

# Conservation Biology Graduate Program Weekly Newsletter

30 October 2006

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

Many of us are recovering from weekend Halloween parties this Monday morning. I tried to find a balance by mixing up the parties with several hours of work on manuscripts and project proposals. It's just that time of year. Hopefully, this week's newsletter will help the revelers put their schedules into perspective for the week. There are many seminars, fellowships, conferences, and opportunities for social engagement in this week's newsletter. Several of these are on the west bank—get over there and check one out! Also, please send me [coop0162@umn.edu](mailto:coop0162@umn.edu) your announcements, news items, and miscellaneous newsworthy items and I'll include them in the newsletter every Monday. This can help cut down on email traffic on the list serve, which benefits everyone, and it will increase the relevancy of the newsletter.

Enjoy!  
*Anne Cooper*

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## Lectures/seminars on campus

### Conservation Biology

Date: 30 October 2006

Time: 4:05-5:00

Presenters: Bonnie Sample and Erin Roche

Notes: Bonnie will be presenting her talk: "Restored urban prairie sites as breeding season habitat for grassland birds: if you build it who will come?"

Increasing rates of urbanization are reducing remaining habitat for native grassland birds as natural areas are converted to urban landscapes. Populations of grassland birds are especially important in Minnesota as a result of the historic loss of prairie ecosystems during the conversion of prairie to agriculture and continuing population declines. Many public agencies are restoring prairie habitat to increase areas of native vegetation within the urban matrix. This raises the question--will grassland birds select urban prairie sites as habitat during the breeding season? My research explores the value of restored prairie sites by site size, vegetation structure, and landscape characteristics for native grassland birds. In this talk, I will present preliminary results of this work.

Erin will discuss her research: "The Little Plover That Could? Modeling reality and the realities of modeling imperiled populations"

The Piping Plover is a federally endangered migratory shorebird endemic to the Great Lakes, Great Plains and Atlantic Coast of North America. In 2000, a population viability analysis of all the Piping Plover populations projected the Great Lakes population would decline to eventual extirpation. Since 2000, the Great Lakes population has more than doubled. We employed two single-population stochastic models to project the viability of this population over 20 and 50 year periods and explore potential situations that might account for the discrepancy between model projections and observed population growth. Results suggest the future viability of the Great Lakes population may be impacted by the presence of unknown nesting pairs, immigration events and stochastic years of high reproductive and survivorship events.

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*

#### Ecology, Evolution and Behavior

Date: 01 November 2006

Time: 4:00-5:00

Location: 335 Borlaug Hall

Presenter: Dr. Jenny Broughman, Dept. of Zoology University of Wisconsin

Topic: "Speciation in threespine sticklebacks: Evolution and genetics of sexual isolation"

Notes: Recent work on speciation has shown that either natural or sexual selection can cause sexual isolation. Other work has investigated the genetic basis of reproductive isolation, but has focused almost exclusively on postzygotic isolation. My work is integrating studies of natural and sexual selection, and the genetic basis of prezygotic isolation to gain a more complete understanding of the forces that generate new species and the genetic mechanisms involved. My study system is the charismatic threespine stickleback species complex, for which we have extensive knowledge of ecology and behavior, coupled with the recent advent of genomic resources.

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

#### Forest Resources

Date: 01 November 2006

Time: 3:00 pm

Location: 203 Green Hall

Presenter: Dr. Michael Cuthill, Director University of Queensland's Boilerhouse Community Engagement Centre

Topic: "Research Highlights of the University of Queensland's Community Engagement Centre"

Notes: Dr. Cuthill is Director of the University of Queensland's Boilerhouse Community Engagement Centre. The Centre has an established reputation for innovative approaches to higher education community engagement (HECE) focusing on diverse areas such as: social capital, rural economic development, culturally and linguistically diverse groups, teaching and learning, community capacity building, service integration, after school hours care, digital technology and training, and ageing population. Dr. Cuthill's talk will highlight the work of the Centre.

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## Announcements

### Do you want to hear great African music, and join Oxfam America in an effort to make trade fair?

Come meet other Oxfam America supporters at the Acoustic Africa tour, presented by Putumayo Records, and coming to Minneapolis November 2, 2006 at [The Walker Art Center](#). The Acoustic Africa tour features three of Africa's most gifted singer-songwriters: Habib Koité from Mali, Vusi Mahlasela from South Africa and Dobet Gnahoré from Ivory Coast. The artists will share their renowned musical talent, and invite the audience to take action to support fair trade for Africa. Please stop by the Oxfam table and speak with our volunteers to learn what you can do to alleviate poverty in Africa. Audience members will have the opportunity to take action in support of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, US legislation up for debate this fall that could save thousands of jobs for African garment workers.

For more information on Oxfam's involvement in the Acoustic Africa tour, [click here](#). For tour dates and links to the venues near you, [click here](#).

In conjunction with the concert, Putumayo Records is releasing a compilation CD "Acoustic Africa." A portion of proceeds will go to Oxfam America's programs in West and Southern Africa. To order a copy of the compilation CD or listen to song samples, [click here](#).

### 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.

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](http://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

### We Can Help You!

The Student Conflict Resolution Center (SCRC) is THE on-campus resource providing a full range of conflict resolution services to students. An ombudsman helps students resolve problems informally. An advocate assists students in formal grievance or disciplinary hearings.

We can assist you with:

- Grading and instructional complaints
  - Financial and billing conflicts
  - Academic appeals
  - Scholastic misconduct issues
- And all other campus-based concerns or issues.

SCRC's services are free, confidential, and paid for by your student service fees.

Give us a call or stop by 211 Eddy Hall (612) 624.7272 (624.SCRC)

Email: [sos@umn.edu](mailto:sos@umn.edu)

Or check out our website at: <http://www.umn.edu/sos/>

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## **Assistantships**

### Part-time Graduate Teaching Assistant needed for spring

A 25%-time graduate teaching assistant is needed for a new marine biology course being taught Spring 2007 (FW2003). The T.A. will be expected to give a lecture every other week on a topic of their choice, assist students by answering questions via email, assist with grading, and help maintain a web site. Experience teaching, maintaining web sites and a rudimentary knowledge of marine biology are desirable. Specific hours are flexible and can be arranged in advance. This is great opportunity to get involved with a new course. Please apply to Peter Sorensen ([PSorensen@umn.edu](mailto:PSorensen@umn.edu)) by October 30.

Peter W. Sorensen

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## Conferences

New Strategies for urban natural resources: Integrating wildlife, fisheries, forestry and planning

May 15-16, 2007 Chicago, IL

**Dr. Estella Leopold**, youngest daughter of Aldo Leopold, is Emeritus Professor of Botany and past director of the Quaternary Research Center at the University of Washington. Dr. Leopold was elected to the National Academy of Sciences and American Philosophical Society. Her research interests and publications focus on paleobotany, forest history, restoration ecology, and environmental quality. She studies fossil pollen and seeds to reconstruct ancient vegetation and climate in Alaska, China, and the western U.S. Her conservation activities focus on forest management issues.

Only Two Weeks Left to Submit Your Paper!

We invite submissions for oral and poster presentations and panel discussions that address the issues and challenges of natural resources in urban environment management. Submit your paper today for a unique opportunity to address the challenges and opportunities related to management of natural resources in urban landscapes and to extend and integrate your knowledge of urban ecology with the esteemed Estella B. Leopold.

Submission Categories Include:

- Urban Wildlife
- Urban Fisheries
- Urban Forestry
- Urban Planning
- Landscape Architecture
- Legal Landscape
- Human Dimensions (Sociopolitical Issues)
- Education (Formal and Informal)
- Cross-Discipline

[For Submission Guidelines & Template](#)

Submissions Deadline: November 3, 2006

Acceptance Notification: December 8, 2006

Big Isle to host aquatics summit

The Hawaii Aquatics Conference 2006--"Fish For the Future: How Do We Get There?"-- will be held Nov. 4-5 at the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii on the Big Island. Managers, fishermen, educators, conservationists, policy makers and the general public

are invited to attend. Registration fee is \$45. To register, contact the Hawaii Audubon Society at 528-1432 or [hiaudsoc@pixi.com](mailto:hiaudsoc@pixi.com). The conference will be at the Gateway Center, Keahole Point, North Kona.

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## News you can use

### What in the world?

A mysterious gelatinous ball has puzzled and fascinated researchers after undersea photographer Rudolf Svensen spotted it while diving at the mouth of the Matre fjord in Hordaland, western Norway. <http://www.aftenposten.no/english/local/article1511398.ece>

### Communicating Climate Change

AAAS President John P. Holdren discusses global climate change in a new videotaped interview. [View it here >>](#)

### A shocking lack of evidence

Special report            Nature

Published online: 25 October 2006; | doi:10.1038/443888a

The trial in Libya of six medics accused of infecting children with HIV ends next week. With the defendants facing possible execution, Declan Butler asked AIDS experts to assess the case against them.

<http://www.nature.com/news/2006/061023/full/443888a.html>

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## 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

### The Globalization of Higher Education

The Freeman Center for International Economic Policy, Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, presents a Workshop on Global Policy

Presenter: Professor Evan Schofer, Department of Sociology, University of Minnesota <http://www.soc.umn.edu/faculty/schofer.html>

Time: 12:45 - 2:00 pm

Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2006

Place: 170 HHCtr-Stassen Room U of M - West Bank Campus

Notes: Professor Schofer's talk will examine the origins, expansion, and global diffusion of modern educational systems as well as the consequences of educational expansion for economic growth, economic inequality, and political participation. His work on the global expansion of higher education highlights the central role of transnational organizations and institutions such as the World Bank and UNESCO, which shape educational policies and discourses on a global scale. Educational expansion is not just the result of increasing labor force demands, but rather reflects new ideologies and policy models that emerged in the post-War period, became institutionalized within international organizations, and propagated around the world.

All are welcome! Beverages will be served.

Second annual Cochrane Lecture

The Minnesota Lectures on Applied Economics and Policy presents the Willard W. Cochrane Lecture in Public Policy

Date: Wednesday, November 15th at 3:00 p.m.

Location: Cargill Building for Microbial and Plant Genomics on the St. Paul Campus.

Presenter: Joachim von Braun, Director General of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington, DC.

Topic: "Globalization of the Agri-Food System."

Notes: Since 2004, Dr. von Braun has been Director General of the International Food Policy Research Institute based in Washington, D.C. Before joining IFPRI he was Director of the Center for Development Research and Head of the Center's Department of Economics and Technological Change at University of Bonn, Germany. He received his doctoral (1978) and professional title (1983) in agricultural economics from the University of Goettingen, Germany. He held the Chair for Food Economics, Food Policy and World Food Issues at the University of Kiel, Germany. His association with IFPRI includes seven years as a research fellow and three years as director of the Food Consumption and Nutrition Division. He has worked in developing countries for many years and is known for his work on food security and mitigating and preventing famines. His research addresses international development economics topics: policy issues of trade, aid, health, agriculture, and nutrition.

There is no charge for this event. If you are interested in attending, please go to our department website at <http://www.apec.umn.edu/cochranelecture06.html> and follow the online registration instructions.