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Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

EEB Monthly: October 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).



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Upcoming: November Celebrations

As the month ticks over, we'd like to point your gaze toward the many special days of awareness and observances November has to celebrate! Below are some key dates for weekly and monthly observances, and if you're eager for more, feel free to take a look at this comprehensive [article](#) on holidays and observances in November.

November 11: World Origami Day, Remembrance Day, Veterans Day

November 15-19: American Education Week

November 25: National Parfait Day, Thanksgiving Day

November 26: Native American Heritage Day

The month of November is also considered:

- Lung Cancer Awareness Month
- National Diabetes Awareness Month
- National Epilepsy Awareness Month
- National Native American Heritage Month
- National Stomach Cancer Awareness Month
- Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month
- Veterans and Military Family Month

In the News

Current research, based off of prior research done by Hans Dam, Hannes Baumann, and **Michael Finiguerra**, was reported on in UConn Today: [Can a Tiny But Essential Ocean Organism Keep Pace with Climate Change?](#)

Research into alewives and their ecological threats, done by **Eric Schultz**, **Mike Burgess**, James Knighton, and Katherine King, was also reported on in UConn Today: [The Travails of an Alewife: Dams, Drought, and Climate Change](#)

Sydney Horan was selected as a finalist to present in the Best Student

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conference in Austin, TX. Their talk is titled: "Beating the heat: Mechanisms mediating effects of temperature on host resistance to parasitism."

Kurt Schwenk's herpetology expertise was consulted and featured in a Milford Mirror article about smooth green snakes: [One man's mission to find Connecticut's rarest snake: 'It's my white whale'](#)



We would like to introduce **Harrison Goodale**, the EEB Administrative office's new Program Assistant II. If you see him, or swing by the office, please be sure to give him a warm welcome. Glad to have you, Harrison!

Awards

"Those of you who remember **Alejandro Rico Guevara** will be pleased to hear that he has been awarded the Carl Gans Young Investigator Award from the Society of Integrative and Comparative Biology. This prestigious award,

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morphology, biomechanics, and functional biology. A single YI award is given annually to an outstanding young investigator for distinguished contributions to the field of comparative biomechanics." Blurb provided by Dr. Margaret Rubega. Congratulations can be sent to Alejandro at colibri@uw.edu.

A patent by the WHOI-UConn and USC team, including **Dr. Charles Yarish**, regarding genetically selected, high-performing sterile kelp strains, was the basis for the Gold Innovation Award the team received at Seagrass USA 2022. Congratulations!

Tech Transfer & Outreach

Patent Application is Basis for Gold Innovation Award at Seagrass USA 2022

[WhoI-headlines] WHOI HEADLINES - April 14, 2022

7. NEW PATENT APPLICATION FILED ON IMPROVED KELP STRAINS
The Office for Technology Transfer recently filed a new provisional patent application describing genetically selected, high-performing infertile kelp strains. Because these strains are infertile, they cannot interbreed or compete with native kelp which can overcome regulatory restrictions for planting improved or non-local strains of kelp. Congratulations to WHOI inventor Scott Lindell and his staff, and collaborators at the University of Connecticut and the University of Southern California!
Contact: Cristy.Salanga



Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and University of Connecticut license kelp germplasm collection to Bigelow Ocean Labs

Woods Hole, MA - Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) (<https://www.whoi.edu/>), the University of Connecticut (<https://yarish-seaweed-lab.uconn.edu/>), and Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences (<https://www.bigelow.org/>) have executed a license agreement for a kelp germplasm, or collection of microscopic cells called gametophytes, containing more than 1,200 samples all developed and isolated by WHOI and UConn-led teams. Bigelow Laboratory's National Center for Marine Algae and Microbiota (<https://ncma.bigelow.org/>) plans to maintain, market, and distribute the germplasm collection for broad use.

"Expanding our marine macroalgae holdings is part of our strategic vision as the curators of the United States marine algae germplasm collection to increase support for global algae science," said Michael Lomas, director of the National Center for Marine Algae and Microbiota. "This agreement with UConn and WHOI provides a unique opportunity to diversify our collection and help harness algae's potential for remarkable scientific discoveries."

Publications

Hernández G G, Perez T, Vargas O M, Kress W J, Molina R, Cordero R, **Seemann J R**, **García-Robledo C.** (2022). Evolutionary history constrains heat tolerance of native and exotic tropical Zingiberales. *Journal of Functional Ecology*. DOI: 10.1111/1365-2435.14191

Wendt, A. L., R. L. Chazdon, and O. Vargas Ramirez. 2022. Successional trajectories of seed dispersal mode and seed size of canopy tree species in wet tropical forests. *Frontiers in Forests and Global Change* 5.

Tang, B., **Frye, H.A.**, Gelfand, A. E., **Silander, J. A.** (2022). Zero-inflated Beta

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Zertuche-González, J.A., J.M. Sandoval-Gil, M. Sánchez-Barredo, Z. Altamirano-Gómez, J.M. Guzmán-Calderón, L.K. Rangel-Mendoza, L.B. Ladah, R. Cruz-López and **C. Yarish**. 2022. *Eisenia arborea* (Areschoung) domestication and mariculture development on the Pacific coast of Baja California, México. *Frontiers in Marine Science*, section Marine Fisheries, Aquaculture and Living Resources. <http://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2022.932534>.

Kite-Powell, H.L.E. Ask, **S. Augyte**, D. Bailey, J. Decker, C.A. Goudey, G. Grebe, **Y. Li**, S. Lindell, D. Manganelli, **M. Marty-Rivera**, C. Ng, L. Roberson, M. Stekoll, **S. Umanzor** and **C. Yarish**, 2022. Estimating Production Cost for Large-Scale Seaweed Farms. *Applied Phycology*, TAPY-2021-0024.R3; <https://doi.org/10.1080/26388081.2022.2111271>.

Umanzor, S., M. Good, T. Bobrycki, **J.K. Kim** and **C. Yarish**. 2022. Building community capacity in the determination of nutrient removal through kelp mariculture. *World Aquaculture* 53 (3) 50-52.

Wasson, Derek E., **C. Yarish** and A.N. Hristov. 2022. Enteric methane mitigation through *Asparagopsis taxiformis* supplementation and potential algal alternatives. *Frontiers in Animal Science*, pp 1-10; <http://doi.org/10.3389/fanim.2022.999338>.

Carrión, P., J.A.M., Raeymaekers, L.F. De León, J. Chaves, D.M.T. Sharpe, S.K. Huber, A. Herrel, B. Vanhooydonck, K. Gotanda, J.A.H. Koop, **S.A. Knutie**, D.H. Clayton, B.R. Grant, P.R. Grant, J. Podos, A.P. Hendry. 2022. The terroir of the finch: How spatial and temporal effects shapes phenotypic traits in Darwin's finches *Ecology and Evolution* 12:e9399. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ece3.9399>

Vidya S Vuruputoor, Daniel Monyak, **Karl C. Fetter**, **Cynthia Webster**, **Akriti Bhattarai**, **Bikash Shrestha**, **Sumaira Zaman**, Jeremy Bennett, **Susan L. McEvoy**, Madison Caballero, **Jill L. Wegrzyn**. bioRxiv 2022.10.03.510643; doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2022.10.03.510643>

Opportunities

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As part of its mission to enhance multidisciplinary scholarship, the **Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering (CESE)**, in collaboration with the **Institute of the Environment (IoE)**, is funding projects to support multidisciplinary environmental research by graduate students (MERAGS).

These awards provide support during the Spring and Summer semesters to encourage multidisciplinary collaborative research and scholarship related to the environment by graduate students (either Masters or Doctoral) and faculty members at UConn. Proposed research or scholarship can include any disciplinary facet of the university (humanities, social sciences, biophysical sciences, engineering sciences, fine arts, law, etc.) with a focus on environmental issues.

The deadline for receipt of proposals is **17 November at 4:00 PM**. More details and how to apply can be found on [the CESE website](#).

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Happy Halloween from Kida and Leah Rossettie!

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Seeds UCONN CHAPTER

FALL 2022

Featured Research Talk

09/22/2022

Effects of drought on plant-insect interactions and reproduction

Dr. Wilnelia Recart Gonzalez

3:30-4:30 p.m

BPB 130

Followed by a reception
in BPB foyer



Saving Your Skin

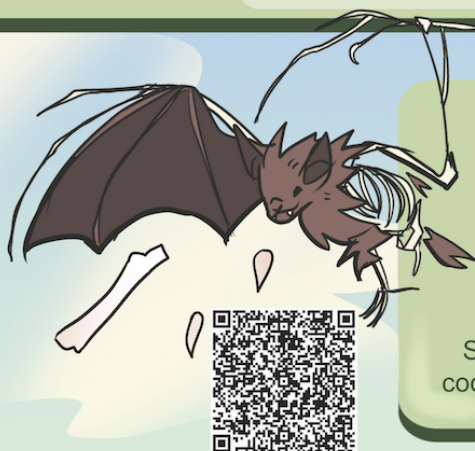
10/21/2022

Museum Tour and Introduction to Skinning Club

2:00-4:00 p.m

Biodiversity Research Center

Limit to 15 people



Scan the QR
code to sign up

Taking The Field To The Lab

11/11/2022

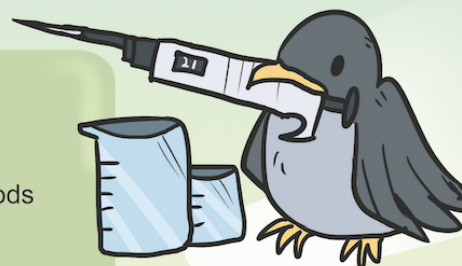
From the field to the lab: using molecular methods to understand ecology

GANT West 302

2:00-5:00 p.m

Limit to 15 people

Scan the QR
code to sign up



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