

# ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY

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Photo by Emma O'Melia

**Dr. Eric Schultz** has joined the River Herring Technical Expert Working Group (TEWG). The Group is working with partners to implement a coordinated coast-wide effort to conserve river herring (Alewife and Blueback Herring, both recognized as Species of Concern by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration).

The primary objective of this initiative is to develop and implement a dynamic conservation plan to help restore river herring throughout its Atlantic coastal range and will include identifying important conservation efforts, addressing some of the critical data gaps, and monitoring and evaluating progress in achieving the goals. This effort will coordinate and build upon the many previous and ongoing efforts to further river herring conservation, including fisheries work by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) and the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) and habitat restoration by the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership and The Nature Conservancy.

Eric is a member Connecticut's fish Taxonomic Advisory Group, which submits petitions for changes in conservation listing. It is likely the group this year will put forward several new listings, focusing on cold-water species that are dwindling in marine waters.

Last summer, Eric joined Clark University students on a collecting expedition for Threespine Stickleback in Newfoundland.

**Dr. Robin Chazon** and **Dr. Michael Willig** have received a Research Coordination Grant from PARTNERS—People and Reforestation in the Tropics: a Network for Education, Research, and Synthesis.

**PARTNERS** brings natural and social scientists together to address the complexity of socio-ecological processes that shape tropical reforestation. We are anthropologists, economists, forest ecologists, foresters, geographers, landscape ecologists, political scientists, and sociologists from around the world who share a deep interest in forest regrowth in the tropics. We consider reforestation in a broad sense, encompassing natural regeneration, silvopastoral and agroforestry systems, ecological restoration plantings, commercial tree plantations, and smallholder plantations. For additional information about PARTNERS: <http://partners-rcn.uconn.edu>

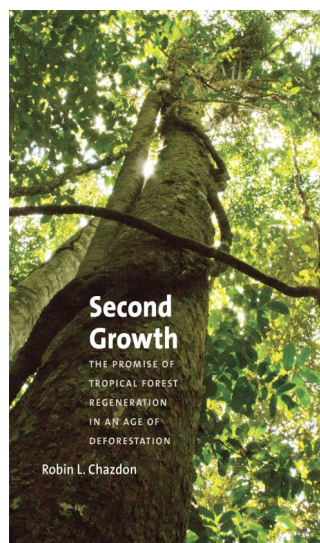
Robin participated in the publication of a paper published in ESA on-line journal Ecosphere entitled “*Viewing forests through the lens of complex systems science.*”

Robin’s article may be found at: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1890/ES13-00182.1>

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Robin’s book, *Second Growth: The Promise of Tropical Forest Regeneration in an Age of Deforestation* is scheduled for release in May, 2014.

For more information about Robin’s book go to:  
<http://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/S/bo17407876.html>



## EEB STUDENT NEWS

**Emily Behling**, B.S. student in Dr. Bernard Goffinet's lab, received a 2014 SURF grant. The UConn Summer Undergraduate Research Fund (SURF) supports University of Connecticut full-time undergraduate students in summer research or creative projects. Emily's project is entitled "*Exploring species composition of plant diaspores found in the feathers of amphitropical migratory shorebirds.*"

**Holly Brown**, Ph.D. student in Dr. Margaret Rubeg's lab, received a Smithsonian Research Fellowship. Fellowships are offered by the Smithsonian Institution to provide opportunities for graduate students, predoctoral students, and postdoctoral and senior investigators to conduct research in association with members of the Smithsonian professional research staff, and to utilize the resources of the Institution.

**Andrew Frank**, Ph.D. student Dr. Elizabeth Jockusch's lab, received a NSF Graduate Research Fellowship. This program recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines who are pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees at accredited US institutions.

**Maria Pickering**, (Ph.D. 2012), a post doc in Dr. Janine Caira's lab accepted a faculty position as Assistant Professor at Meredith College in North Carolina.

**Alejandro Rico-Guevara**, Ph.D. student in Dr. Margaret Rubega's lab, was awarded The Best Student Paper award for the Division of Vertebrate Morphology at the annual meeting of the Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology.

**Manette Sandor**, M.S. student in Dr. Robin Chazdon's lab, received a grant from The Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserve to support her field work in California's Sierra Nevada. Manette also had a publication in PLoS ONE entitled: *Remnant Trees Affect Species Composition but Not Structure of Tropical Second-Growth Forest.* To read the entire abstract go to: <http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0083284>

**Emma Shelly**, Ph.D. student Dr. Chris Elphick's lab also received NSF Graduate Research Fellowship.

**Bill Ryerson**, (Ph.D. 2013) Dr. Kurt Schwenk's lab, accepted a faculty position as Assistant Professor at St. Anselm College in New Hampshire. Bill joins another EEB alum, Lori LaPlante (Ph.D. 2005), an Assistant Professor in the Biology Department at St. Anselm's.