

Conservation Biology Graduate Program Weekly Newsletter

23 October 2006

A weekly newsletter of the Conservation
Biology Graduate Program

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

Submissions to coop0162@umn.edu



Editor's Corner

Hello, I hope that things are going well for all. The semester, marching along, has brought us to Halloween and midterms. Over the weekend I was out searching for Honeycrisp apples at local orchards—get them while they last!

A few random events and notes of interest this week:

- The Bell Museum is hosting a Prairie Film Series in the Bell Auditorium on Sundays in October-November 2006, 3 p.m. (further details below).
- Friday October 27th at 2pm there will be a showing and discussion of !Viva Cuba! (2005) by director Juan Carlos Cremata in 50 Folwell Hall. For more information check out <http://spanport.umn.edu/news/pdfs/VivaCubaFilmPoster.pdf>.
- The Gopher Crops and Soils Club will be having their annual Pumpkin Sale at the intersection of Gortner Avenue and Buford Avenue, in the Beef Barn parking lot. The price per pumpkin will be three dollars. There will be three convenient times that the pumpkins will go on sale.

Friday, October 20-3:00 pm to 5:30 pm

Tuesday, October 24-3:00 pm to 5:30 pm

Wednesday, October 25-3:00 pm to 5:30 pm

Enjoy!

Anne Cooper

Lectures/seminars on campus

Conservation Biology

Date: 23 October 2006

Time: 4:05-5:00

Location: Room 140, Plant Growth Facility

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

Please join us--all are welcome and as always, refreshments will be provided.

See you then!

The CB Seminar Coordinators
Liz Johnson
Derric Pennington
Rachel Brummel

ADA COMSTOCK DISTINGUISHED WOMEN SCHOLARS LECTURE

Date: 25 October 2006

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Cowles Auditorium, HHH Center

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

Water Resources Science Seminar

Date: Monday, October 23, 2006

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Location: 415 Alderman Hall–St. Paul Campus

Presenter: Karen Buhr

Topic: "Engaging graduate students: a guide to becoming more involved"

Notes: The goal of this seminar is to present practical ways graduate students can get out and get involved. Graduate students play a vital role in the U of MN campus and are a critical link in civic engagement. Yet often graduate students don't get involved in the world outside of their labs. This creates a void on the campus, in the community, and in the experience of the graduate students themselves. In this seminar we will discuss the idea of civic engagement both as internal and external to campus. I will also present a list of practical ways for students to get more involved with their campus and their community including the all-important sources of funding.

Ecology, Evolution and Behavior

Date: 25 October 2006

Time: 4:00-5:00

Location: 335 Borlaug Hall

Presenter: Dr. Emily Stanley

Topic: "Dammed and undammed: the Wisconsin Experience"

Host: Jacques Finlay

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

Forest Resources

Date: 125 October 2006

Time: 3:00 pm

Location: 203 Green Hall

Presenter: Jeremy Bruskotter, MN Coop Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

Topic: "Understanding Angler's Values: The Development of Scales for Assessing Angler Value Orientations"

Notes: Controversies regarding the management of natural resources can arise when people hold different beliefs about the fundamental nature of the relationship

between human beings and their environment. Recently, researchers have turned to the psychological construct of values for explaining such differences. In this presentation I report on the development of scales for measuring anglers value orientations. In addition to scale construction, I describe the relationship between anglers value orientations and their normative beliefs regarding acceptable fishing practices. Finally, I examine the social and psychological factors related with fishing license purchasing in a sample (n=922) of Minnesota anglers.

Jeremy Bruskotter is a graduate research assistant with the Minnesota Cooperative Fish and Wildlife research unit. He is currently pursuing a doctorate in Natural Resources Science and Management focusing on understanding the social and psychological factors affecting conservation behavior. Jeremy holds a bachelor's degree in art from Western Michigan University, and a Masters' degree in the Human Dimensions of Ecosystem Science and Management from Utah State University.

Environmental Health Sciences, School of Public Health, Center for Science, Technology, and Public Policy

Date: 26 October 2006

Time: 12:15-1:30pm

Location: Room 25, Law School

Presenter: Michael P. Wilson, PhD

Topic: Brown Chemistry, Green Chemistry: Regulatory Failure around Chemicals & Future Opportunities

Notes: The U.S. imports and produces 42 billion pounds of chemicals each day, the great majority of them untested for effects on human health and ecosystems. Yet global chemical production will double in 25 years. These are among the findings of a landmark 2006 University of California report – Green Chemistry in California: A Framework For Leadership in Chemicals Policy and Innovation, available at http://coeh.berkeley.edu/news/06_wilson_policy.htm. The report's chief author is Dr. Michael P. Wilson, assistant research scientist at UC Berkeley's Center for Occupational and Environmental Health, School of Public Health. He will discuss the report's findings, particularly relevant for states such as Minnesota looking for solutions on how to develop economically while also reducing chemical pollution and its adverse impacts on health and the economy. The Green Chemistry report makes the case that the U.S. chemical regulatory system crafted 30 years ago no longer is effective and actually impedes the development of green chemistry (the science of creating safer chemicals). How? By not producing enough information about chemical hazards in the market, by overly constraining government's power to regulate dangerous chemicals, and by providing insufficient R&D support for cleaner technologies, including green chemistry. The UC report concludes that a modern, comprehensive chemicals policy is essential to placing California on the path to a sustainable future. The UC report, published under the aegis of the UC Office of the President, was prepared under the oversight of a 13-member Advisory Committee of UC faculty. The report was commissioned in 2004 by the California Senate Environmental Quality Committee and Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials. Dr. Wilson has presented the report's findings before the California Legislature and the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Announcements

Bell Museum Film Series

Please join us for a series of afternoon films exploring the natural and cultural history of prairies.

In conjunction with the exhibit, "Touch the Sky: Prairie Photographs by Jim Brandenburg," on view at the Bell Museum October 1-December 31, 2006. Admission to the Bell Museum's exhibits is included in the price of each film.

Prairie Film Series

Bell Museum Auditorium

Sundays, October-November 2006, 3 p.m.

\$7; \$5 students, seniors, and Bell Museum Members The Bell Museum presents a series of films that explore prairie landscapes from a variety of perspectives. Discussions with filmmakers, historians, and environmental scientists will follow each film.

October 22

America's Lost Landscape: The Tallgrass Prairie This beautifully filmed documentary tells the rich and complex story of one of the most astonishing alterations of nature in human history. The steady transformation of prairie to farmland by Euro-American settlers brought enormous change both to the landscape and to Native American communities. The film's extraordinary cinematography, original score, and archival images are all delicately interwoven to create a powerful and moving perspective. A discussion to follow with Dr. Daryl Smith, executive producer of America's Lost Landscape and a professor of Biology and Science Education at the University of Northern Iowa

October 29

Minnesota: A History of the Land

Excerpts from this groundbreaking documentary series put the story of Minnesota's prairies in a historic, ecological and economic perspective--from the breaking of sod for farmland to the development of a the flour milling capitol of the world. A discussion with experts on farming-the-prairie will follow the viewing. A discussion will follow with Polly Fry, Environmental Historian, PhD. and Producer of Minnesota:

A History of the Land, and Dana Jackson, Associate Director of The Land Stewardship Project.

November 5

Marsh Waters: Waste, or Wealth?(1955)

Cry of the Marsh (1969)

These historic films provide a unique and still relevant perspective on prairie ecosystems. *Marsh Waters*, filmed by pioneering nature filmmaker and longtime Bell Museum director Walter Breckenridge, covers the debate over protection of marshlands through the eyes of flood relief workers, geologists, fire wardens, trappers, landowners and naturalists. Bob Hartkopf's award winning *Cry of the Marsh* is a dramatic and emotional portrayal of the problems created when marshland is drained for highways and urban development. Following the screening, an expert led discussion will explore contemporary debates over the protection of ecosystems like those featured in the films.

The Bell Museum is located on the Minneapolis campus of the University of Minnesota at the southwest corner of 17th Ave. (Church St.) and University Ave. S.E. For more information or directions visit bellmuseum.org or call (612)624-7083.

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Rita L. Lundgren
Bell Museum of Natural History
University of Minnesota
(612) 626-7255

Fellowships

Resident Research Fellowships in Mexico City

The Center for Inter-American Studies and Programs (CEPI - Centro de Estudios y Programas Interamericanos) invites applications for its Resident Fellowship program for the 2007-2008 academic year. The CEPI mission is to encourage new approaches and to bring new thinking to a wide spectrum of hemispheric issues. The fellowship program promotes programs and specialized research to stimulate greater understanding and interest in the region. CEPI is housed in the International Relations department of the ITAM in Mexico City. Comprehensive information about CEPI programs, past and current fellowship holders, working papers, and the electronic application package are all posted on the Center's website:

http://interamericanos.itam.mx/englishversion/index_eng.html

Date Saver

The Missing Dimension: The Social Component of Sustainability

Monday, November 6, 2006

5:45 PM, 100 Rapson Hall

Dr. David Pijawka, Arizona State University, Tempe

School of Planning and Global Institute of Sustainability