Center -Preorder Forms are now available on-line at the Frenatae Website:

<http://www.tc.umn.edu/%7Efrenatae/honeysale.htm>

Preorders must be received by November 22, 2005 and must be picked up at the Entomology, Fisheries, and Wildlife Library (Hodson Hall) by Thursday, November 30th at 5pm.

Thank you for your support!

Welcome weekend

It's again time to get together to plan for welcome weekend Jan 19-21, 2007. It's Consbio tradition for first year students to choose 2-3 leaders to coordinate welcome weekend. Sue and I would like to meet with first year students after the Monday seminar on Nov 14 for about 30 minutes to begin this process.

Anup

Funding opportunities

Torske Klubben (The Cod Club) Fellowship for Minnesota Residents

Students currently registered for credit in the University of Minnesota Graduate School who are official state-of-Minnesota residents may apply. The award is open to individuals who have an interest in or connection with Norway and/or its culture. Applicants should have a strong, mature, and clearly defined career interest in a specific field, with a sound research or study plan. Applicants must be able to demonstrate outstanding leadership skills and high academic achievement. Preference will be given to students who earned their undergraduate degrees from a Minnesota college or university, or from a college founded by or associated with Norwegian-Americans, such as Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, and Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

A stipend of \$10,000 for the academic year. For recipients without another source of tuition support, such as an assistantship, the Graduate School Fellowship Office will provide a Tuition Scholarship for full-time study for the academic year.

Torske Klubben is interested in supporting students of high academic achievement who show great promise of becoming leaders in their chosen profession and/or in the Norwegian- American community, who have a deep and abiding cultural and/or professional interest in Norway (in a historical or present-day context), and who convey a sensitivity to the future of Norway and Norway-America relationships. Need may be taken into account, all other factors being equal.

Complete Fellowship description, application form, and instructions are available on the web at http://www.grad.umn.edu/fellowships/forms/tk_mn_residents.pdf or from the Graduate School Fellowship Office gsfellow@tc.umn.edu

Deadline: March 1, 2005

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships

Scholarship Funding Opportunities for Graduate/Professional Students

Funding available: **Summer 2007** (\$2500 stipend + tuition and selected fees) and **2007-08 Academic Year** (\$15,000 stipend + tuition and fees)

FLAS fellowships promote the study of modern foreign languages within graduate and professional schools. The awards are available on either a 9-month academic year or summer term basis. The fellowships are primarily available to graduate and professional school students studying less commonly taught languages, but students of other languages are also welcome to apply.

Join us for an Informational Meeting:

Tuesday, November 21, 2006 – 246 Social Sciences, 3:30-4:30pm

Wednesday, November 29, 2006 – 128 Folwell Hall, 3:30-4:30pm

Thursday, November 30, 2006 – Humphrey Center 215, 3:30-4:30pm

During these meetings we will also provide information about FLEP (Foreign Language Enhancement Program) summer scholarships. For more information, see

<http://iqs.cla.umn.edu/grad/>

The Udall Foundation

Applications are being accepted for the 2007 Environmental Public Policy & Conflict Resolution Dissertation Fellowship for qualified Ph.D. students. The Udall Foundation awards two one-year fellowships of up to \$24,000 to doctoral candidates whose research concerns U.S. environmental public policy and/or environmental conflict resolution, and who are entering their final year of writing the dissertation. Dissertation Fellowships are intended to cover both academic and living expenses from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. Please see the brochure for program details. Applications are available at www.udall.gov

While scholarly excellence is of prime importance in selection of fellows, the Foundation is also seeking to identify individuals who have a demonstrated commitment to environmental public policy and/or environmental conflict resolution, and who have the potential to make a significant impact in the real world.

The Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences
(<http://www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu>)

There are 3 funding opportunities for faculty; graduate and professional students; and departments, programs, or centers. This funding initiative aims to encourage work on the broad societal implications of problems in health, environment, or the life sciences.

The Requests for Proposals (RFPs) may be found at:

<http://www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu/rfps/> :

1. Request for Proposals (RFP) from GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS to Provide Support for Summer 2007 or 2007-08 (deadline 2/19/07);
2. Request for Proposals (RFP) to Support DEPARTMENT, PROGRAM, or CENTER Colloquia in Summer 2007 or 2007-08 (deadline 2/5/07); and
3. Request for Proposals (RFP) from FACULTY to Fund Interdisciplinary Research, Projects, or Curricular Innovation on Health, Environment, or the Life Sciences in Summer 2007 or 2007-08 (deadline 2/5/07).

The Consortium currently links 18 University programs and centers to examine the legal, ethical, and policy questions raised by the life sciences.

If you have questions concerning these RFPs, please contact Audrey Boyle at boyle032@umn.edu or 612.626.5624.

Audrey Boyle, Project Manager

Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences University of Minnesota Law School

(612) 626-5624

(612) 624-9143 fax

Boyle032@umn.edu

<http://www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu>

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Budweiser Conservation Scholarship.

"I wanted to touch base with you all to let you know the current status of this scholarship, as well as to announce another scholarship opportunity. For the Budweiser Conservation Scholarship, I know I told many of you that we would have the information up on our website this fall, and well, it seems that fall has crept up on us awfully fast! Our program directors are still in talks with Anheuser-Busch about this scholarship and I am told we will have information to post on our website sometime this month. I will do my best to keep you informed as I know more.

In other news, some of you may be eligible for our National Wildlife Refuge Centennial Scholarship which we have just posted on our website. You can check out the specifics

at: <http://www.nfwf.org/programs/centennialsscholarship/>. Thank you all for your interest, and if you have any questions, you know where to find me!”

Regards,

Alison Bolz
Project Administrator
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
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Washington, DC 20036
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E-mail: Alison.Bolz@nfwf.org

AAUW Career Development Grants

The American Association of University Women will make 60 Career Development Grants of \$2,000-\$8,000 to women in the early stages of a master's degree program who have not received academic degrees in the last 4.5 years. Special consideration will be given to women of color.

DEADLINE: December 15, 2006

http://www.aauw.org/fga/fellowships_grants/career_development.cfm

Short Courses

SAS PROC Mixed—two day training session

Presented by Dr. Micheal Casler, USDA-ARS, US Dairy Forage and Research Center, Madison, WI and Professor of Agronomy at the University of Wisconsin-Madsion.

Where: Room 335 Borlaug Hall

When: December 18, 2006 1:00-5:00 PM and December 19, 2006 8:00 AM-12:00 noon.

All interested faculty, staff, and graduate students are welcome to attend. There is no fee for this workshop, but REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

TO REGISTER: reply to Jean Swanson: swans008@umn.edu

Questions: joannlamb@umn.edu

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Spring Semester 2007 Courses

Sustainable Aquaculture FW5455

How can we make the world's fastest growing food sector environmentally and socially responsible?

Dr. Anne Kapuscinski is teaching this 3 credit course (MW 4:30-5:45, 490 Hodson Hall) this spring. There is also an optional hands-on lab section where you can learn to raise fish (FW4292, section1). <http://fwcb.cfans.umn.edu/courses/fw5455>. This course meets the Environment and International Perspectives Themes and it is now an elective for the new Sustainability Studies Minor www.sustainability.umn.edu.

Graduate Seminar in Climatology (GEOG 8270)

Spring 2007

Topic: Climate Models and Modeling

Meets Wednesdays from 2:00-4:30 p.m. (West Bank)

Instructor: Katherine Klink

Science and Policy of Global Environmental Change

EEB/FR 5146, T, Th, 10:15 - 11:30 am

Instructors: Sarah Hobbie, Ecology, Evolution and Behavior, shobbie@umn.edu, Steve Polasky, Applied Economics and Ecology, Evolution and Behavior, spolasky@apcc.umn.edu, Peter Reich, Forest Resources, preich@umn.edu

Course Description: Through readings, lectures, discussions, and presentations this course will introduce the critical issues underpinning global environmental change and its biological implications. The course will examine current scientific literature in exploring evidence for human-induced global change, including changes in biodiversity, land use/land cover, the global N cycle, the global C cycle and climate change. We will also discuss the potential effects of these global changes on a wide range of biological processes. In addition, we will examine some of the economic drivers, economic consequences, and political processes related to global change, including local, national and international laws and policies that impact global change.

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

Sarah E. Hobbie, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Admissions

Dept. of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior University of Minnesota

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Office: 502 Ecology, St. Paul Campus

Research Web Page: <http://www.cbs.umn.edu/labs/shobbie/>

EEB Graduate Program Web Page: <http://www.cbs.umn.edu/eeb/graduateprogram/>

PFF

The Preparing Future Faculty Program (PFF) offers graduate students and post-doctoral fellows opportunities to develop teaching skills, understand ways in which students learn, explore faculty roles in higher education, and prepare teaching as well as job search materials with colleagues and mentors. Read on to discover how our Retreats and Classes might help you prepare for your future career--and increase effectiveness in your current teaching and learning roles on campus.

January 2007 Retreat:

If you're interested in finding out more about Preparing for a Job Search, Using PowerPoint for Active Learning, Developing a Syllabus that Works for You and Your Students, or Finding an Academic Position that Fits, please join us on January 11, 2007, for the Preparing Future Faculty Retreat. As a participant, you'll be able to attend

workshops that on these topics and ask faculty from local colleges and universities about finding an academic position that's right for you.

A \$10 registration fee includes food and workshop materials. We hope to see you there if you want to know more about teaching in higher education and the job search process. Your early registration allows us to prepare materials for a smooth retreat -- and to assure you a seat at the retreat.

For Retreat Registration:

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

Spring 2007 Courses:

Brief descriptions of the Spring 2007 PFF core courses (GRAD 8101 and GRAD 8102) are listed below. To find out more about PFF, begin at <http://www1.umn.edu/ohr/teachlearn/pff/index.html>.

Please note, we also offer several one-credit special topics courses (GRAD 8200) for individuals with teaching experience or who have completed a PFF or departmental teaching course course. The Spring 2007 one-credit/8200 courses will be: Teaching With Technology, Job Search Strategies in Language and Literature Disciplines, and Multicultural Teaching and Learning Across the Disciplines.

Registration information for all courses is listed at OneStop under the Graduate School's GRAD designator.

****GRAD 8101: Teaching in Higher Education (3 credits)**** This course is designed to help graduate students and post-doctoral fellows become more effective teachers as they develop an understanding of teaching and learning in higher education. Participants practice teaching and draft the essential documents of a teaching portfolio. Courses are co-taught by a member of the PFF staff and a faculty member who is recognized for teaching excellence.

Spring 2007

Mondays 5-8 pm / Minneapolis

Tuesdays 2:30-5:30 pm / Minneapolis

Thursdays 2:30-5:30 pm / St. Paul

Fridays 9:05-12:05 / Minneapolis

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

(3 credits, prerequisite GRAD 8101 or equivalent department teaching course; e-mail pff@umn.edu for permission number) Under the guidance of the course instructor and a faculty mentor from a local university, participants will plan for their future careers and consider how best to structure the remainder of their graduate education or post-doctoral appointment for future success in the job market. Activities include examining a variety of institutional contexts in higher education, gaining valuable teaching experience at a host institution, exploring the faculty role beyond the classroom, and creating a job search portfolio.

Spring 2007

Mondays 2:30-5:30 pm / St. Paul

Thursdays 2:30-5:30 pm / Minneapolis

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

Spring 2007

Fridays, 10:10 am - 12:05 pm. Class meets six times.

Teaching With Technology - Practices, Problems and Promises

Tuesdays, PACE Program for CSOM students. Contact Steven Huchendorf.

Fridays, 9:05 am - 12:05 pm. Class meets five times. Language and Literature Job Search Strategies

Mondays, 5 - 7:30 pm. Class meets five times. Multicultural Teaching and Learning Across the Disciplines

Conferences

2007 Midwest Ecology and Evolution Conference

Students are invited to the Midwest Ecology and Evolution Conference (MEEC) hosted by Kent State University. MEEC is a regional scientific conference geared towards undergraduates, graduate students, and post-docs. This conference provides a venue for students to present their research to peers and fosters an environment for collaboration and communication between future scientists. Sessions include but are not limited to various Ecology and Evolution sessions, Physical/Biological Anthropology, and Paleoecology.

Registration deadline: February 19, 2007. Register early (by January 31) and save \$10!

Oral and Poster Presentation Award winners will receive a one year subscription to Nature!!

We are also proud to announce the keynote speaker for MEEC will be Dr. Robert Paine! Dr. Paine is an emeritus professor at the University of Washington and is a world renowned ecologist who has made many significant contributions to the field of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. For more information and to register please visit us at <http://midwesteec.org>. Feel free to email us with any questions at meeec2007@hotmail.com.

Additionally, the bid for MEEC 2008 is still open. If you are interested in hosting MEEC 2008 please contact Jennifer Clark at meeec2007@hotmail.com. All left over funds from the 2007 budget as well as money from the 2007 raffle and t-shirt sales will be passed onto the 2008 host. We hope to see you at MEEC 2007!!

Jennifer Clark and Constance Hausman

MEEC 2007 Co-Chairs

67th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

December 3-6, 2006 in Omaha, Nebraska <http://www.ngpc.state.ne.us/midwest2006/>

Two centuries ago Lewis & Clark had just returned from their "Voyage of Discovery" and were embarking on their new task of sharing the experiences and knowledge gathered along this historic journey. Join us in Omaha on December 3-6th, 2006 to explore "The Economic and Social Values of our Natural Resources" and share with the nations leading natural resource professionals your experiences, while gathering invaluable insight from others in the field.

If people are attending this conference and need a ride down to Omaha, please let Ozge Goktepe [gokt0002@umn.edu] know. Although space is limited, there may be a national park service van available to give people a ride.

New Strategies for Urban Natural Resources: Integrating Wildlife, Fisheries, Forestry and Planning

Submit your paper today for the conference, taking place May 15-16, 2007 at the Lindner Conference Center in Lombard, IL.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to address the challenges and opportunities related to management of natural resources in urban landscapes and to extend and integrate your knowledge of urban ecology with the esteemed [Estella B. Leopold](#) » [For Submission Guidelines & Template](#)

Submissions Deadline: November 17, 2006

Acceptance Notification: December 8, 2006

» [Get more information on New Strategies for Urban Natural Resources: Integrating Wildlife, Fisheries, Forestry and Planning](#)

News you can use

Closet Case The CO₂ monster hiding in your wardrobe

Slate green challenge: Help the planet. By Meaghan O'Neill and treehugger.com

Updated Monday, Nov. 13, 2006, at 11:53 AM ET

Your closet may not be the first place you'd think to look to reduce your CO₂ output. But clothing manufacture involves agriculture, industry, and commerce, so our fashion choices make a statement about greenhouse gasses as well as style.

Chances are that a good portion of what's hanging in your closet is made from cotton. The fiber is tough to grow, so cotton farmers use enormous amounts of energy-intensive, CO₂-emitting chemicals and fertilizers. To produce one pair of regular cotton jeans takes three-quarters of a pound of fertilizers and pesticides. Each T-shirt takes one-third of a pound. The [farming of organic fibers](#), by contrast, releases less CO₂ into the air and uses 50 percent less energy. Cotton, hemp, bamboo, ramie, linen, and [silk](#) can all be grown organically. (And [hemp](#) and [bamboo](#) are pretty good for your CO₂ count, even when they're not organic, because they need little if any fertilizer to grow.) [Organic wool, alpaca, and cashmere](#) are also excellent choices. So is [lyocell](#), a textile made from wood pulp. Anything in your closet made of nylon, polyester, or acrylic, on the other hand, comes drenched in CO₂-laden petroleum (not literally, but you get the idea).

Mindful of the growth of the organic-food market, manufacturers, such as Patagonia, [Nike](#), [Levi's](#), and even Wal-Mart are starting to buy organic textiles. In fact, demand for organic cotton far outstrips supply—only 6,577 acres of certified-organic cotton were planted in the United States last year, less than 0.05 percent of cotton acreage overall. (Even at that low rate, the United States, along with Turkey, is the world's largest producer of organic cotton.)

We're not suggesting you overhaul your entire closet in one fell retail-therapy swoop. Instead, below are a variety of incremental ideas for curbing your closet's CO₂ appetite. If only the carbon pounds you shed could help you squeeze into this season's pencil-thin organic-cotton jeans ...

- Aside from your refrigerator, your dryer is your household's most energy-sucking appliance. To increase its efficiency and save CO₂ emissions, put it in a part of the house that's typically warm. Clean the lint filter after each load and only turn it on when it's full. If your dryer features a moisture-sensor option, use it. This ensures the machine will automatically shut off when the clothes are dry. Better yet, line-dry your clothes whenever possible so you're using no energy at all.
- If your washing machine has spin options, set it to a high or extended-spin setting. This will wring clothes out as much as possible before you put them in the dryer.
- Buy organic. Though there's no government label for organic clothing like the one for organic food, most manufacturers let you know. (Check out some of TreeHugger's favorite eco-conscious designers [here](#).)
- Look for clothes that use recycled content. The environmental impact of recycling worn-out polyester into new polyester fiber, for instance, is significantly lower than making that same fiber anew. CO₂ savings can be as high as 71 percent in the case of [Patagonia](#)'s recycled Capilene base layers, and the company's Synchronia fleece is made from recycled plastic bottles.
- Donate your used, unwanted clothing and shoes instead of throwing them away. This averts the CO₂ emissions that come from incinerating them or sending them to a landfill.
- We don't expect you to go to work in rags, but buying vintage or used clothes is a great way to cut down on the CO₂ costs associated with farming and manufacturing. (Click [here](#) for TreeHugger vintage finds.)
- Choose quality over quantity. Buying things you'll wear for a long time saves energy and reduces trash.
- Choose clothes made from hemp and bamboo. Think you'll look like a hippie? [Think again](#).
- Cows create loads of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases. Could you buy fewer shoes made from leather, and give canvas and hemp a chance?

(Click [here](#) to launch this week's action quiz.)

What's the "Green Challenge"? Click [here](#).

Date Saver

Interested in Landscape Ecology, Disturbance Ecology, Urban Ecology, and/or the interface between social and ecological studies?

If so, Dr. Steward Pickett might be of interest to you. Dr Pickett will be on campus the 27 and 28th of November to give a public lecture and to meet with students and faculty.

Dr. Pickett is from the Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Millbrook, NY (http://www.ecostudies.org/people_sci_pickett.html). His research relates to a wide variety of topics in community and landscape ecology, and to broader issues of biocomplexity and sustainability. He is currently broadening the context of his earlier pioneering work on patch dynamics of natural systems to now evaluate social systems.

Dr. Pickett is giving a talk as part of the Conservation Biology Program seminar mini-series "Integrating Theory & Application in Conservation". His talk entitled "*Using a patch dynamics framework to promote integration of ecological and social studies*" will be on the 27th of Nov. at 4 pm in RM 105 in the Cargill Building.

Please email us as soon as possible if you are interested in meeting with Dr. Pickett for a 30 min session. We would like to finalize his schedule by the end of this week.

Twin Cities Agricultural Issues Round Table this academic year with two sessions featuring faculty from the Department of Applied Economics:

- Vernon Eidman will speak on Thursday, December 7. His topic will be "Biofuels: Implications for Grain and Livestock Production."
- Kent Olson will speak on Thursday, February 15. His topic will be "The New Farm Bill: Impacts on Minnesota Farms."

Both sessions will be at the Four Points Sheraton Minneapolis. We will gather at 11:30 a.m. for lunch served promptly at noon. The program and discussion follow lunch, and we conclude by 1:30 p.m.

Professor Vernon Eidman, our speaker on December 7, is internationally recognized for his work on biofuels and renewable energy. In his Round Table presentation he will discuss the current status and economics of ethanol and biodiesel production in the U.S., speculate on the rate of growth for these two biofuels over the next five years, and explore some of the likely implications of biofuels growth for farms in the Midwest.

Vernon is former Head of the Department of Applied Economics. In that capacity he coordinated the Agricultural Issues Round Table, so those who do not know him well will remember him as organizer and host of past Round Table sessions. Vernon is a Past President and Fellow of the American Agricultural Economics Association. He is an award-winning teacher and is the author of numerous articles and reports on farm management, risk analysis, and renewable energy. Vernon will be retiring from the University on January 2, 2007, though he plans to continue some of his current work on biofuels and renewable energy. Our session on December 7 will also be a great opportunity to wish him well in his retirement.

The session will be held at the Four Points Sheraton Minneapolis, 1330 Industrial Boulevard, Minneapolis, (Hwy. 36 & Industrial Blvd. — phone: 612-331-1900). Advance reservations are necessary because we need to make a guarantee on luncheon numbers 72 hours prior to event. Please contact Sue Pohlod at 612-625-8779 or spohlod@umn.edu to reserve space. Luncheon cost is \$30.00 with checks payable to the University of Minnesota. "No shows" and "late cancellations" will be billed for the full luncheon fee.

If you have any questions or suggestions about future speakers or the topics, call me at 612-625-0231. For registration and logistics information, call Sue Pohlod at 612-625-8779. We look forward to seeing you there.