

# Conservation Biology Graduate Program Weekly Newsletter

26 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

Hello!

We have a few out-of-town visitors to the CB program this week. Dr. Craig Groves, Conservation planner with the Wildlife Conservation Society, will be giving today's CB seminar in conjunction with Landscape Architecture at CALA. Please note that today's seminar will be at 5:45 in 100 Rapson Hall on the East Bank. On Tuesday morning from 8 to 9:30 CB students and faculty are invited to a bagel breakfast with Dr. Groves. Please let Anup ([consbio@umn.edu](mailto:consbio@umn.edu)) know if you are planning to attend the breakfast. Dr. Holly Ernest, a veterinarian and conservation biologist with extensive experience in mammals and birds, is visiting from UC-Davis (Veterinary Genetics Lab). Dr. Ernest will be giving a presentation on Wed, March 28, 4-5 PM (146 McNeal Hall) on her work with Mountain Lion Population Genetics. CB students are invited to a pizza lunch with Dr. Ernest on Thurs., March 29, Noon-1:30 (194 McNeal). She is also available for meetings with individuals or groups on Thurs morning. To arrange a meeting, contact Anup ([consbio@umn.edu](mailto:consbio@umn.edu)). Please take advantage of these and the many other opportunities from the CB Program.

*Anne Cooper*

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## Lectures/seminars on campus

Conservation Biology Seminar

Date and time: 26 March 5:45 pm

Location: Room 100, Rapson Hall Auditorium, Rapson Hall (East Bank campus)

Title: The Conservation Biologist's Toolbox for Landscape and Land-use Planning

Presenter: Craig Groves, Wildlife Conservation Society

Notes: Craig Groves is a conservation biologist and planner for the International Program of the Wildlife Conservation Society. In the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, he develops science-based methods for setting conservation priorities and implementing strategies in the private-public land interface. He also manages a large national, re-grant program for the Doris Duke Foundation that directs funding to conservation organizations working with state fish and wildlife agencies to implement statewide wildlife strategies. Prior to working for WCS, Craig worked for The Nature Conservancy in a variety of capacities but most recently as the Director of Conservation Planning. In that position, he focused on developing scientific methods for reserve selection and design. In 2000 he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship and wrote

"Drafting a Conservation Blueprint: A Practitioner's Guide to Planning for Biodiversity" (Island Press, 2003) which built upon the ecoregional planning methods of The Nature Conservancy. Earlier in his career, Craig served as the director and zoologist for the Idaho Natural Heritage Program and worked as a non-game and endangered species biologist for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. He directed several studies on rare and vulnerable amphibian, bird, and mammal species and has published numerous papers on their ecology as well as on conservation planning methods.

*\*\*Please Note – This Seminar will take place at 5:45pm on the East Bank Campus\*\**

#### 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"

#### 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.

#### Pre-thesis seminar

Date: Monday March 26th at 3pm

Location: Hodson 495

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

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

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.

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

### Forest Resources

Date and time: Monday, March 26, 2007, 2:30 and 3:00 p.m.

Location: 203 Green Hall, St Paul Campus

Title 1: Making Sure the Sprawl Stays Green: Parks for Minnesota's New Outstate Urban Areas

Presenter 1: Michael Wieteck, Graduate Student

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Abstract 1: 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.

Title 2: "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 2: Terry Serres, Graduate Student

### 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, U of M

Title: Sustainability, Energy Management and Carbon Trading

Please plan on joining us.

### Ph.D. Defense Seminar

Date and time: Wednesday, March 28, 1 pm

Location: 310 Alderman Hall

Presenter: Susan Borman, Ph.D. Candidate, Conservation Biology Program

Title: Aquatic plant communities and lakeshore land use changes over 70 years in northern Wisconsin lakes

Notes: The shoreline landscapes of many lakes in the northern United States have changed substantially over the past century, but the impacts of these changes on the lakes' aquatic plants are largely unknown. In this study, changes in the macrophyte composition and lakeshore land use of thirty northern Wisconsin lakes are examined at different temporal and spatial scales. At the whole-lake scale, comparisons were made between historical baseline data collected in the 1930s (aerial photos and macrophyte inventories) and contemporary photos and plant inventories done in the 2000s. The combination of thorough plant inventories, reliable historical baselines, and detailed land use analysis allowed this study to identify transitions in land use and macrophyte composition that have implications for long-term ecosystem function. The influence of land use on within-lake macrophyte distribution was also evaluated in these lakes. This analysis found both site-specific and cumulative impacts associated with shore land alterations, and showed the importance of intact natural vegetation. The third part of this study looked at the potential effects of landscape level changes on interactions between submersed species at the neighborhood scale of individual plots. These studies looked across scales to assess the effects of changing lakeshore land use on the structure, cover, and species composition of aquatic plant communities. The findings have potential applications in monitoring, management, restoration, and conservation policies.

### Seminar--Dr. Holly Ernest

Title: "Genetics on the Wild Side: Opportunities & Challenges in Wildlife Ecological Genetics"

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.

### EEB Weekly Seminar

Presenter: Dr. Jeff Gralnick, Biotechnology Institute, University of Minnesota

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

Date and time: Wednesday, March 28, 4 pm

Location: 335 Borlaug

Refreshments served at 3:30 in EEB lobby.

## 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*

### Conservation Biology PhD students

Please note a new rule related to thesis credits. In CB, we use 8666 to have people "fill up" their courseload to the max of the full-time band (14 cr) prior to passing oral prelims. We haven't experienced any of the problems they described below- I do not believe our use of 8666 has added time to degrees or cost people \$\$\$. It remains important that you register for thesis credits up to your full-time limit if you are making a significant investment of time in research--it most accurately reflects your effort and that of your advisor. You will still be able to do this registration for 24 cr and 4 semesters- so really probably won't make actually be a major change for most of you. Let me know if you have any questions.

*Sue*

Effective with summer 2007, The Graduate School will limit to 6 credits the number of credits of 8666 (Doctoral Pre-Thesis Credits) for which a doctoral student may register in any fall, spring or summer term. The Graduate School will also limit registrations of 8666 to two instances and 12 credits without departmental permission. With departmental consent, students may register for 8666 up to four times, for a total accumulation of 24 credits in 8666 registration. Currently enrolled doctoral students will be grandfathered under this change and should be permitted to register for 8666 up to 4 times totaling 60 credits; however, beginning this summer, no doctoral student may register for more than 6 credits of 8666 in a single term (the equivalent of full-time status). A comparison of the current and new attributes of 8666 is provided below:

*Current attributes of 8666:*

1 to 18 cr; max 18 cr per semester or summer

Allow up to 4 repetitions totaling up to 60 credits

Prerequisite: Doctoral student who has not passed prelim oral

No required consent

*Attributes of 8666, effective summer 2007:*

1 to 6 cr; max 6 cr per semester or summer

Allow up to 2 repetitions totaling up to 12 credits

Prerequisite: Doctoral student who has not passed prelim oral

Departmental consent for the third and fourth registrations for an additional 12 cr (or 24 cr total)

These changes follow discussion in the six Policy and Review Councils and the Graduate School Executive Committee last fall and these committees' strong support for increasing constraints on doctoral students' use of the 8666 registration mechanism. An analysis of student registration patterns revealed that some students may be over-using the 8666 registration category, which may unnecessarily delay time to degree and, for students who are also graduate assistants, may be costly to departments if students' repeated registration for 8666 makes them ineligible for the one-credit FTE registration (8444). Students also bear added costs if they register for more than 14 credits of 8666 in a given term, which some students have

done. (Students who have a legitimate reason to register for 8666 should not need to register for more than 6 credits, as 6 credits constitutes full-time registration.)

We ask you to set appropriate expectations for your graduate program regarding 8666 registration and to communicate these expectations in your graduate program handbook and at new student orientation. Student behavior regarding 8666 registration should be monitored as part of the annual student progress review, with appropriate communication to students who exceed a program's normal expectations for 8666 registration. Questions about the changes in 8666, or about best practices around use of this registration mechanism, may be directed to [gsasdean@umn.edu](mailto:gsasdean@umn.edu).

The Graduate School has asked the University's Information Management Systems (IMS) office to develop a new capability in UM Reports to easily identify students who register for 8666 (similar to the report for tracking 999 registration). We will inform you of the timeline for developing the new report when we know it. Thank you for your attention to this change and for your continued careful monitoring of student progress toward timely degree completion.

*Gail Dubrow, Vice Provost and Dean of The Graduate School*

#### University Libraries Spring Book Sale

\*Two days only - Monday, April 2 & Tuesday, April 3

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Wilson Library Basement

Thousands of used books for sale, all subjects.

Prices on Monday, April 2: \$2 per book

Prices on Tuesday, April 3: \$1 per book until 2pm.

Bag sale after 2pm on Tuesday

This will be the only Wilson Library book sale this semester, so mark your calendar. If you have any questions, or you want to get on the book sale email list, drop me a line: [desro004@umn.edu](mailto:desro004@umn.edu) <mailto:desro004@umn.edu> .

-- Mark Desrosiers

#### Support the U Day

<http://www1.umn.edu/groots/support.php> Wednesday, March 28, 2007

U of M supporters will fill the Rotunda of the Minnesota State Capitol on **March 28<sup>th</sup>** for Support the U Day. You are invited to add your voice and attend this annual event. Hundreds of students, faculty, staff, alumni and volunteers from across the state will be at the Capitol urging legislators to support the U of M's legislative requests.

This event provides a unique opportunity for all supporters to join together and directly influence legislation that impacts not only the University and the state, but also your own community.

12:00 Rally in the Minnesota State Capitol Rotunda

12:45 Lunch in the Great Hall, Minnesota State Capitol

1:00 Meetings with legislators (optional)

#### 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

#### Weekly Happy Hour for FWCB and neighboring departments!!!

When: Wednesdays

Where: Ol' Mexico Restaurant & 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\*!

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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:* 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 – 4/4, 4/24, 5/3, 5/16, Keeping Current In the Sciences – 4/11, Searching: 14 Habits of Highly Effective Searchers – 4/10, Create your Poster in PowerPoint – 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

### Deadly fish virus spreading west

A deadly fish virus that already is wreaking havoc in the eastern Great Lakes is spreading west and could one day reach Lake Superior, where it could have potentially devastating effects on Minnesota's fisheries.

*Doug Smith Star Tribune 18 March 2007*

A fatal fish virus that has caused large fish kills in the eastern Great Lakes is spreading west, and the next destination could be Lake Superior. If it arrives there, it could spread to inland waters -- much as zebra mussels and other invasive species have -- with potentially devastating effects on Minnesota's fisheries. "It's a major disaster waiting to happen," said Gary Glass of Duluth, an environmental activist and retired chemist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. "Once it's established here, it will go up the inland waters and down the Mississippi," said Glass. "It's a big deal," agreed Ron Payer, fisheries chief for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. "We're concerned." The virus, called viral hemorrhagic septicemia or VHS, is believed to have spread to the Great Lakes via the ballast of ships. Last year alone it caused large fish kills in Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, Lake Huron and Lake St. Clair and other waterways. It killed a variety of fish, including muskies, walleyes, bass, perch and freshwater drum.

VHS has been called the "Ebola for fish" because it causes them to hemorrhage, killing them, much as the Ebola virus has killed humans in Africa. It has spread from east to west; the latest confirmations came early this year from northern Lake Huron, just 20 miles from Lake Michigan and not far from the locks at Sault Ste. Marie that lead to Lake Superior. "We know we can't keep it out of Lake Michigan," said Gary Whelan, fish production manager at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. "Not only is it spreading in Great Lakes waters, but we have real concerns it will spread to inland waters," he said. But officials simply don't know how the disease will play out or how it will affect fisheries. "It's unlikely to kill every fish," Whelan said. "It could kill a percentage of fish and then move on." It also could kill young fish, suppressing populations. Whelan said officials estimated 2,000 to 4,000 large muskies died from the disease last year in Lake St. Clair, where the muskie population is estimated at 100,000. There's a lot at stake, for anglers, aquaculture and the bait industry in all the states that border the Great Lakes, and Canada. "Our sports fisheries is worth about \$1.5 billion a year," Whelan said. "Our Great Lakes fishery is about 40 percent of that." The impact of Great Lakes and commercial fishing in the U.S. has been estimated at \$4 billion. Another concern, Whelan said, is if VHS infects fish hatcheries. "You may be destroying everything that's in it," he said.

Michigan has passed legislation restricting the release of ballast water in state waters.

"We hope other states follow suit, since the federal government hasn't moved fast on this issue," Whelan said. That's exactly what Glass wants -- immediate action. He and Dave Zentner, also of Duluth, are members of the Izaak Walton League of America. Their chapter has asked state officials to do something before it's too late. "If we allow it to spread to the Twin Ports, the entire St. Louis River estuary will be a hot zone, from which the disease will spread across the state," Zentner, chapter director, wrote to state officials.

Glass and Zentner want officials to require that all ballast be treated to kill any invasive hitchhikers. And with the Duluth-Superior port soon to open, they are frustrated with the lack of action. "We're out of patience," Zentner said. Glass said a relatively easy and cheap fix would be to require chlorine treatment of ballast. Rep. James Oberstar, D-Minn., said Tuesday he intends to introduce legislation in Congress that would address the ballast issue. And chances of passage are good, he said. But it likely will take a couple of years to implement. That's time Glass and Zentner say Lake Superior -- and Minnesota -- doesn't have.

## Date Saver

### Environmental Resources Weekly Seminar

Date and time: Monday, April 2, 2007, 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Presenter: Toshi Arimura, Resources for the Future (also affiliated with George Mason University and Sophia University)

Title: "Is a Voluntary Approach an Effective Environmental Policy Instrument? A Case for Environmental Management Systems."

This is a joint paper by Akira Hibiki, National Institute for Environmental Studies & Hajime Katayama, University of Sydney.

Location: Room 230 Classroom Office Building

Abstract: This paper examines the effectiveness of two voluntary environmental actions, implementation of ISO14001, the globally accepted certified Environmental Management System, and the publication of environmental reports. Previous studies on voluntary environmental actions focused on toxic releases. Using Japanese facility-level data derived from an OECD survey we estimate the effects of the aforementioned environmental actions on three new areas of impacts: natural resource usage; waste generation and wastewater effluent. The paper provides two main findings. First, we extend previous literature findings on chemical toxics by showing that ISO14001 reduces the three areas of impacts. Second, as a voluntary approach, assistance program is effective in promoting ISO14001. Third, the publication of environmental reports is more effective for wastewater effluent, than the more commonly used ISO14001. These findings suggest that promotion of both the voluntary actions is an effective environmental policy tool.

### Herpetology Seminar

Why are there so many species in the tropics? Evolutionary biologist John Wiens discusses his ongoing research into the origins of biodiversity in tropical areas. "Treefrogs, trees, and the roots of tropical biodiversity" Dr. John Wiens (Dept. of Ecology and Evolution, Stony Brook University)

7:00 PM, Friday, April 6th, 2007, 335 Borlaug Hall, St. Paul Campus, Sponsored by the Minnesota Herpetological Society

### 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. 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.

### 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

Senior laboratory associate: Center for Quantitative Fisheries Ecology, Old Dominion University, Norfolk Virginia

CQFE is a leading fisheries laboratory conducting cutting edge research to answer basic questions about populations, persistence and movement of fishes. Areas of research include Chesapeake Bay, Western and Eastern Atlantic shorelines, and Arctic and Antarctic waters among others. Staff have won awards for both research and teaching. [www.odu.edu/fish](http://www.odu.edu/fish)

### *Responsibilities*

The successful applicant will: Conduct routine ageing of Virginia's marine fishes using otoliths, scales, and opercula; Train, schedule, and supervise other technicians to process fishes and their hard parts; Conduct processing by him/herself; Properly maintain laboratory equipment and microscopes; Assist the Laboratory Manager in research, outreach, and public education; Coordinate laboratory activities and research with graduate students and other research scientists.

### *Salary and benefits*

Beginning salary of \$30,146-32,000 doq; Life insurance; Disability insurance 403(b) Tax Shelter Annuity; Health insurance; Dental insurance; 125 Cafeteria Plan; Tuition reimbursement.

### *Qualifications*

B.S. or M.S. in environmental science, with fisheries science preferred, and work experience ageing fish beyond the degree. Supervisory experience is a plus. Knowledge of techniques in ageing fish, ability to perform routine laboratory procedures in fisheries, and conduct field collections.

### *Application deadline*

Applications will be reviewed starting March 1, 2007 and continue until the position is filled.

### *Contact*

Submit resume and names of three references to Old Dominion University Research Foundation, P.O.Box 6369, Norfolk, Virginia 23508 or e-mail to [odurfj\\_obs@edu.edu](mailto:odurfj_obs@edu.edu). Job # 07003 Old Dominion University Research Foundation is an AA/EEO institution.

African Union Commission: Call for CVs of African Women in Science and Technology

The CGIAR Gender and Diversity Program is assisting the African Union Commission to mobilize applications from women scientists and professionals. We would greatly appreciate your assistance in bringing this announcement to the attention of qualified candidates. If you or the candidate would like more information about the opportunity in question, please inquire directly to Masheleni at [masheleni@africa-union.org](mailto:masheleni@africa-union.org)

Please note that, the Gender & Diversity Program does not accept CVs and plays no role in selection decisions. It only assists in distributing the announcements. Our goal is to cast the net

widely, ensuring that women worldwide learn of job and funding opportunities in a timely manner.

#### *Call for CVs of African Women in Science and Technology*

The Commission is requesting for your support to encourage women scientists in Africa and from the Diaspora to send their detailed CVs to the Commission to enable it to establish a database of African women scientists. The commission and development partners will use this database whenever it has events that require the participation of women scientists.

During the First African Union Congress of Scientists and Policymakers we received about 27 women participants and we are sure that we can upgrade this database by getting more African women scientists on-board.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

*Regards*

*Masheleni*

[masheleni@africa-union.org](mailto:masheleni@africa-union.org)

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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.evolution2007.com> 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).

#### 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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