



Weekly Announcements for April 5-11, 2009

Please submit newsletter information to Pam at chripame@isu.edu

Faculty/Staff/Other Meetings

There will NOT be a Biological Sciences Faculty meeting Tuesday, April 7, 2009.

Seminars

Kevin Monteith, PhD graduate student with **Dr. Terry Bowyer**, will present his Proposal seminar **Thursday, April 9, 2009, at 12:00 Noon in Lecture Center 10.**

Dr. Chunling Tang, Postdoctoral Fellow with Geosciences, Idaho State University, will present his seminar, "*Modeling Soil Moisture in the Upper Colorado River Basin*," **Thursday, April 9, 2009, at 4:00 PM in Lecture Center 15/17.**

Upcoming Events

The **Idaho State University Undergraduate Research Symposium** will be held on **Thursday, April 9, 2009, in the Rendezvous Suite, from 3:00-6:30 PM.** This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about all the research going on not only in Biology, but all across campus. Below is a list of the presenters, both oral and poster, from the Department of Biology. Presentations will be judged based on the presentation content, and the importance of the work. We hope that you will be able to attend!

Pfau Lab:

- **Lindsey Coker, Cody Fowers**, "*Levels of IL10 and Alpha-4 Integrin Expression are Regulated by Direct Asbestos Exposure*"
- **Kip Katseanes, A. K. Roe**, "*Expression of Autoantibodies to PDGF-R-alpha in Asbestos Treated Mice*"
- **Jason Overocker, Aaron Ferro**, "*Oxidative Stress Levels for Asbestos-Exposed Macrophages are Maintained by Xc-Transporter*"

Evilia Lab:

- **Kenneth Bonn**, "*Characterization of a Novel Virus from the Great Salt Lake*"
- **Miglena Mandhar**, "*Motility in phage infected Halobacterium salinarium NRC-1*"

Germino Lab:

- **Dennis Demshar**, "*A New Approach for Passive Warming of a Field Plot*"

Williams Lab:

- **Dennis Demshar**, "*Photosynthesis of the Fern *Ceratopteris richardii*: C3, C4, or CAM*"

Anderson Lab:

- **Jamie Fuller**, "*The Relationship of Motor Neuron Size vs Body Size*"

St. Hilaire Lab:

- **Ryan Marcum**, "*Physical and Physiological Effects of *Batrachochytrium Dendrobatidis**"

Rodnick Lab:

- **Cassidy Michaelis**, "*Characterization of Phosphofructokinase Activity in Cardiac Tissue from Male and Female Rainbow Trout*"
- **Jessica Snook-Curr**, "*Hydrotherapy Effects on the Gait and Heart Rate of Injured Canines*"

- **Brenda Swafford, Ben Devand, Meg Fleishman**, “*Are There Sex Differences in Mitochondrial Oxidation of Carbohydrates and Lipids in Hearts of Rainbow Trout?*”

Stephens Lab:

- **Dustin Portela**, “*Evidence Supporting Intercalation as the Mechanism of Thalidomide Teratogenicity*”

Magnuson Lab:

- **Tamara Salazar**, “*Electrochemistry of c-type Cytochromes: Technical Challenges and Methods Development*”
- **Binita Shakya**, “*Using Fluorescence Spectroscopy to Examine Cytochrome c Conformational Change During Oxidation and Reduction*”

Scalarone Lab:

- **James Smith**, “*The Relationship of Calcium Concentration on Blastomyces dermatitidis Yeast Cell Growth and antibody Detection with Cell Lysate Antigens*”

The **Idaho State University Graduate Research Symposium** will be held on **Friday, April 10, 2009**, in the **Rendezvous Suite, from 4:00-5:30 PM**. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about all the Graduate level research going on at ISU! There will be 28 poster and oral presentations from across campus, with 7 Biology graduate students participating! Below is a list of the presenters, both oral and poster, from the Department of Biology. Presentations will be judged based on the presentation content, and the importance of the work. We hope that you will be able to attend!

Shields Lab:

- **Sandhya Baviskar**, “*Functional Analysis of Dictyostelium discoideum-grp94 Gene using RNA Interference*”

Evilia Lab:

- **Bryan Leatham**, “*Characterization of an Unusual tRNA Synthetase from an Extreme Halophile*”

Baxter Lab:

- **Madeline Mineau, Amy Marcarelli, A. Joshua Leffler, Tamao Kasahara**, “*Invasive Riparian Tree Alters Stream Nitrogen Dynamics*”

Matocq Lab:

- **Quinn Shurtiff**, “*She Loves Me, She Loves Me Not: Testing Female Mate Preferences in A Woodrat (Neotoma) Hybrid Zone*”

Awards/Presentations

Bryan Leatham, MS graduate student with **Dr. Caryn Evilia**, won second prize with his poster entitled, “*Characterization of an Unusual tRNA Synthetase from an Extreme Halophile*,” at the Intermountain Regional Meeting of the American Society of Microbiology.

Janet Prevey, Heidi Marie Alexander, and **Amber Hoover** participated in the 2009 Intermountain Graduate Research Symposium at Utah State University in Logan, Utah. Janet Prevey (recently received her MS in Biology) presented a seminar entitled, “*Effects of Loss of Foundation Species on Exotic Forb Populations in Sagebrush Steppe: The Role of Soil Water Partitioning.*” Amber Hoover (MS biology candidate) and Heidi Marie Alexander (MS CLS candidate) presented posters entitled, “*Relationship Between Post-fire Soil Surface Morphology and Vegetation Recovery in the Sagebrush Steppe*” and “*The C121W Mutation in the β 1-Subunit of Voltage-Gated Sodium Channels Does Not Mimic an Absent β 1-Subunit Channel*,” respectively. Janet Prevey and Heidi Marie Alexander both received first place awards in their respective categories of Science Lecture and Science Poster, respectively.

Scholarships Available

The **Washington State Lake Protection Association (WALPA)** announces scholarships to support undergraduate and graduate students in their pursuit of degrees specializing in the fields of Environmental Science. WALPA will award one \$1000 scholarship and one \$750 scholarship in May 2009.

Applicants must provide a statement of interests, including: research interests and explain why their research is of importance to the field of limnology and/or watershed management, career goals, and intended use of scholarship funds (one-page limit); a one-page resume; and recent transcripts of all college/university course work. A recommendation from someone in the applicant's field of study is encouraged, but not required. All application materials should be sent to the WALPA Scholarship Program Committee by **April 15, 2009**; email submission of the application as a PDF file is preferred. The scholarship recipients will be contacted by the Scholarship Program Committee in May 2009. Please send the completed application packet/file to: Frank M. Wilhelm, Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, University of Idaho, P. O. BOX 441136, Moscow, ID 83844-1136. Email: fwilhelm@uidaho.edu

Job Opportunities

The **Middle Fork Ranger District**, located in Westfir, Oregon, will be **hiring Biological Science Technicians (Botany)** for field work this summer. Salary level is dependent on experience and education. The GS4 level position pays \$12.73/hr the GS5 position pays \$14.24/hr and the GS7 position pays \$17.64/hr. For general information about the Middle Fork Ranger District and/or the position, please contact: Wade Sims, Natural Resources Staff Officer at: wsims@fs.fed.us, or phone (541) 782-5253.

HOW TO APPLY - Application deadline is April 10, 2009. (Option 1) The USDA Forest Service is continuing to use the AVUE application program for nationwide centralized recruitment notices for the 2009 season. Go to: <https://www.avuedigitalservices.com/usfs/applicant.html>. (Announcement Numbers: TEMP-OCR-404-4-PLANT, TEMP-OCR-404-5-PLANT, TEMP-OCR-404-7-PLANT) On April 10, 2009, will be requesting a list of all qualified applicants that applied to one or more of these three announcements and which have indicated Westfir Oregon as a preferred work location, and will be hiring employees from these lists. **(Option 2)** The Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP) provides an opportunity for currently-enrolled college students to earn money, continue their education, train with professionals, and combine academic study with on-the-job experience. Information on the STEP program is available at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fsjobs/step.html>. If you are eligible and interested in being hired under the STEP program, please contact either Wade Sims or Molly Juillerat at the contact points listed below.

REU Summer Research Experience for Undergraduates-Tucson, AZ. REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) is a National Science Foundation-sponsored program wherein undergraduates receive a stipend (up to \$5,760 or \$480 per week for 10 to 12 weeks) to conduct independent research projects under faculty guidance and mentorship. The School of Natural Resources at the University of Arizona (UA) has two openings for REU scholars for the summer of 2009. **One position** is for a collaborative study with Dr. Steve Archer (UA) and Dr. Susan Schwinning (Texas State University) investigating why some shrubs are more successful than others in invading and establishing in grasslands. **Another position** is for a collaborative study with Dr. Steve Archer and Dr. Dave Breshears at UA and collaborators at New Mexico State, Loyola University and the University of Kentucky examining how plant litter decomposition in deserts is influenced by interactions between radiant energy and wind and water redistribution of soil. In addition to their own investigations, REU scholars will participate in controlled environment studies on the UA campus; and in field studies at the Santa Rita Experimental Range just south of Tucson. For more details on the two projects and application procedures, see <http://ag.arizona.edu/research/archer/>. **Application Deadline is April 30, 2009**; or until suitable candidate is hired.

Volunteer Opportunities

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks seeking professional volunteers to assist with the **Montana Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Program** (www.fwp.mt.gov/wildthings/wolf). Great opportunity to gain

valuable field experience and references, while working in the rugged and beautiful Montana Rocky Mountains. **Work conducted** throughout western Montana. **Schedule** highly variable, but hitches are loosely based on 10 days on/4 days off. **Duration June-September**, but may vary depending upon conditions, volunteer availability, and project funding. **Duties include**, conduct wolf surveys. Surveys include driving, biking, and hiking on roads and trails, and howling in suspected wolf areas to document presence and numbers. Monitor wolf activities in livestock areas and hazing or harassing wolves. May assist with capture and radio collaring wolves, conduct reproductive surveys, locate and collect data from wolf home sites. In general duties vary widely from vehicle maintenance to teamwork to survey work to livestock conflict management and much more. These qualifications are **ABSOLUTELY** necessary, because of the remote and independent nature of the fieldwork in **difficult climate and topography**: Ability to backpack, camp, and work and live for extended periods of time in remote settings; Orienteering (use of map and compass for navigating) proficiency; Excellent physical condition; Must hold valid driver's license; Possess the ability to get along with others in backcountry settings for 2+ week time periods; Possess the ability to communicate in a helpful friendly manner with interested and affected publics; Completion of or enrollment in college/university wildlife, or closely related curriculum. **The following skills and abilities are additionally helpful**: Experience in radio telemetry in mountainous terrain. Capture and handling/processing of wildlife. **Application Period**: Apply Now! **Candidates will be selected in April**. **How to Apply**: 1) Cover letter detailing your professional interests and experience as it pertains to these positions, and detail your period of availability 2) Resume 3) List of names and contact information of 3 references. Ideally email this info to: klaudon@mt.gov. If you must, you can also send application materials to: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Attn: Wolf Volunteer Program, 490 N. Meridian Rd., Kalispell, MT 59901. Telephone: (406) 751-4586, Fax: (406) 257-0349.

The Idaho Chapter of The American Fisheries Society has a website where biologists from across the state will post fisheries sampling activities beginning in April and continuing through the fall, 2009. The site is interactive with space for biologists to list the date, location and type of field work and space for students to list their availability by date and location. **The intention of this program** is to provide students with the opportunity to gain some field experience in fisheries research and management activities and get to know fishery professionals. Conversely, biologists will get to know students entering the profession. **To access the website**, go to: <http://idahoafs.org/> and then select the volunteer link (second from the bottom on left hand side of the page). The next step is to sign in which requires you to provide an email address and a password (please record your password as this will determine your future access to the site). Next, build a profile including name, address, and phone number. Then enter your availability by date and location under "my posted availability". **The final step** will be for both biologists and volunteers to periodically check the site for available matches as the field season progresses. **Hopefully, this will provide you with opportunities** to gain experience in fisheries field work and meet new folks in the profession. **Questions?** Please email Steve Elle at steve.elle@idfg.idaho.gov.

Payroll Information

Our **pay period ended April 4**. Please be sure to **submit your time by Monday, April 6 at 12 NOON**. This gives **your approver time to approve your time card and fix any problems by April 7** when time cards are due to Payroll. If you have employees working for you, you need to make sure they are submitting their hours and that you are approving their time cards on time. Time cards need to be submitted and approved on time for everyone to get their pay checks when they expect them. In the past late time cards were accepted, but with the new system they are not. If you have **questions about Web Time Entry**, go to the following link for answers. <http://www.isu.edu/tigeri/training/bengalweb/FAQs.shtml#WebTimeEntry>.