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Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

EEB Monthly: February 2023

EEB Monthly is a department newsletter to be distributed at the end of each month. It will be used to share departmental information, remind team members of upcoming events, acknowledge various accomplishments, and keep us all connected between our different goals and responsibilities.

This newsletter is for your enjoyment, and to provide it, we rely heavily on submissions from our community for its content! If you have anything you'd like to share in upcoming editions, we encourage you to send any submissions to Pam Diggle, Harrison Goodale, and/or the assistant email (eeb.assistant@uconn.edu).



Opening Celebration March 2023 Women's History Month

Following on the heels of Black History Month is Women's History Month, an annual observance that covers the month of March. The month-long celebration was spearheaded by the [National Women's History Alliance](#), and every year the organization establishes a theme for the month. This year's theme is "*Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories*."

"Throughout 2023, the NWA will encourage recognition of women, past and present, who have been active in all forms of media and storytelling including print, radio, TV, stage, screen, blogs, podcasts, and more. ... Women have long been instrumental in passing on our heritage in word and in print to communicate the lessons of those who came before us. Women's stories, and the larger human story, expand our understanding and strengthen our connections with each other."

In the News

Chris Elphick was quoted in a recent article in Salon: [How to prevent millions of violent bird deaths, caused by slamming into window panes](#)

MCB DEI Special Seminar
All departments welcome

Why Trans Inclusion Leads to Better Science

Dr. Anna Marie LaChance is a chemical engineer (UConn Alum) and STEM educator with numerous professional and creative projects. Through her teaching work, podcast (Rule 63), social media presence (Substack & TikTok), and local political organizing, she is an advocate for abolitionist engineering education and intersectional trans feminism.

Dr. LaChance is currently working as a Lecturer for the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where she offers courses on chemical engineering process control, polymer processing, and sustainability.



Dr. Anna Marie LaChance

FRIDAY, MARCH 3
12:20 PM | BPB 130
HOSTED BY Sophia Gosselin & MCB DEI Committee

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[Trans Inclusion Leads to Better Science](#),” featuring **Dr. Anna Marie LaChance**, a UConn alumn and current lecturer at U-Mass Amherst.

The seminar is open to all departments, and attendance from all is encouraged!

Awards

EEB alumnus **Tanisha Williams** (PhD '19) was selected by the Council of the Linnean Society of London to receive the 2022 Bicentenary Medal “in recognition of excellent work in the field of natural history as a scientist under the age of 40 years old.” Congratulations!

Noorpreet Kaur and **Vidya Vuruputoor** have each won a Conference Participation Award from The Graduate School. Congratulations!

EEB PhD student **Swapna Subramanian** has recieved a \$29,000 Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) grant to use experimental evolution to optimize cider fermentation, in collaboration with Long View Ciderhouse.



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Congratulations to the winners of the **2023 EEB Photo Contest!** In order of appearance, from left to right and top to bottom, here are the photos and their photographers:

- From the Scenery category: "New England herbivores at their breakfast" by **Eric Schultz**.
- Animals Invertebrates: "A mating pair of Western Blackslugs, *Hesperarion niger*, getting close under rocks from the foothills of California, Dec. 2022" by **Nick Van Gilder**.
- Animals Invertebrates: "A modern Stegosaurus! Warty and wonderful, this caterpillar from Mexico—a member of the emerald moths—is most likely an undescribed species. Almost certainly, this is the first image of its larva!" by **Tanner Matson**.
- Plants: "*Stemonitis splendens* "forest" found on a twig in my backyard (July 21, 2022)" by **Paul Lewis**.
- Animals Vertebrates: "Kestrel from Horsebarn Hill. Storrs, CT. Feb 22nd, 2023" by **Sydney Horan**.
- Fun/Fails: "Work-life Balance" by **Tanner Matson**.

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Willig, M. R., and S. J. Presley. 2022. Long-term trends in population- and community-level attributes of gastropods in the Luquillo Forest of Puerto Rico: disentangling effects of press versus pulse disturbances. *Global Ecology and Biogeography* 31:247-365.

Presley, S. J., and M. R. Willig. 2022. Long-term responses of gastropods to simulated hurricanes in a tropical montane rainforest. *Ecosphere* 13:e3928. DOI:10.1002/ecs2.3928

Stuart, J. D., A. A. Provatas, C. Perkins, and **M. R. Willig.** 2022. A review on the recent advances in the analyses of Bisphenol-A and its replacements in beverages and foods with commentary. *Current Topics in Analytical Chemistry* 132:35-47.

Burgio, K. R., K. E. Davis, L. M. Dreiss, L. M. Cisneros, B. T. Klingbeil, S. J. Presley, C. B. van Rees, and M. R. Willig. 2022. Integrating multiple dimensions of biodiversity to inform global parrot conservation. *Animal Biodiversity and Conservation* 45:189-202.

Presley, S. J., and M. R. Willig. 2022. From Island biogeography to landscape and metacommunity ecology: a macroecological perspective of bat communities. *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences (Special Issue: The Year in Ecology and Conservation Biology)* 1514:43-61. <https://doi.org/10.1111/nyas.14785>.

Prates, M. O., D. R. M. Azevedo, Y. C. MacNab, and **M. R. Willig.** 2022. Non-separable spatio-temporal models via transformed Gaussian Markov random fields. *Journal of the Royal Society: Series C.* 2022:1-21. <https://doi.org/10.1111/rssc.12567>

Rojas-Sandoval, J., J. Ackerman, H. Marciano-Vega, and **M. R. Willig.** 2022. Alien species affect the abundance and richness of native species in tropical forests: the role of adaptive strategies. *Ecosphere* 13:e4291. DOI: 10.1002/ecs2.4291

Willig, M. R., and S. J. Presley. 2022. Long-term spatiotemporal variation in density of a tropical folivore: responses to a complex disturbance regime.

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Willig, M. R., S. J. Presley, B. T. Klingbeil, E. Kosman, T. Zhang, and S. M. Scheiner. 2023. Protecting biodiversity via conservation networks: taxonomic, functional, and phylogenetic considerations. *Biological Conservation* 278:109876.

Medina R., M.G. Johnson, **N. Patel**, G. Tocci, D. R. Toren & **B. Goffinet.** 2022. Vindication of *Physcomitrium pygmaeum*: an elusive and endangered moss from North America's Great Basin. *The Bryologist* 125: 528-540. <https://doi.org/10.1639/0007-2745-125.4.528>

He S., J.R. Shevock, **N. Patel**, O. Lemieux & **B. Goffinet.** 2022. Rediscovery of *Florschuetziella scaberrima* (Bryophyta, Orthotrichaceae) a century after its description leads to its transfer to *Leratia*. *Bryophyte Diversity and Evolution* 45 (1): 188–198. DOI:10.11646/BDE.45.1.12

Dong S., J. Yu, L. Zhang, **B. Goffinet** & Y. Liu. 2022. Phylotranscriptomics of liverworts: revisiting the backbone phylogeny and ancestral gene duplications. *Annals of Botany* 130: 951–964. <https://doi.org/10.1093/aob/mcac113>

Anderson, Gregory J., Mona K. Anderson and Thomas. 2023. The Staminal Column in *Solanum* Pollination: Important in Attraction, Essential as a Landing Platform. *Plant Biosystems*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/11263504.2023.2176942>

Wright, G., C. Salk, P. Magnuszewski, J. Stefanska, K. Andersson, J. P. Benavides, and **R. Chazdon.** 2023. Conformity and tradition are more important than environmental values in constraining resource overharvest. *PloS one* 18:e0272366. <https://doi.org/0272310.0271371/journal.pone.0272366>.

Grames, EM, G Montgomery, C Youngflesh, M Tingley, and CS Elphick. 2023. The effect of insect food availability on songbird reproductive success and chick body condition: evidence from a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Ecology Letters*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ele.14178>

Love, A., A.C. Anthony, A. Nash, A. Campos-Melara, J. Kodali, S.E. DuRant, Simulated infection alters the behavior of pair bonded songbirds and their healthy neighbors, *Behavioral Ecology*, 2023;, arac120, <https://doi.org/10.1093/beheco/arac120>

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Yaowu Yuan, along with other co-authors, published [a paper in Science on their discovery of the speciation gene in monkeyflowers](#). Their paper was featured on the issue's cover, as seen below!



Accomplishments

Congratulations to **Nicholas Van Gilder** for passing his general exam!

Abbey Hayes has been elected to a position in the Entomological Society of America, liaising between the Eastern Branch and the National ECP committee. Congratulations!

John Cooley has been named an AY 2023-2024 Assessment Faculty Fellow. Assessment Faculty Fellows serve as resources to support development of meaningful and measurable program-level student learning objectives, curricular maps, and assessment plans, while promoting assessment innovation and transformation. This work is an important part of helping UCONN transform its programs to better support student success. [More information may be found on the Provost website.](#)

Opportunities

A **postdoc position** at University of Minnesota Twin Cities' EEB department is open! One would be working with Susan Balenger on an NSF-funded three year project in understanding how changes in gene dosage associated with polyploidization in the gray treefrog complex impact neuroendocrine regulation. PhD in a relevant field required. Applicants can email sbalance@umn.edu for more information and to apply.

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REVISED: CTSG Undergraduate Research Fellowship opportunity for summer 2023

The Connecticut Sea Grant Undergraduate Research Fellowship seeks to broaden participation of underrepresented/underserved students in marine and coastal professions by providing early career experience, **by funding a research fellowship for up to two diverse undergraduate students from Connecticut.** Underrepresented minorities and socioeconomically disadvantaged students as well as students of color, indigenous students, U.S. military veterans, members of the LGBTQ community and students with disabilities are encouraged to seek a project mentor with whom to apply for this opportunity.

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to enable selected students to conduct an independent project under the guidance of a project mentor. The application process requires submission of a mentor-proposed natural or social science-based project and a student nomination for the research fellowship. The proposed project must be completed in nine weeks over the summer, and be focused on a coastal, marine or watershed issue relevant to the [Connecticut Sea Grant Strategic Plan for 2014-2027](#).

Submissions must be received by 5 pm Monday March 13. The REVISED Call and Guidance on how to apply can be found here: <https://seagrant.uconn.edu/funding/fellowships/>

[Read about previous recipients of the CTSG Undergraduate Research Fellowship.](#)

For more information, see <https://seagrant.uconn.edu/funding/fellowships/>, or contact Dr. Syma A. Ebbin, syma.ebbin@uconn.edu.

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CLAS Career Night: Research Across the Disciplines.

This event is aimed at undergraduate CLAS students who may be pursuing a career based in research. The event will feature alumni for students to engage with and learn more about various occupations from, all while helping them prepare for future careers. We even have an **EEB alumnus attending: Zbigniew Grabowski ('08)**. Zbigniew is a Research Associate at The New School in New York City and also an Associate Extension Professor at UConn. His work focuses on human ecosystems relationships, green infrastructure, social-environmental-technological systems, and landscape conservation and restoration. Students, regardless of their major, will be able to ask questions and learn more about Zbigniew's, and others', fields and career journey.

The event is on **Tuesday, March 7th** from **5:30pm to 8:30pm** in the Alumni Center on the Storrs campus.

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The 2023 Student Research Award Competition is now live!

The application deadline is **Monday, March 13, 2023**. Awards are available for research in the areas of botany, vertebrates and invertebrates to undergraduate and graduate students (MS & PhD) currently enrolled in the EEB Department.

The full instructions and online application can be found here: [Apply through the online form](#).

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to Harrison Goodale at harrison.goodale@uconn.edu.

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The recent ice cream social, hosted to welcome new faculty and students, was delightfully crowded!

COVID-19 Resources

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