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Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

EEB Monthly: November 2022

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).



Upcoming:

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Day (December 10th)

The month of December is an opportunity to recognize the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a document detailing the fundamental freedoms and rights that all people are entitled to. During December, we stand together for equality, justice, and dignity for all.

Further, Human Rights Day is observed on December 10th. This day marked when the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948. Regardless of race, color, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, individuals are entitled to inalienable rights.

There are numerous ways to observe the UDHR in December. Engage with the UDHR document: learn about what the document states and share the information with others. Or implement UDHR's message into your life and treat the people around you with respect, kindness, and equality.

In the News

Charlie Yarish was featured in a radio broadcast by 99.1 PLR: For the People, interviewed by John Voket. The broadcast is entitled "The Center for Empowerment and Education — Dr. Charlie Yarish Talking Seaweed — Waterbury Bridge to Success" and [can be listened to online](#).

Chris Elphick and **Franco Gigliotti's** research into saltmarsh sparrows was highlighted by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: [The sparrow that speaks for the marsh](#)

Chris Elphick was also quoted in an article examining the effect of Hurricane Sandy on various coastal bird species: [One Lesson From Sandy: Hurricanes Aren't All Bad for Birds](#)

Chris Elphick and **Franco Gigliotti** were also featured in and interviewed for a collaborative video with Whiteout Solutions, regarding saltmarsh sparrows and their habitats: [Coastal Erosion, LiDAR & The Saltmarsh Sparrow](#)

An article was published in UConn Today featuring quotes from **David Wagner** and **Carlos Garcia-Robledo**: [‘Insects Need Our Help in a Warming World, Now’](#)

In a National Geographic article, **Charlie Yarish** was quoted: [Is algae the new kale?](#)

A number of UConn students have [posted reflections on the COP 27 climate summit](#), which have also been reported on in UConn Today: [UConn@COP 27: Looking for Solutions to the Climate Crisis](#)



Susan Herrick entertained 120 seven-year olds in Frisco, Texas during November via Zoom. They were a match for her in Skype-A-Scientist this fall, and had just finished up a unit on frog life cycles, and how sound is made and how it moves. The students came up with some great questions, a few examples of which can be seen below:

- Do frogs need to brush their teeth?

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- Do frogs drink milk?
- And Susan's personal favorite, which came after they were shown a clip of tadpole surface breathing (thanks to Kurt Schwenk): Do tadpole burps smell bad?

Publications

William G Ryerson, **Kurt Schwenk**, The Kinematics and Functional Significance of Chemosensory Tongue-Flicking in Northern Water Snakes (*Nerodia sipedon*) on Land, in Water, and in between, *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, Volume 62, Issue 4, October 2022, Pages 852–864, <https://doi.org/10.1093/icb/icac077>

DeMott, WG, A Stillman, JB Kolb, and CS Elphick. 2022. NEXRAD highlights the effects of wind and date at a Tree Swallow roost during fall migration. *Wilson Journal of Ornithology*. <https://doi.org/10.1676/21-00084>

Trumbo, S. T. (2022). Why do males stay in biparental burying beetles?, *Behaviour*, 159(13-14), 1301-1318. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1163/1568539X-bja10182>

Harvey, J. A. ... **García-Robledo, C. Wagner, D. L.** et al. 2022. Scientists' warning on climate change and insects. *Ecological Monographs* 2022:e1553 doi.org/10.1002/ecm.1553

Chazdon Robin L., Norden Natalia, Colwell Robert K. and Chao Anne. 2023. Monitoring recovery of tree diversity during tropical forest restoration: lessons from long-term trajectories of natural regeneration. *Phil. Trans. R. Soc.* B3782021006920210069 <http://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2021.0069>

Marshall Andrew R., Waite Catherine E., Pfeifer Marion, Banin Lindsay F., Rakotonarivo Sarobidy, Chomba Susan, Herbohn John, Gilmour Donald A., Brown Mark and **Chazdon Robin L.** 2023. Fifteen essential science advances needed for effective restoration of the world's forest landscapes. *Phil. Trans. R. Soc.* B3782021006520210065 <http://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2021.0065>

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Putz Francis E. and Firn Jennifer. 2023. The community capacity curve applied to reforestation: a framework to support success. Phil. Trans. R. Soc. B3782021007920210079 <http://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2021.0079>

Banin Lindsay F., Raine Elizabeth H., Rowland Lucy M., **Chazdon Robin L.** et al. 2023. The road to recovery: a synthesis of outcomes from ecosystem restoration in tropical and sub-tropical Asian forests. Phil. Trans. R. Soc. B3782021009020210090 <http://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2021.0090>

Haji, Diler, Jason Vailionis, **Mark Stukel**, Eric Gordon, Emily Lemmon, Alan Lemmon, and **Chris Simon**. 2022. Lack of host phylogenetic structure in the gut bacterial communities of New Zealand cicadas and their interspecific hybrids. Scientific Reports. In Press.

Brumfield, Kyle D., Michael. J. Raupp, Diler Haji, **Chris Simon**, Joerg Graf, **John R. Cooley**, Susan T. Jaton, Russell C. Meister, Anwar Huq, Rita R. Colwell, & Nur Hasan. 2022. Gut microbiome insights from 16S rRNA analysis of 17-year periodical cicadas (Hemiptera: *Magicicada* spp.) Broods II, VI, and X. Scientific Reports 12: 16967. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-20527-7> (accepted 14 Sept 2022)

Shepherd, Lara, **Chris Simon**, Shelley Langton-Myers, and Mary Morgan Richards. 2022. Insights into Aotearoa New Zealand's biogeographic history provided by the study of natural hybrid zones. Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand. April 2022: 1-20. DOI: 10.1080/03036758.2022 .2061020 (Published online 11 April 2022).

Owen, Christopher L., David C. Marshall, Elizabeth J. Wade, Russ Meister, Geert Goemans, Krushnamegh Kunte, Max Moulds, Kathy Hill, M. Villet, Thai H. Pham, Michelle Kortyna, Emily Moriarty Lemmon, Alan R. Lemmon, and **Chris Simon**. 2022. Detecting and removing sample contamination in phylogenomic data: an example and its implications for Cicadidae phylogeny (Insecta: Hemiptera). Systematic Biology 71 (6): 1504-1523. (Online early 16Jun22). <https://doi.org/10.1093/sysbio/syac043>

Simon, Chris, JR Cooley, Richard Karban, and Teiji Sota. 2022. Advances in the Evolution and Ecology of Thirteen- and Seventeen-year periodical cicadas. Annual Review of Entomology 67: 457-482. (Published January 2022) DOI:



This past month on October 26th, **Right Below Your Feet** was held, to resounding success. Photo courtesy of Freddy Guilao and Andrea Li.

Accomplishments

Andrew Bush was recently inducted as a fellow with the [Geological Society of America](#), for "developing elegant, quantitative approaches to illustrating patterns and processes in the history of marine life, which have informed present understanding of how environmental changes interact with the ecological and physiological traits of organisms to drive changes in diversity." Congratulations!

Robin Chazdon was selected as a [Clarivate Highly Cited Researcher](#) for the third year in a row.

Chris Simon gave the Keynote Address at the 11th International Conference

of her talk was “Discovering biodiversity and understanding its origins using cicadas as a study organism.” November 15-17th 2022.

Opportunities

Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum offers a plethora of opportunities for undergrads, post-docs, and faculty. In particular, they offer multiple **research awards**, a **post-doctoral fellowship** (this year's being: *Global Change Postdoctoral Fellowship*), and a **research internship program**. Applications for all three are due on various dates during January and February 2023, so be sure to check out the [specific details for each opportunity on the Arboretum website](#).

The yearly regional Blavatnik awards for Postdocs are now open. The Blavatnik Regional Awards **recognize the most promising postdoctoral-rank scientists and engineers** working in New York, New Jersey, or Connecticut and their accomplishments in Chemistry, Life Sciences, and Physical Sciences & Engineering. Three winners will each receive \$30,000 in unrestricted funds, and six finalists will each receive \$10,000 in unrestricted funds. The nomination period for the 2022/2023 Blavatnik Regional Awards is now open, and UConn requires you to submit this document by midnight on Thursday, December 8, 2022. Visit [the Blavatnik submission form](#) to check the eligibility criteria and to complete the submission.

The Collaborative to Advance Equity through Research on Women and Girls of Color, which the University of Connecticut joined in 2015, is **seeking relevant proposals from undergraduate, graduate, and student-faculty collaborators** to conduct research during 2023. Research projects must focus on issues of social, economic, and health disparities among women and girls of color, including but not limited to mental health; education; environmental health; incarceration; etc. Works that investigate the impacts of the ongoing global pandemic are also encouraged. Awardees will present their research at a symposium subsequent to the award period for research on women and girls of color. Award funding is capped at \$3,000 for graduate applicants and \$1,500 for undergraduates. [Submission guidelines can be found here](#). [Submit applications here](#).

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Ecology Awards are now open for nominations. Consider submitting a nomination for yourself or others. [Details can be found on their website](#). They are also open for applications for student travel awards.

The Botany in Action (BIA) Fellowship program at Phipps Conservatory is now accepting applications for the **2023 Botany in Action Fellowship program**. This program is open to PhD students focusing on plant-based scientific research, and provides fellows with \$5,000 for research use and an all-expenses paid trip to Phipps Conservatory to engage in science outreach training and opportunities. [Details and how to apply can be found on their website](#).



Courtesy of Chris Elphick: From October 10th to 13th, a group of EEB faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates attended the centennial meeting of the Association of Field Ornithologists in Plymouth, Massachusetts, coauthoring 11 talks and posters (and communing with the local birds).

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