

Conservation Biology Graduate Program Weekly Newsletter

29 January 2007

A weekly newsletter of the Conservation
Biology Graduate Program

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

Submissions to coop0162@umn.edu



Editor's Corner

Last night I watched "Winged Migration" by Jacques Perrin. The movie enables you to fly with many migratory birds throughout their life stages and over seven continents. Totally amazing! It reminded me of how fantastic it is to be part of such a beautiful planet. I know that I'm probably the last person to see this movie, but if you haven't you should definitely queue it up on Netflix today.

And now, the newsletter.

Enjoy!
Anne Cooper

Lectures/seminars on campus

Conservation Biology Seminar

Date and time: 29 January (Monday) 4:00-5:00pm

Location: Please note that the location for seminar has changed again this semester: we will be meeting Mondays from 4-5 in 335 Borlaug.

Presenter: Dr. Robert Blair, Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology

Topic: Identifying Mechanisms Using a Rural to Urban Gradient Paradigm

Notes: Urbanization creates distinct repeatable patterns in the distribution and abundance of birds. Understanding the mechanisms that create these patterns can be a challenge that requires investigation at multiple spatial, temporal, and biological scales. In this talk, I will present work from both terrestrial and riparian rural-to-urban gradients that demonstrates community composition at a specific location is the result of fine-scale processes – such as predation and nesting success – as well as large-scale characteristics – such as landscape heterogeneity and surrounding land use. Additionally, I will explore how life-history and behavioral plasticity allow some species to thrive (or at least exist) in urban settings while limiting the existence of other species.

Ecology, Evolution and Behavior

Date and time: 31 January, 4:00 p.m.

Location: 335 Borlaug

Presenter: Dr. Joseph Werne

Title: Lipid Biomarkers of Aquatic Crenarchaeota A geochemists view of microbial ecology

Notes: Geochemists have long suspected that various microbes were responsible for many of the (bio)geochemical reactions observed in aquatic systems. Recently, analytical advances in geochemistry and molecular biology have allowed unambiguous identification of some of these processes. Furthermore, chemical tracers of various microbes have been found that can be used to reconstruct a variety of climate and environmental parameters, including the reconstruction of paleo sea (or lake) surface temperatures. This presentation will highlight some of these recent advances, with a particular focus on the role of archaea in the geochemists world view.

Host Jim Cotner

Coffee, Tea and Cookies will be served outside of 100 Ecology at 3:30.

Pathways Toward a Renewable Energy Future

Date and time: Thursday, February 1, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Location: Cargill Building for Microbial and Plant Genomics

Notes: This symposium sponsored by the [Initiative on Renewable Energy and the Environment](#) brings together experts to discuss how we can reduce our dependence on fossil fuels by producing sustainable, environmentally-friendly, and abundant biofuels. Six panelists from around the country will each give a short presentation, followed by a panel discussion. For details, contact Jason Hill at hill0408@umn.edu or (612) 624-7258.

Date Saver

At the Bell: Project Art

Seventeen artists from Minnesota and Wisconsin take inspiration from the region's increasingly splintered wild places in "Project Art for Nature: Presence, Essence, Absence," opening February 10 at the [Bell Museum of Natural History](#). Through a wide variety of media, Project Art for Nature artists explore changes in the natural environment -- including habitat degradation and restoration -- caused by weather, climate and human activity. Working in teams of two and three, the artists focused on locations ranging from Wisconsin's Kinnickinnic River and Crex Meadows Wildlife Area to the Mississippi River Gorge in Minneapolis and Mankato's Kasota Prairie.

Ag Issues Roundtable

Date and time: Thursday, Feb. 15, noon

Location: Four Points Sheraton hotel, Minneapolis

Presenter and notes: Professor Kent Olson of the [Department of Applied Economics](#) will speak on "The New Farm Bill: Impacts on Minnesota Farms." The event is the second in a series this academic year and will be at the Four Points Sheraton hotel. Cost is \$30; [pre-registration is necessary](#).

Ada Comstock Distinguished Women Scholars Lecture

Presenter: Professor Catherine French, Civil Engineering

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

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

Reception follows lecture.

FREE. RSVP: 612-625-9837 or women@umn.edu

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

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>.

News you can use

ScienceCareers.org Offers Laboratory Management Courses for Young Scientists

The following text was taken directly from

http://www.aaas.org/news/releases/2007/0129scicareers_intro.shtml

With the training and retention of scientists a top national priority, ScienceCareers.org has teamed with several institutions to produce a series of laboratory management courses to help young scientists master the rigors of a research career.

The courses, several of which will be offered in the next couple of months, offer instruction on science management skills, including academic job-searching strategies, effective leadership, team-building, project and grant management, grant-writing and reviewing, and mentoring skills.

For more information, read the [full story](#).

Jobs

The Nature Conservancy in Minneapolis—Central US Regional Science Director

<http://www.nature.org/cgi-bin/zope.pcgi/careers/natureorg/20061219123522.html>

JOB TITLE: Applied Scientist IV

POSITION TITLE: Central US Regional Science Director

JOB FAMILY: Applied Scientists

JOB NUMBER: 400004

FLSA STATUS: Exempt

LOCATION: Minneapolis, MN or other metropolitan area in the upper Midwest

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS: The Applied Scientist IV provides technical and scientific support and leadership for conservation planning, measures of success, and other initiatives and activities at various scales (regional, ecoregions, projects) within the Central U.S. region. Requires use and modification of advanced techniques and practices focusing primarily on forest and freshwater habitat types concentrated in the upper midwest. Requires sufficient knowledge and work experience building teams to effectively collaborate with other scientists and conservation staff within the region and across the organization to identify and resolve technical issues, implement adaptive management and to widely communicate solutions and best practices. The Applied Scientist IV serves as the liaison between state programs and Worldwide Office in communicating and implementing strategic global conservation goals.

Specific duties and responsibilities include:

1. Applies diversified knowledge of scientific principles and practices in freshwater systems to lead the coordination and technical support of conservation strategies within the Central region.
2. Develops high-leverage strategies for public and private fundraising in coordination with state programs that advance the conservation of biodiversity.
3. Leads and participates in analytical projects that address emerging conservation issues and systematically identifies research priorities and focuses greater external scientific resources on these priorities.
4. Develops and maintains effective working relationships with relevant government agencies and other key partners to advance the scientific work needed to implement ecoregional and site-based conservation. Represents TNC as a leader in the scientific community.
5. Leads and manages a comprehensive program of conservation planning which integrates cutting-edge conservation science with effective business models to shape far-reaching, maximum-impact conservation strategies.

TO APPLY:

Please submit a cover letter and resume to: mklage@tnc.org. Include the position title in the subject line. Application deadline is **1/31/07**.

Conferences and Meetings

Minnesota Chapter of the American Fisheries Society 2007 Annual Meeting Call For Papers

The meeting will be on March 19-21, 2007, at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites, St. Cloud. Get your abstracts in to Dan Isermann by **January 29, 2007**. For details on submitting your abstract, see the December RYBA.

Are you a student member? We have a new process for allotting Student Travel Awards for the annual meeting. Don't be shy - the Minnesota Chapter strongly supports student attendance, for both graduate and undergraduate students.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: Spring teaching and learning conference

Faculty and staff are encouraged to submit presentation proposals for this. On Monday, April 23, 2007 the Academy of Distinguished Teachers, the Center for Teaching and Learning (Twin Cities), and the Digital Media Center (Twin Cities), with support from the Bush Foundation, are sponsoring a conference Enhancing Student Learning: Conversations about Research and Practice in the McNamara Alumni Center on the Twin Cities campus.

The conference key note speaker, Dr. Eric Mazur, holds a triple appointment as Harvard College Professor, Gordon McKay Professor of Applied Physics, and Professor of Physics at Harvard University. An internationally recognized scientist and researcher, he leads a vigorous research program in optical physics and devotes part of his research group's effort to education research and improving science education.

Information about the conference call for proposals (**due January 29th**), the key note speaker, and general conference information, can be found at the conference web site at <http://www.adt.umn.edu/conference07/>. Online registration will open in early March. For more information, contact Karen Zentner Bacig, kbacig@umn.edu or 612.624.5082. Submit your proposal today!

2007 MN SCB ANNUAL MEETING & RETREAT: FEB 23-24, 2007

Greetings MNSCB members and friends -

We are excited to see you at the annual meeting this February! This year we will be flying solo (without AFS, TWS etc), and meeting at a smaller venue: the Audubon Center of the North Woods in Sandstone Minnesota. Our theme will be Conservation and Working Lands. Instead of having contributed paper sessions, we will have 4 sessions in which we hear from critical thinkers, but spend at least 1/2 the time in discussion of the topics (see below). We hope to use this time to deepen our chapter's capacity to take action on issues of critical concern. If you have ideas about these sessions, please contact Julia right away, and she will put you in touch with the organizers. We especially need contributions of papers and discussion items for a session on water.

We are also excited to introduce what we call "fireside papers", an opportunity for our members to do short presentations on their research questions and then get feedback from or work on networking with other professionals. Unlike traditional contributed papers, the focus will be on deepening the conversation about issues that you are working on.

On Saturday we will continue to discuss the role of MN SCB in advocacy work and hold a series of facilitated conversations on our strategic role in MN conservation efforts.

Please open and complete the registration form with a check made out to MN SCB and mail it back by **February 9th** to:

Julia Nerbonne
HECUA
2233 University Ave. W. #210
St. Paul, MN 55114

*Thanks, and we look forward to seeing you in Sandstone.
Julia Frost Nerbonne, Erika Rivers, and Brian Stenquist
Conference Organizers*

American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting

We invite you to California as the American Fisheries Society (AFS) convenes its 137th Annual Meeting at the Marriott Hotel in downtown San Francisco September 2-6, 2007. The theme of the meeting is "Thinking Downstream and Downcurrent: Addressing Uncertainty and Unintended Consequences in Fish and Fisheries." At the interface between the Sacramento-San Joaquin River drainage and the Pacific Ocean, San Francisco provides an outstanding venue to think about managing whole ecosystems, advance your professional networking, and to keep current on emerging ideas in fisheries science and management. San Francisco also provides a world class location for a personal or family vacation. Dozens of must-see cultural, historic, and natural points of interest are located only minutes away from the Marriott. Experience a wide array of outdoor activities both locally and within a few hours drive from the "The City". Climb aboard a cable car to visit Fisherman's Wharf, take a ferry to Alcatraz, or walk along the bayside Embarcadero. Drive across the Golden Gate Bridge to hike through giant redwood groves, meander up the Pacific Coast Highway, or discover the delights of the Napa/Sonoma wine country. Cast a line for salmon, rockfish, and halibut or fly fish for trout in the myriad Sierra Nevada streams from Lake Tahoe to Yosemite. We hope you join us in San Francisco to stimulate scientific thinking and let the Golden State stir your senses.

Deadlines

09 February 2007 - Deadline for contributed presentations and posters

23 February 2007 - Final list of confirmed symposium speakers

02 March 2007 - Deadline for symposium presentation abstracts

Funding opportunities

New Funding for International Scholarly Activities

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

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

Funding for Faculty, Staff, and Colleges/Departments

- Interdisciplinary International Institutional Partnership Grants Deadline noon on Jan. 29, 2007
- Interdisciplinary International Research Circle Grants Deadline noon on **Jan. 29, 2007**

Funding for Graduate and Professional Degree Students

- OIP Doctoral Fellowships for International Research and Writing Deadline noon on **March 9, 2007**
- OIP International Pre-Dissertation and Small Grants Competition
Deadline noon on **Jan. 29, 2007**

OIP International Internship Awards Deadline noon on **Jan. 29, 2007**

More information on guidelines and application forms is available at:
<http://www.international.umn.edu/funding/strategic.html>

President's Student Leadership and Service Awards

Each year, this award honors the accomplishments of outstanding students and their invaluable contributions of leadership and service to the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities campus and the community. All administrators, faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to nominate current University students for this prestigious award that is given out annually to one-half percent of all University students.

Undergraduate recipients of the President's Student Leadership and Service Award may also be considered for the Donald R. Zander Award for Outstanding Student Leadership (a \$1,000 scholarship is given to two recipients) and the University of Minnesota Alumni Association Student Leadership Award (a \$500 scholarship is given to eight recipients). Graduate and professional student recipients of the President's Student Leadership and Service Award may also be considered for the Mary A. McEvoy Award for Public Engagement and Leadership (a \$1,000 scholarship is given to one graduate and one professional student).

I am looking forward to presenting all of these awards at the annual President's Awards banquet scheduled for Thursday, May 3, 2007.

Please join me in celebrating the contributions made by outstanding student leaders by nominating deserving students for the President's Student Leadership and Service Awards. The deadline for submitting applications is Wednesday, February 14, 2007.

For more information and to access online nomination forms, please visit the Student Activities Office website at <http://www.sao.umn.edu/Awards/> or telephone the Student Activities Office at 612-626-6919.

Please be aware that February 19th is the deadline for the following fellowships offered through the Bell Museum and Ecology, Evolution and Behavior.

<http://www.cbs.umn.edu/eeb/graduateprogram/fellowships/daytonwilkie.shtml>

The Florence Rothman Fellowship

[/eeb/graduateprogram/fellowships/daytonwilkie.shtml](http://www.cbs.umn.edu/eeb/graduateprogram/fellowships/daytonwilkie.shtml) provides support for students working with Bell Museum faculty or doing field work in EEB (deadline: February 19, 2007).

The *Huempfer Ruffed Grouse

[/eeb/graduateprogram/fellowships/daytonwilkie.shtml](http://www.cbs.umn.edu/eeb/graduateprogram/fellowships/daytonwilkie.shtml)* fund supports graduate students researching ruffed grouse and their habitat (deadline: February 19, 2007).

The *Dayton and Wilkie Natural History Funds*

[/eeb/graduateprogram/fellowships/daytonwilkie.shtml](http://www.cbs.umn.edu/eeb/graduateprogram/fellowships/daytonwilkie.shtml) is administered by the Bell Museum of Natural History. Funds can be used for laboratory supplies and equipment to support field studies that are directly related to the student thesis project (deadline: February 19, 2007).

The Frank McKinney*Fellowship

[/eeb/graduateprogram/fellowships/daytonwilkie.shtml](http://www.cbs.umn.edu/eeb/graduateprogram/fellowships/daytonwilkie.shtml) provides support for students working in Avian Behavior (deadline: February 19, 2007)

*If you have questions, feel free to contact Bob Zink (zinkx003@umn.edu).

The Consortium on Law and Values in Health, Environment & the Life Sciences is accepting proposals for projects addressing the broad societal implications of problems in health, environment, or the life sciences. University of Minnesota graduate and professional students should apply now for stipends for research, funding for research supplies, or funding for events in Summer 2007 or academic year 2007-08. Maximum award is \$7000.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) may be found at

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

Proposals must be received by 4pm on Monday, **February 19**. If you have questions concerning this RFP, please contact Audrey Boyle at boyle032@umn.edu or 612.626.5624.

The Udall Foundation Applications are being accepted for the 2007

The Udall Foundation is accepting applications for the 2007 Environmental Public Policy & Conflict Resolution Dissertation Fellowship. We hope that you will forward this information to qualified Ph.D. students.

The Udall Foundation awards two one-year fellowships of up to \$24,000 to doctoral candidates whose research concerns U.S. environmental public policy and/or environmental conflict resolution and who are entering their final year of writing the dissertation. Previous fellows' fields of study include political science; economics; government; environmental science, policy and management; ecology; environmental justice; regional planning; geography; natural resource policy; and environmental analysis and design. Interdisciplinary projects are particularly welcome. Fellows must be U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals or permanent residents, and their dissertation research must pertain to U.S. environmental policy.

Program details, information and applications are available at www.udall.gov. If you have questions, please contact Dr. Jane Curlin at curlin@udall.gov. Thank you!

Deadline: **Feb. 21, 2007**

Graduate Fellows and Environmental Biology, an NSF-funded GK-12 Project

Join fellow Environmental Biology graduate students in this NSF-funded project! Work with K-12 teachers and UM faculty and staff engaged in K-12 activities as you translate your research expertise into a K-12 learning environment. The goal of this project is to encourage science graduate students to connect with K-12 teachers and students throughout their careers. Benefits include experience in inquiry-based pedagogy that will be effective in university teaching, working with graduate students and faculty from across the University, and helping young students become engaged in science.

Apply by February 28

- Fill out the on-line form at www.gk12.umn.edu
 - Ask your advisor to fill out the recommender's form at www.gk12.umn.edu
- Please contact Karen Oberhauser with questions or comments: oberh001@umn.edu

Torske Klubben (The Cod Club) Fellowship for Minnesota Residents

Students currently registered for credit in the University of Minnesota Graduate School who are official state-of-Minnesota residents may apply. The award is open to individuals who have an interest in or connection with Norway and/or its culture. Applicants should have a strong, mature, and clearly defined career interest in a specific field, with a sound research or study plan. Applicants must be able to demonstrate outstanding leadership skills and high academic achievement. Preference

will be given to students who earned their undergraduate degrees from a Minnesota college or university, or from a college founded by or associated with Norwegian-Americans, such as Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, and Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. A stipend of \$10,000 for the academic year. For recipients without another source of tuition support, such as an assistantship, the Graduate School Fellowship Office will provide a Tuition Scholarship for full-time study for the academic year. Torske Klubben is interested in supporting students of high academic achievement who show great promise of becoming leaders in their chosen profession and/or in the Norwegian- American community, who have a deep and abiding cultural and/or professional interest in Norway (in a historical or present-day context), and who convey a sensitivity to the future of Norway and Norway-America relationships. Need may be taken into account, all other factors being equal. Complete Fellowship description, application form, and instructions are available on the web at http://www.grad.umn.edu/fellowships/forms/tk_mn_residents.pdf or from the Graduate School Fellowship Office gsfellow@tc.umn.edu Deadline: **March 1, 2005**

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.
