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UConn | COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

EEB Monthly: January 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 and/or the assistant email (eeb.assistant@uconn.edu).



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Opening Celebration: February, Black History Month

This coming month is the annual **Black History Month**. Black History Month is a time dedicated to spreading knowledge of Black history, to combat the chronic lack of in-depth education American citizens receive on the matter. It is also a time dedicated to honoring the accomplishments Black Americans have made throughout history, and to acknowledging the injustices done against them. Find out more, and how to celebrate yourself, [on the official website](#).

In addition to Black History Month, February is also **National Bird Feeding Month**. This month was conceived in order to encourage people to offer wild birds food, water, and shelter during the harsh winter—a noble idea! But be cautious about encouraging birds to congregate; there is a [severe avian flu](#) affecting birds (and other animals, and even people) internationally, and it is easily spread where birds flock together.

New to EEB

You may have noticed a few new faces around the EEB department this semester! Please join in welcoming our new colleagues **Karolina Heyduk**, **Ed McAssey**, **Colin Kremer**, and **Rachel Prunier**, and grad students **G Young Kim** (working with Karolina) and **Brandon Chan** and **Hannah Larson** (working with Colin).

Save the date for Friday, Feb 3rd at 3:30 for a department ice cream social at the Gant West 4th floor "knuckle"

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Professor Karolina Heyduk

I'm a plant evolutionary biologist studying the many ways plants have adapted to stressful environments. Most of my work focuses on photosynthetic evolution, using a mix of plant physiology and genomics. I'm also happy to be working with natural history collections as Director of the herbarium here at UConn. When I'm not purposefully stressing out some plants, I enjoy cooking, napping, gardening, hiking, and lifting heavy weights at the gym.



Professor Edward McAssey

I am interested in studying local adaptation, speciation, and hybridization in plants using an evolutionary genomics approach. Those interests help form and refine my biology instruction. My previous teaching experience at the University of Hawai'i saw me teach large and small classes, lecture, lab, and writing courses all over the EEB curriculum there. I'm excited to contribute to the instruction here at UConn. Outside of research and teaching I enjoy TV/movies, exercising/hiking, food (pizza specifically), and hanging out with our pets.



Professor Colin Kremer

I study the interactions of ecological and evolutionary processes in variable and changing environments, using mathematical theory, statistics, and experiments (mostly on charismatic microbes - phytoplankton and bacteria!). I also love exploring opportunities to test and apply ecological theory in non-microbial

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two kids and my spouse, **Dr. Rachel Prunier**, who has also (re)-joined the department. We're thrilled to be here!



Brandon Chan, PhD track, Kremer Lab

I am studying climate change effects on phytoplankton-bacteria interactions; antibiotic resistance in marine environments; phytoplankton ecology

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G Young Kim, Masters track, Heyduk Lab

I am studying the epiphytic CAM (Crassulacean Acid Metabolism) plants in tropical rainforests, specifically native Hawaiian *Peperomia* (family Piperaceae). My current area of study is plant physiology. I like growing plants, decorating rooms and playing *Stardew Valley* in my free time!

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Hannah Larson, PhD track, Kremer Lab

I am broadly interested in using quantitative methods to study the effects of environmental changes on species interactions within communities. My work currently investigates the effects of these environmental factors on negative population growth processes, such as mortality and dormancy.

From Andrew Stillman, UConn EEB alum (PhD, 2021)

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at 8 lbs 12 oz, and everyone is doing well here in Ithaca, NY"



In the News

Cory Merow's work on the 2022 paper "[Climate Change Increases Cross-Species Viral Transmission Risk](#)" set the Altmetrics record for media coverage

[media-in-2022/](#)

Awards

The **Biodiversity Research Collections**, with **Katrina Menard** as the lead, was recently **awarded a National Science Foundation grant** to digitize its bee collection as part of an effort to track the effects of climate change in this enigmatic group of pollinators. The University of Connecticut collection is particularly important as one of the largest collections of New England bees, and by making these data available to researchers and the public through digitization and imaging, we hope to better understand how climate change affects the distribution and diversity of this group of insects on a regional and global scale.

Eric Schultz received the 2022 NED AFS Dwight Webster Memorial Award!

This award is presented annually and is the most prestigious recognition given by the Northeastern Division. It is awarded for lifelong contributions to fisheries science and the profession in the Northeast or while working in the Northeast, meritorious/prestigious service to the profession and fisheries, significant academic or technical accomplishments and/or long-term service in the Northeastern Division as an AFS member.

Sydney Horan won the SICB Division of Ecoimmunology and Disease Ecology Best Student Presentation Award

Georgia Hernandez-Corrales received an **honorable mention for the Tree Physiology Best Graduate Student Paper Award from Tree Physiology.**

Congratulations to all!

Publications

Cassemiro, Fernanda A. S., J. S. Albert, A. Antonelli, A. Menegotto, R. O. Wüest, F. Cerezer, M. T. P. Coelho, R. E. Reis, M. Tan, V. Tagliacollo, D. Bially,

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dynamics and diversification of the megadiverse South American freshwater fish fauna. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* **120**(2): e2211974120.

Arroyo-Rodríguez, V., K. F. Rito, M. Farfán, I. C. Navía, F. Mora, F. Arreola-Villa, P. Balvanera, F. Bongers, C. Castellanos-Castro, E. L. M. Catharino, **R. L. Chazdon**, J. M. Dupuy-Rada, B. G. Ferguson, P. F. Foster, N. González-Valdivia, D. M. Griffith, J. L. Hernández-Stefanoni, C. C. Jakovac, A. B. Junqueira, B. H. J. Jong, S. G. Letcher, F. May-Pat, J. A. Meave, S. Ochoa-Gaona, G. S. Meirelles, M. A. Muñiz-Castro, R. Muñoz, J. S. Powers, G. P. E. Rocha, R. P. G. Rosário, B. A. Santos, M. F. Simon, M. Tabarelli, F. Tun-Dzul, E. van den Berg, D. L. M. Vieira, G. Williams-Linera, and M. Martínez-Ramos. 2023. Landscape-scale forest cover drives the predictability of forest regeneration across the Neotropics. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* **290**:20222203.

Messier, C., C. Potvin, B. Muys, P. H. S. Brancalion, **R. Chazdon**, R. Seidl, and J. Bauhus. 2022. Warning: Natural and managed forests are losing their capacity to mitigate climate change. *The Forestry Chronicle* **98**:2-3

Goulet H, Smith DR, and **Matson T** (2022). Identity of the North American Adventive *Abia* Species (Hymenoptera: Cimbicidae). *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington*, 124(2): 362-366 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.4289/0013-8797.124.2.362>

Matson T and Garzón-Orduña IJ (2022) A New Species of *Eutrepisia* Herrich-Schäffer from Mexico (Lepidoptera: Geometridae: Larentiinae). *Zootaxa*, 1590(4): 591-594. <https://doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.5190.4.9>

Morales-Gálvez M, Villegas-Luján R, Plowes R, Gilbert L, **Matson T**, Gallegos-Morales G, and SanchezPeña S (2022). Natural Egg Parasitism by Scelionidae on a Phycitine Cactus Moth in Mexico (2022). *Florida Entomologist*, 105(2): 174-177. <https://doi.org/10.1653/024.105.0212>

Accomplishments

Events



Seeing Truth: Art, Science, Museums, and Making Knowledge

Benton Museum

January 17 - March 10, 2023

Seeing Truth: Art, Science, Museums, and Making Knowledge seeks to challenge audiences to see art, science, and truth anew in this political moment.

Truth has always been a slippery idea, but today it seems like “truth” is harder

should we believe?

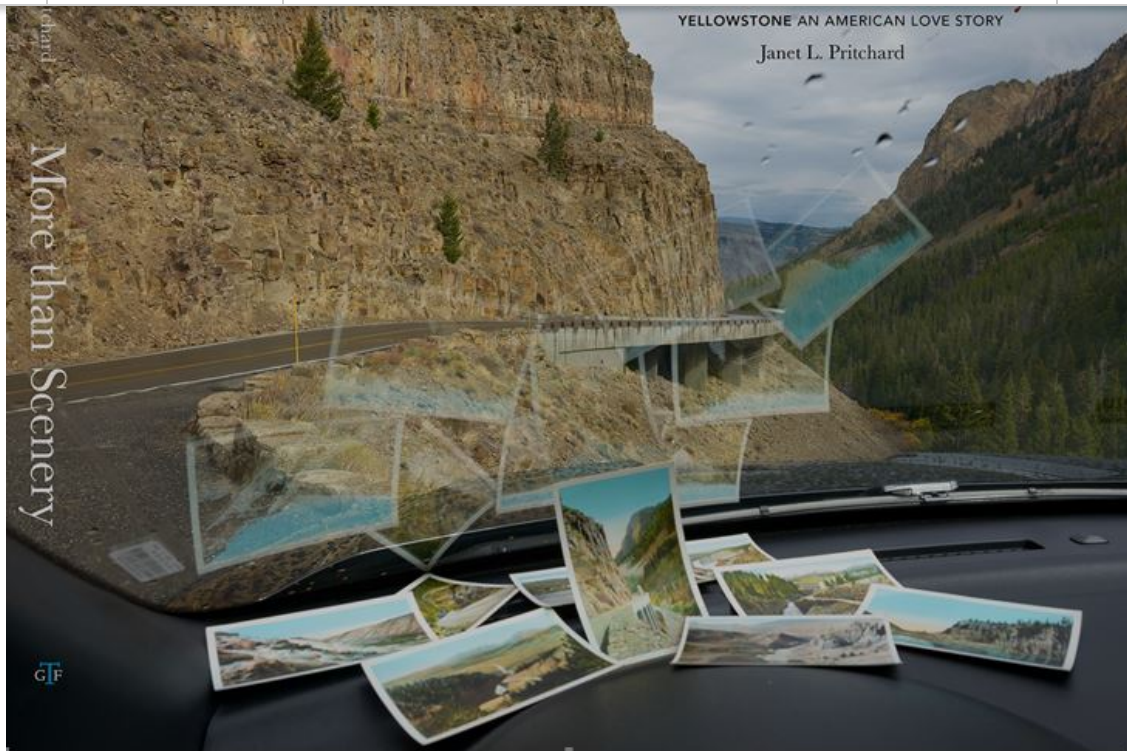
These are the questions at the heart of *Seeing Truth*, an exhibition that considers how science, art, and museums have collided to produce, and sometimes distort, truth and knowledge. The exhibition borrows items from UConn collections, including the Benton Museum; Archives & Special Collections, UConn Library; and **Biodiversity Research Collections, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology**, and places them in dialogue with “instigator” objects from the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. These objects, including scientific equipment, historic expedition films, and educational dioramas, provoke us to think critically about how knowledge is visually constructed. The exhibition asks us how we know what we do about the universe, our world, and the people that live around the globe. How much of that knowledge—that truth—is art or science? How can we use art and science together to find better truths?

Seeing Truth is generously supported by a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation and curated by Alexis L. Boylan, Director of Academic Affairs, UConn Humanities Institute and Professor of Africana Studies and Art and Art History.

For more information, visit <https://futureoftruth.uconn.edu/seeing-truth/>.

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Erin Kuprewicz with polar bear rug from the BRC as a part of the exhibit. Learn more about the history and context of this artifact at the Benton.



More Than Scenery: Yellowstone, An American Love Story

Wednesday 5 April 2023

3-5PM at Barnes & Noble UConn, Downtown Storrs

The CT State Museum of Natural History will be hosting Janet L. Pritchard for an artist's talk and signing event for her book *More Than Scenery: Yellowstone, An American Love Story*.

Janet L. Pritchard is a landscape photographer and Professor of Photography at the University of Connecticut. The artist will share her captivating photographs and insightful personal stories about Yellowstone National Park and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, paying tribute to a complex ecosystem where wild nature and culture meet, and the complexities of our relationship to the natural world are revealed, unlike any other place.

Opportunities

The Maryland Native Plant Society is funding research grants of up to \$3,000 for empirical, hypothesis-driven research relevant to Maryland's native plants. Projects that concern plants or habitats outside Maryland will be considered if results of the project will add to the body of knowledge about plants and

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concern the effects of invasive non-native plants on Maryland native plants and habitats. To ensure consideration, proposals should be submitted by March 27, 2023. For more information, [click here!](#)

UConn Recreation is hosting a Wilderness First Aid Course on the weekend of February 11th and 12th. Registration fees are \$100. This full weekend course meets 8am-5pm on Saturday & Sunday to complete our 16hr class with some time for a lunch break each day. The class focuses on the basics of: Response and Assessment, Musculoskeletal Injuries, Environmental Emergencies, Survival Skills, Soft Tissue Injuries, and Medical Emergencies. Learning incorporates classroom time, hands-on practice with skills, outside scenarios for you to work through, and brief test on each topic. Successful completion of all components of the course will earn you a SOLO Wilderness First Aid certification. Sign up online at myrec.uconn.edu or in person at the Adventure Center. For more information, contact the Adventure Center at 860-486-8004, or email outdoors@uconn.edu.

NatureRx at UConn is an initiative that seeks to educate the UConn community about the benefits for well-being provided by engaging with nature in a way that is comfortable for the individual. Supported by a seed grant from Student Health and Wellness, we are seeking to fill one or two student positions (grad or undergrad) to help develop a 10-day program for FALL 2023 called "I Thrive Naturally." One position is for a program assistant, and the second is for someone with skills in interactive website design (but if one student desires to take on both tasks, that is also acceptable). There is a total of \$1140 to be split between the two positions, and the salary will be \$15.00/hr. All of the work must be completed by June 1, 2023. Please contact Dr. Cynthia Jones, Cynthia.s.jones@uconn.edu, on/before January 30 if you are interested or apply through JobX. The position will begin the week of Feb. 6th.

The **Team-TERRA transdisciplinary** graduate training program at the University of Connecticut is seeking prospective Ph.D. students from a variety of disciplines in an NSF funded transdisciplinary training program. The team-based, interdisciplinary training addresses complex risks spread across urbanizing landscapes to the nexus of food, energy, water, and ecosystems. As part of the training program, trainees will work in diverse teams to predict and solve the complex problems of the future in regions that are urbanizing and

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The training program consists of a 2-year sequence of coursework, teamwork, a real-world internship, and associated workshops. Successful applicants will learn highly sought-after skills in risk analysis, management, and communication, how to lead research teams and collaborate with diverse stakeholders. The trainees will independently complete and work toward departmental and university dissertation requirements. Funding is available for 1-year stipends, travel, and research.

Applicants will need to be admitted to a UConn department through their standard process, independent of the application process to Team-TERRA.

You can find more information about the program on the [Team-TERRA website](#) or email the program coordinator with any questions you might have; charlotte.nelson@uconn.edu.

For current UConn students entering the Team-TERRA program in the fall 2023 or for students entering the Team-TERRA program fall 2024 cohort (students applying for admission to UConn for fall 2023), applications will be reviewed starting on February 1st, 2023, with priority given to those applications that are received prior to February 1st, 2023. Rolling admission will continue until April 1st, 2023

COVID-19 Resources

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