

Conservation Biology Graduate Program Weekly Newsletter

23 April 2007

A weekly newsletter of the Conservation
Biology Graduate Program

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

Submissions to coop0162@umn.edu



Editor's Corner

Good morning!

I trust that everyone enjoyed Earth Day activities over the weekend. Green is totally the new black this season—and hopefully for next season as well!

- There are several great seminars on campus this week. Please be sure to check them out here in St. Paul and across the way in Minneapolis. Lynn Baker will be speaking at ICGC (West Bank) on Wednesday on Nigeria's only endemic primate species. Please see the announcement listed below.
- Be sure to check out the newsletter's ever growing list of Fall 2007 course announcements. If you would like to announce a course in the newsletter just send me an email and a \$10 bill. No checks please.

Okay, enough with the funny business. Hey, if you're fed up with my funny business and desire a captive audience of your own, the position of Cons Bio Newsletter Editor is officially open for the academic year 2007/08. Please send me an email coop0162@umn.edu if you'd like to try your hand at it (≤ 2 hour/week time commitment). No experience necessary.

Anne Cooper

Lectures/seminars on campus

Conservation Biology Seminar

Date and time: **23 April** 4-5pm

Location: Room 335 Borlaug Hall

Title: Understanding the Forces Driving Bushmeat Hunting in the Serengeti Ecosystem: Nutritional and Socio-Economic Factors

Presenter: Dennis Rentsch, Conservation Biology Program

Notes: Illegal hunting of wildlife by communities around Serengeti National Park (SNP) severely impacts wildlife throughout the ecosystem. In a longitudinal study of villages near the boundary of the protected area, I seek to better understand the relationship between village level socio-economic factors, household level demographics and bushmeat hunting. More than 3,000 people were interviewed from 20 villages bordering SNP to determine the level of consumption of various sources of protein, including bushmeat. More than 27% of participants surveyed admitted to consuming bushmeat in the last 7 days. Villages were surprisingly heterogeneous with regard to consumption, ranging from 0.05 to 2.13 bushmeat meals per

family per week. I examine these differences in bushmeat consumption based on socio-economic and nutritional indicators. Preliminary findings in addition to past studies suggest that bushmeat consumption is attributed primarily to poverty and lack of alternative sources of protein.

Forest Resources Department Ph.D. Seminar

Presenter: Kathy Ward, Graduate Student, Forest Resources Department, Advised by: Marv Bauer and Gary Johnson

Title: Evaluation of the Urban Forest through Geospatial Methods

Date, time and location: Monday, April 23, 10:30 a.m., 203 Green Hall

Notes: Widespread, rapid development is occurring in many of the oak-dominated woodlands in the seven-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area (TCMA), Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota. The growing urbanization in the TCMA, combined with the diversity of land cover types and land uses found there make it a near ideal area for use of satellite remote sensing and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for monitoring and analyzing changes in the forest resource. In this study, Landsat satellite images acquired in 1991 and 1998 were classified and analyzed using a GIS and the following questions were examined: 1) What is the historical amount of oak forest in the TCMA and has the amount of oak forest changed over time? and 2) What types of spatial transformation occurred along with the loss of oak forest in the TCMA? Knowledge of how the oak forest has changed over time can be integrated with land use change information to help planners make decisions about zoning and development that can minimize the impacts of increasing land conversion pressure in forested areas.

Environmental and Resource Economics Seminar

Date, time and location: Monday, April 23, 12:00-1:30 p.m., Room 230 Classroom Office Building

Presenter: Shefali Mehta, Department, Applied Economics, U of M

Title: "Can conservation and profits co-exist? The case of lion hunting"

Notes: Trophy hunting plays a major role in the Serengeti region. Hunting companies manage large tracts of land, thus their management decisions have wide-ranging implications for the wildlife, the proximate communities and the overall economy; these companies hire many local residents and share some of their profits with local communities (mandated through government legislation) and with the government through wildlife taxes. By following better-informed management practices, these companies could potentially generate an outcome whereby all of the key stakeholders - the companies, the communities, the government and the environment - experience an increase in welfare. This research shows that management practices promoting species conservation can also increase the profits of the hunting company. Specifically, hunting practices that target specific age groups for each species can increase the long-term viability of the wildlife populations which in turn increases the expected profits for the hunting companies.

FR8107 Seminar Series

Date and location: Monday, April 23, 2007, 203 Green Hall, St. Paul Campus

Talk 1

Title: Safe-sites for Cedar: A Riparian Harvest Study

Presenter: Brooke Haworth, Graduate Student

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Notes: Northern white-cedar (*Thuja occidentalis* L.) is a unique, long-lived conifer component of riparian ecotones of northern boreal forests. It is estimated that northern white-cedar communities comprised roughly 8% of the pre-settlement landscape of northeastern Minnesota. Mature populations of cedar were harvested in the late 1800's and early 1900's during the timber heydays. Management strategies established in the mid-20th century, in

which strip clear-cutting was implemented, have failed to successfully re-establish cedar stands. Research shows that we are altering the regeneration dynamic by current harvest methods, allowing species with greater shade tolerance and faster growth rates to compete more successfully. Balsam fir (*Abies balsamea* (L.) Mill), a common cohort in cedar mixed forests, frequently replaces cedar as the dominant species, and represses significant cedar seedling development. Also contributing to a lack of regeneration is an increase in white-tailed deer populations (*Odocoileus virginianus*) and consequent heavy browse pressure. New recruitment into existing stands appears insufficient to maintain this species as a viable population. This study provides us an opportunity to learn more about northern white-cedar and the species' response to stand manipulations in riparian areas. It will also help us address broader ecological goals of maintaining forest species diversity and maintenance of long-lived conifers.

Talk 2

Title : Using LiDAR remote sensing to characterize the spatial distribution of forest biomass

Presenter: Ryan Anderson, Graduate Student

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Notes: In the last several years, light detection and ranging (LiDAR) has emerged as a valuable remote sensing technique in forested areas because it allows for three-dimensional characterization of stand structural attributes. Several researchers have documented strong relationships between LiDAR measurements and vegetation properties, including wood volume, biomass, tree height, and stem diameter. However, most studies have been conducted in areas of relatively homogenous vegetation. The diverse mixed forests common to the Midwest are poorly represented in the literature. This talk will present the general method used to model forest characteristics based on LiDAR point data as well as specific results from LiDAR based forest inventory work in the Chequamegon National Forest of Northern Wisconsin. We analyzed the accuracy of standing forest biomass predictions derived from small-footprint airborne LiDAR data collected in both leaf-on and leaf-off conditions. In particular, we assess the effect of cover type on the relationship between lidar metrics and plot-measured biomass. Further, we develop an empirical model that can be used to map forest productivity based on inventory data, our lidar-derived biomass map, and soil survey data.

Annual Distinguished Teaching Awards Ceremony

Please attend the Annual Distinguished Teaching Awards ceremony

Date, time and location: Monday, April 23, 3:30 pm, McNamara Alumni Center's Memorial Hall

Notes: All members of the University community are invited to this special ceremony and reception to honor 12 distinguished teachers for their contributions to undergraduate, graduate, and professional education. Award recipients are inducted into the Academy of Distinguished Teachers, in recognition of the significance of their teaching excellence. Recipients join their Academy colleagues from all four campuses to provide important leadership to the University community, serving as mentors, advisers, and spokespersons for the University's teaching mission.

To register for this event, go to www.alumni.umn.edu/distinguishedteaching or call 612-625-9174.

Inside Africa's Crippled Giant: Research tales from the Niger Delta & Igboland

Presenter: Lynne R. Baker, Conservation Biology Program

Date, time and location: April 25, Wednesday, 12pm, 560 Heller Hall

Notes: My research focuses on Nigeria's only endemic primate species, the Sclater's monkey (*Cercopithecus sclateri*). This species has a restricted range – southeastern Nigeria – and is

listed as Endangered by the IUCN-World Conservation Union. My dissertation research comprises two studies in three field main sites: two contiguous community forests in Bayelsa State in the eastern Niger Delta, and two communities in Igboland where residents do not hunt or eat monkeys due to local cultural and religious beliefs. In the former study, I used a relatively new sampling technique to estimate occupancy of this species in this region, while in the latter, I evaluated attitudes of local people in two Igbo communities toward this monkey. In this talk, I will discuss my work in the Niger Delta (eastern Delta region) from the perspective of a foreigner not affiliated with the oil industry, the status of "sacred" monkeys in Igboland, and prospects for conservation in these troubled sites.

The Kermit A. Olson Memorial Lecture

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

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

Hello Students

The GradSEHD Graduate Student Appreciation Party will be Friday, **April 27th** from 6:00-11:00 p.m. in the Terrace Room of the St. Paul Student Center (2017 Buford Ave St. Paul, MN 55108). Start to spread the word!

Courses

FW8465: FISH HABITATS and RESTORATION

Fall 2007, 3 cr.

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

Instructor: Bruce Vondracek

Office: 318 Hodson Hall

Phone: 624-8748

e-mail: bvondrac@umn.edu

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

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

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

CBIO8201: How to excel in graduate school

Fall 2007, 1 credit

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

Instructor: Bruce Vondracek

Office: 318 Hodson Hall

Phone: 624-8748

e-mail: bvondrac@umn.edu

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

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

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

Risk Analysis for Science and Technology Policy Fall 2007 PA 8790

1.5 credits

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

Instructor: Prof. Jennifer Kuzma

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

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

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

PFF

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

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

Retreat: May 16, 2007

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

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

For Retreat Registration:

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

Fall 2007 Courses:

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

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

GRAD 8101: Teaching in Higher Education (3 credits)

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

Fall 2007

Mondays 2:30-5:30 / Minneapolis

Tuesdays 2:30-5:30 pm / Minneapolis

Thursdays 5-8 pm/ Minneapolis

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

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

(3 credits, prerequisite GRAD 8101 or equivalent department teaching course; e-mail pff@umn.edu for equivalent courses and/or permission number) As future faculty and administrators, participants will examine a variety of institutional contexts in higher education and work also with a faculty mentor they select. In this course, students gain valuable teaching experience at a host institution, explore faculty life beyond the classroom, analyze contemporary academic issues, and create a targeted job search portfolio.

Fall 2007

Tuesdays 2:30-5:30 pm / Minneapolis

Thursdays 5-8 pm / Minneapolis

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

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

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

Fall 2007

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

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

Course meets five times.

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

Best,

Ilene D. Alexander, PhD

PFF Program Coordinator

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

Teaching with Writing

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Announcements

Sustainability Film Contest

MAY 3rd AT THE BELL!! <http://www.sustainability.umn.edu/greenshorts/index.html> The new Sustainability Studies Minor invites you to create a short (< 5 min) film expressing your thoughts on a sustainable and environmentally friendly world. This contest is open to all undergraduate students at the University of Minnesota. Top films will be screened and judged at the Bell Museum on Thursday, May 3, 2007. Winning filmmakers will receive prizes including an Apple iPod. Check out our website to see our own Green Short!!!

Weekly Happy Hour for FWCB and neighboring departments!!!

When: Wednesdays

Where: Ol' Mexico Restaurante & Cantina (1754 Lexington Ave N.)

What Time: Happy Hour!

Who: Anybody who would like to come. We would like to use this to meet more people in the department, and in other departments. Spouses, friends, and significant others welcome.

***Happy hour at Ol' Mexico Restaurante & Cantina is from 4-6:30 and includes a *complimentary taco bar* and *reduced prices on tap beers*!

It is time to clean up your department!

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

GAPSA

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

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

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

Jobs

A GOLDER OPPORTUNITY

Vegetation/Rare Plant Specialist

At Golder Associates, we strive to be the most respected global group specializing in ground engineering and environmental services. Employee-owned since our formation in 1960, we have created a unique culture with pride in ownership, resulting in long-term organizational stability. Our professionals take the time to build an understanding of our clients' needs and of the specific environments in which they operate. Golder has experienced steady growth in the number of people we employ and our technical capabilities. We now employ over 4,500 people who operate from more than 130 offices across Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America and South America. . In Canada, Golder Associates Ltd. has been consistently named as both one of *Canada's 50 Best Employers* and as one of *Canada's 50 Best Managed Private Companies*.

Golder Associates Ltd. is a strong advocate of the team approach to undertaking projects and problem solving. Accordingly, the candidate will be expected to interface with and work in multi-disciplinary teams in which the contribution of each member is equally valued.

The Position

Due to expanding operations and increased workload, we are seeking the following individual to join our team of scientists and engineers in our Calgary office: As a Vegetation and Rare Plant Specialist, the candidate will be expected to:

- Effectively scope vegetation assessment requirements
- Participate in, coordinate or manage vegetation projects
- Communicate effectively with individuals and within teams
- Co-ordinate and mentor junior staff and provide senior review
- Participate in the development of a client base for terrestrial environmental consulting services

This position will initially involve working under the supervision of senior team members, with the opportunity to assume increasing autonomy and responsibility.

Qualifications

- University degree(s) in botany, biology, ecology, environmental science or related discipline
- Minimum of 7 years experience in environmental assessment or vegetation/terrestrial science activities with a minimum of 5 years in detailed report preparation and finalization
- The ability to conduct and lead vegetation assessments and rare plant surveys
- Demonstrate ecosite classification knowledge
- Strong analytical skills applicable to study design and statistical analysis of environmental data using parametric, non-parametric and multivariate techniques
- Strong writing and communication skills

In addition, it would be beneficial for the successful candidate to possess the following:

- Experience in environmental consulting particularly vegetation assessment, biodiversity and reclamation
- Knowledge of the needs of clients from a variety of industries, as relevant to the experience areas listed above

Interested applicants are encouraged to apply on-line at www.golder.com in the Career/Canada section. No phone calls please, only those candidates whose background closely matches the opportunity will be contacted for an interview.

Position Announcement for CFANS Grant Coordinator

The College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences is seeking applicants for a Grant Coordinator for the College. This is a newly developed position with a reporting line to the CFANS Associate Dean for Research. The Search Committee requests your support in identifying suitable candidates for the position. Please circulate the attached position description as appropriate.

Application should be made on line at: <https://employment.umn.edu/> Requisition #147106

Application review begins April 30, 2007.

We're here to help

Workshops at Magrath Library – Spring 2007

Attend a hands-on session to enhance your information-gathering skills Register at <http://www.lib.umn.edu/registration>

RefWorks Basics –5/3, 5/16, Keeping Current In the Sciences –Grant resources: Locating Grants in your Field –5/15

On Campus Hennepin County Service Centers

The Office of Human Resources would like to announce a new service for University Employees. We have partnered with Hennepin County to provide our employees an on site (East Bank) access to the Hennepin County Service Centers, where employees can purchase motor vehicle tabs, license plates, hunting and fishing licenses, and more. Because this is a satellite operation, the service center does not accept cash. Fees must be paid by check or credit card.

Please see the announcement below which lists the current hours of 11 am to 1:30 pm on Mondays at the ground floor reception area of Morrill Hall. We will monitor the volume of customers and interest in this new service to determine if additional times to access the Service Centers would be desirable.

- Passports*
- Driver's license duplicates**
- - Minnesota state ID duplicates**
- - Motor vehicle tabs, plates, titles and registration
- - Birth and death certificates
- - Marriage licenses and certificates
- - Watercraft, snowmobile and ATV registrations
- - Hunting and fishing licenses
- - Notary commission filings
- Bring your own Passport photos
- ** We are unable to renew DL or ID cards at this location

Location: Morrill Hall, Rm 3, 100 Church St. SE

Hours: Mondays, 11 a.m - 1:30 p.m. **Contact us:** 612-348-8240 www.hennepin.us

Date Saver

2007 Phillip C. Hamm Memorial Lecture

Title: "Steroid Signaling in Plants: The First Decade"

Presenter: Dr. Joanne Chory, Professor and Director, Plant Biology Laboratory, The Salk Institute for Biological Studies, The Howard Hughes Medical Institute

Date, time and location: Monday, April 30, 2007, 2:30 – 3:00 p.m. Awards, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Lecture, 105 Cargill Building, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Reception Atrium, Cargill Building

St. Paul Campus, University of Minnesota

EVERYONE WELCOME

Biofuels: Economic Prospects and Environmental Implications

The College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences invites you to attend the first in a series of symposia. On May 1, two of the nation's leading experts in biofuels will present their views in a symposium titled: Biofuels: Economic Prospects and Environmental Implications. The event is free and open to the public. Biofuels: Economic Prospects and

Environmental Implications 1:00-3:30 p.m., May 1, 2007 335 Borlaug Hall, St. Paul Campus
http://www.cfans.umn.edu/Solution-Driven_Science_Symposium.html

The symposium will include Bruce Babcock, director of the Center for Agricultural and Rural Development at Iowa State University, and Wally Wilhelm, a plant physiologist with the USDA's Agricultural Research Service. Responding to their presentations will be U of M economist Steve Taff and soil scientist Gyles Randall.

The afternoon will focus on how increased renewable energy production from bio-resources will significantly increase competition for agricultural and natural resources. It also will intensify land use issues among food, fuel, fiber, urbanization, and environmental services. These complex changes will produce global economic and environmental impacts that will not be universally beneficial.

This is the first Solution-Driven Science Symposium organized by the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. The goal of the symposia is to highlight topics that are relevant to CFANS' strategic initiatives. The format of these symposia offers the St. Paul campus community an opportunity to listen to experts and get engaged in the conversation through an extended questions & answer panel discussion.

Symposium in honor of Regents Professor Emeritus G. Edward Schuh: "Toward a Global Food and Agricultural Policy for an Open International Economy"

On* **May 2 and 3**,* the University of Minnesota will host a symposium to honor the lifetime contributions of Regents Professor Emeritus G. Edward Schuh. Ed served on the faculty for more than 25 years and in such public sector roles as member of the President's Council of Economic Advisors and Undersecretary of Agriculture. He also was dean of the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs and head of the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics.

A special rate of \$20 for students/\$40 for U of M faculty members and staff *will cover the cost of the meals to be served during the symposium.* Registration and further information about the symposium, including further information about the presenters and titles of the papers, can be found at www.hhh.umn.edu/schuh_symposium
<http://www.hhh.umn.edu/schuh_symposium>.

Continuing Education Course

The Continuing Education Committee of the MN Chapter of AFS is giving a "head's up" on a 4-day workshop entitled: "Lake Habitat Protection and Restoration in Agricultural Landscapes" to be held at Cabelas in Owatonna and Waseca during **Aug. 20 - 23 2007** (see below). This is a "save the date" memo for those of you who might be interested and need to work this into their field schedule. We are not taking any reservations yet and will formally announce the workshop later in May.

This year we will focus on lake and watershed issues in agricultural landscapes. In 2008, we are planning a similar workshop focused on Urban/Forest landscapes.

The CE committee looks forward to putting on this timely (if not overdue) workshop and are thankful for the experienced instructors we were able enroll.

Cheers,

Ray

Continuing Education Co-chair

MN Chapter of The American Fisheries Society

Course Title: Lake Habitat Protection and Restoration in Agricultural Landscapes

Date and location: Aug 20th-23rd 2007, Owatonna, MN

Day 1: Watershed assessment and diagnosis of condition (Joe Magner, Greg Johnson, Pat Baskfield PCA)

- Hydrology 101

- Effects of tiles and ditches on distribution of water and water quality

- Field trip

Day 2: Strategies for Protection and Restoration – Identifying the battle front and identifying all resources available to win battles

- Collaborative and Educational Strategies for mitigation or restoration: Community involvement & essential relationships – From Regional coordination to sitting at the kitchen table with Farmer Brown (Beth Knudsen - DNR)

- State and Federal strategies for mitigation or restoration

- Federal Farm Bill and the CRP program (Wayne Edgerton – DNR)

- Emerging issue – Ethanol and biofuels

- Land Acquisition and Easements (Mike Halverson - DNR) – AMA's, WMA's, WPA's, RIM

- TMDL process (Tim Larson - PCA)

- Local Strategies

- Goings on with the Brown Nicollet Water Quality Board (Kevin Kuehner)

- Goings on with the Fairbault Co. Soil and Water Conservation District (Michele Stindman)

- Wrap-up: Are things getting better or worse in the Western Corn Belt and Plains? Challenges Ahead (Tim Larson - PCA).

Days 3&4: Shoreline restoration, Clear Lake, Waseca – John Hiebert (DNR Shoreland Habitat Mgr) and Leilani Peterson (DNR Shoreline Habitat Spec.).

Ray Valley

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Conferences and Meetings

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

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

Tuesday, **May 1, 2007**. Cowles Auditorium, Hubert H. Humphrey Center . University of Minnesota. Register at www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu/conferences/if.php or email lawvalue@umn.edu.

This conference will present the recommendations from an NIH-funded project developing standards for the management of incidental findings identified during research with human subjects. Incidental findings are defined as unexpected findings beyond the domain of key interest in the research that have potential clinical significance. Presentations will focus on obtaining feedback from the public, researchers, research subjects, and regulatory bodies such as IRBs on a position paper outlining consent form language and IRB protocols.

For more information, visit our conference website:

<http://www.lifesci.consortium.umn.edu/conferences/if.php> Or contact the Consortium office at:

Email: lawvalue@umn.edu, Telephone: 612-625-0055

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

Funding and award opportunities

Distinguished Diversity and Inclusion Award

The Distinguished Diversity and Inclusion Award is an annual award that recognizes outstanding effort on the part of members of the College to deepen our commitment to the land grant mission while building upon and sustaining access to the richness of our community. See *attached document for more information*.

Enhancing our capacity to fully embrace diversity and excellence as core values of the College is essential. We are best served and most effective when all voices are represented as we work to realize the President's goal of becoming one of the top three research institutions. This is well stated in the CFANS diversity plan:

Knowledge and understanding are at the core of the public research university mission. Diversity in *what* is known, *how* we know and those *who* know serve as powerful catalysts for innovation in research, educational programs and outreach. In this way, an increased commitment to diversity ties directly to institutional quality, and a lack of diversity to institutional costs.

Embracing diversity enhances the performance of all University work. Committing to greater cross-cultural competency must be undertaken by acknowledging that diversity fosters excellence and abundance--offering all a chance for personal growth and CFANS an occasion to pursue increased innovation. A multicultural environment encourages innovation and fosters creativity. (http://www.cfans.umn.edu/Statement_on_Diversity.html)

Please assist us in recognizing the work of our faculty, and staff supporting diversity, inclusion, multiculturalism and cultural pluralism for this inaugural year. **The deadline for submitting nominations is April 30**. If you have any questions concerning the award or nomination process, please contact Karl Lorenz (klorenz@umn.edu, 624-9299).

Carol E. Macpherson Memorial Scholarship Funds for 2007-08

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

SUBMIT TO:

OFFICE FOR UNIVERSITY WOMEN

185 Klaeber Court

320 16th Avenue SE Mpls. MN 55455

(Campus Delivery Code 3013) Phone: 612.625.9837

Eligibility Requirements:

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

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

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

Review Criteria:

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

2007 John E. Skinner Memorial Fund Award

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

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

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

The application form can be found at:

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

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

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

Izaak Walton League of America

The Minnesota Division of the Izaak Walton League of America will award a scholarship(s) of not more than \$1000.00 to assist a person(s) who enter or continue in an education program in Environmental Education, Environmental Law, Wildlife Management, or some other conservation-oriented program. The application form is attached. The deadline for applications is **May 15, 2007**.

Thank you and please call or email if you have questions.

Noreen Tyler

Office Administrator Minnesota Division

Izaak Walton League of America

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