

EEB Monthly

An Employee Newsletter

February 26, 2021



About This Newsletter

EEB Monthly is a new employee newsletter that will be sent at the end of each month. It will be used to share departmental information, remind employees of upcoming events, acknowledge various accomplishments, and keep us all connected while we are apart. This newsletter is for your enjoyment, so if you have any suggestions for upcoming editions, please email leah.rossettie@uconn.edu or eeb.assistant@uconn.edu

Enjoy!

EEB 2021 Photo Contest

During the first two months of 2021, the EEB Graduate Students took part in a photo contest, including categories for scenery, plants, animals, and lab or field fun/fails. The winners were announced at the EEB Grad Student Symposium on Saturday, February 6. Below are the winning photos for each category:



Animal Category: Mt. Lyell Salamander from CA Sierra Nevada
Submitted by Nicholas Van Gilder



Plants Category: Bleeding Hearts in the Garden
Submitted by Paul Lewis



Lab or Field Fun/Fail Category:
Coming from the Field
Submitted by Georgia Hernández



Scenery Category: Foggy morning, Humbug Valley, CA
Submitted by Andrew Stillman.

Events

Recent Events:

- **EEB Symposium** – On February 6, over 100 people attended UConn's 31st Annual Grad Student Symposium. The events included a Zoom Background Challenge, student talks, meeting prospective students, a photo contest, sharing poems, and advice from EEB alumni.

Upcoming Events:

- **The EEB Seminar Series** occurs every Thursday from 3:30 - 4:00PM. All sessions can all be joined at [this zoom link](#)
 - 3/4: Pablo A. Marquet; *From Genes to Species Richness: Steps Towards the Integration*
 - 3/11: Robert Bullard; *The Quest for Environmental and Climate Justice*
 - 3/18: Project Biodiversity; *Methods for Diverse, Inclusive, and Effective Teaching in Biology*
 - 3/25: Ya Min (MinYa); Investigation in Floral Meristem Termination in *Aquilegia*
- 3/1 – 3/4: **RNA Sequencing Workshop**. [Click here to register on the UConn Bioinformatics site.](#)
- 3/13 & 3/14: **HACKUConn**; [Click here](#) for the Twitter flyer with more information.

Employee Shout-Outs

Meghan Moriarty has recently started as the new manager of the EEB Greenhouses! She is formerly the Head Grower at Logees Greenhouse, and before that was the greenhouse manager for Agrivida in the UConn ABL facility and the Farmer's Daughter in Kingston, RI.

Welcome, Meghan!



If you would like to shout-out a fellow EEB employee for any reason (their hard work, kindness, accomplishments, etc.) please email eeb.assistant@uconn.edu with whom you would like to recognize and a few sentences explaining why.

EEB In the News

- **David Wagner** was featured on *PNAS News* on the topic of pollutants causing a decline in insects. [Read more here.](#)
- **Mark Urban** was mentioned in *Science Magazine* regarding different species' vulnerabilities to climate change. [Click here](#) to read more.
- **Stephen Trumbo** discusses burying beetles and their contribution to recycling nutrients to soil on *The Conversation* site [here.](#)
- **Grace Vaziri** was published in *Oxford Academic Journal* for her research on Song Sparrows. [Read more here.](#)
- **Mike Willig** was mentioned [in this article](#) in *UConn Today* for his research contributions to species' declines.
- **Charles Yarish** was acknowledged in the *How to Save a Planet* podcast about seaweed farming. [Listen on Spotify here.](#)
- UConn EEB Alum **Tanisha Williams** was featured in a PBS article for founding the online initiative Black Botanists Week. [Click here](#) to read the article.

Acknowledgements

- **Pat Anderson**, who held the position of Business Services Supervisor, retired at the beginning of this month. She has been with EEB for nearly 17 years, and we cannot thank her enough for her time and dedication. [Click here](#) to view everyone's well-wishes on Pat's Kudoboard.
- **Mark Urban** was named the first Arden Chair of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. His impact on studies of biological diversity led to this honor, and he plans to utilize the endowment in high-risk, high-reward research in collaboration with the university. Congratulations, Mark!
[Click here to read more](#) on *UConn Today*.



Black History Month

February is Black History Month: an annual celebration of African American achievements, and a time to recognize their central role in U.S. history. Its origins began in 1915, when historian Carter G. Woodson and minister Jesse E. Mooreland founded the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). The organization is dedicated to researching and promoting achievements by Black Americans and other people of African descent. They chose the 2nd week of February, coinciding with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Fredrick Douglass, to organize local celebrations and host performances and lectures.

Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the entire month of February as Black History Month with a different theme each year. In 2021, the theme is "Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity."

We can celebrate this month by buying from local black businesses, donating to black organizations, supporting black artists, and many more. [Click here](#) to learn more ways to take part in this celebration on the NAACP website.



Faculty Spotlight

Every month, we would like to feature an EEB faculty member to get to know colleagues better. We are pleased to present February's edition of the Faculty Spotlight, featuring **Carlos Garcia-Robledo!**

1. What is your specific area of study?

Plant insect interactions in a changing world; we work in the tropics!

2. What energizes you at work?

Great ideas from my students

3. Are you an early bird or a night owl?

In the winter an owl with a jacket, in spring an early bird.

4. What is your favorite way to unwind after a busy day?

Gardening!

5. What is the best trip you've ever taken?

Many amazing trips, I enjoy every time we travel through the Braulio Carrillo National Park to La Selva Biological Station in Costa Rica. I also miss traveling to the Amazon or the Tropical Andes.

6. What is your favorite book?

My favorite book is *Historias de Cronopios y Famas*. Cronopios and famas are fictional characters by Julio Cortazar. We don't even know how they look. Cronopios are naive, idealistic, disorganized, unconventional but sensitive. Famas are rigid, organized and efficient. I like both cronopios and famas, but I can't tolerate esperanzas, a third type of organism in Cortaza's book.

7. What is your favorite sport to watch?

I like to watch Tejo, a traditional Colombian throwing sport. It is known for the use of small targets containing gunpowder, which explode on impact. A key component of this sport is that players must drink beer and eat as they play.

8. What trend do you hope makes a comeback?

Fanny packs! Imagine all of us using such an amazing and functional garment.

9. What trend do you hope never makes a comeback?

MC Hammer pants - they belong in a museum. I actually saw them at the National Museum of African American History and Culture - Smithsonian!

10. Do you have any pets?

Yes, hundreds of red shrimps! Also, an ever-growing colony of platy fish and many plants.



EEB Resources

- [EEB Website](#)
- [EEB Twitter](#)
- [EEB Covid-19 Safety Plan](#)
- [WFH Resources](#)

