

# The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

*Dr. Brewitt and family (left) and Professor Lane (right) spent the morning at Lake Conestee with our "Reimagining Infrastructure" guest speakers, Sarah Koenigsberg and Robert MacKimmie.*



Volume 7, Issue 9

## *Rebirth in Greenville by Dr. Peter Brewitt*

To close off the Reimagining Infrastructure Symposium, on Saturday we went to Lake Conestee Nature Park. Professor Lane, Dr. Brewitt, his wife Dr. Brewitt, two of our guests Robert MacKimmie and Sarah Koenigsberg, and ENVIS's youngest major Penelope Brewitt rolled down I-85 to meet restorationist Dave Hargett, who has taken Conestee from a horrid Superfund site to a scene of rebirth and inspiration.

Conestee provides a lovely place to bike and hike and watch wildlife (200+ bird species!) in Greenville, but over much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century it was a dump. All the waste of the industrial 20<sup>th</sup> century – dies, metals, excrement – gathered behind its old dam and festered there as economies rose and fell and rose again. The waste is pretty stable there, but it's crucial for the old dam to stay and keep it in. As long as it does, though, you wouldn't know that there's

anything wrong – as we stood beside the dam and talked about chromium and sewage, kingfishers buzzed around and hawks watched over us and we looked out at wetlands pocked by beaver dams. Nature wins, if you give it long enough.



*Dr. Dave Hargett, executive director at Lake Conestee Nature Park*



*Dr. Brewitt by the dam at Lake Conestee*

## Upcoming Events and Opportunities

*\*These count toward your two required extracurricular events for the semester.*

- November 14<sup>th</sup>**  
7:00pm  
**Wofford Environmental Film Festival\***: “*Deep Time*” (2015) – Winner of the Special Jury Award at the 2015 Environmental Film Festival at Yale. This film explores the effects of North Dakota’s oil boom on its small towns and other stakeholders. All films are in Olin Theater and admission is free.
- November 15<sup>th</sup>**  
7:00pm  
**Wofford Environmental Film Festival\***: “*Fata Morgana*” (1970) – One of Werner Herzog’s earliest documentary films about mirages in South Saharan desert. Herzog layers narration and music over the images to create a strange yet stunning film. All films are in Olin Theater and admission is free.
- November 16<sup>th</sup>**  
7:00pm  
**Wofford Environmental Film Festival\***: “*City of Trees*” (2016) – winner of the Audience Choice Award at the 2015 American Conservation Film Festival, it follows a nonprofit’s effort to implement a conservation-oriented jobs-training program for some of DC’s most impoverished neighborhoods. Although the efforts of the organization are admirable, the film avoids a predetermined narrative celebrating the inspiration and outcomes of such civic-mindedness. All films are in Olin Theater and admission is free.
- November 17<sup>th</sup>**  
7:00pm  
**Wofford Environmental Film Festival\***: “*An American Ascent*” (2015) – Winner of the Best Documentary Award at the 2015 San Diego Black Film Festival, this film chronicles the attempt by nine African-American climbers to become the first all African-American team to summit Denali, North America’s highest mountain. Even as they began preparing for the climb in 2012, they linked their effort as much to the issue of outdoor recreation and people of color as to mountaineering history. All films are in Olin Theater and admission is free.
- Ongoing**  
**Middlebury School of the Environment Summer Session 2017**: Six-week summer environmental studies program in Vermont (June 23-August 4) with undergraduate credits for 3-full courses. Applications accepted on a rolling basis until the program is full. Need based financial aid is available. Visit <http://www.middlebury.edu/environment/about> for more information.

## PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

### *Michigan Tech – MS in Environmental and Energy Policy*

Graduate studies in Environmental and Energy Policy are part of the Department of Social Sciences at Michigan Tech. The MS program is small and focused, allowing flexible and intensive work with each student. Students blend their technical or scientific knowledge with training in policy analysis and socio-environmental systems. Michigan Tech’s Master of Science in Environmental and Energy Policy offers an innovative, interdisciplinary approach to environmental management education,

drawing on the expertise of faculty in economics, ecology, engineering, forest resources, and the social sciences.

The OSM/VISTA program is available in conjunction with this MS degree program giving students the opportunity to volunteers in numerous organizations dedicated to renewing the cultures, economies, and environments of historic mining communities.

<http://www.mtu.edu/social-sciences/graduate/environmental/>