

The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program



Dr. Fowler shows students how a Table Mountain Pine cone opens with fire.



Volume 8, Issue 14

Fire on the Mountain by Dr. Peter Brewitt



Professor Lane's ENVS101 met in Black Science Annex courtyard to discuss the canonical thinkers of Environment Studies.



My interim was on fire. With Dr. Cynthia Fowler of Sociology and Anthropology, I taught Fire Ecology of Southern Appalachia, a course that looks at the relationship between fire, people, and the landscape in the mountains that rise just north and west of Spartanburg. When people think about fire and fire ecology, usually their thoughts turn to California and Arizona and the rest of the arid West. They may not know it, but here in the Carolinas, fire has scorched across the landscape for centuries, shaping and re-shaping our ecosystems from the valley to the summits. There are species that live only here and depend on fire to reproduce. As people have suppressed fire in these mountains, the fuel load has built up – you probably remember the explosive fire season of 2016 – and those species, most notably the Table Mountain Pine, have been hard-pressed. Land managers are burning more and

more, though – the future is full of possibility.

We divided our time between the classroom and the Southern Appalachians themselves, visiting with state and federal ecologists and fire personnel, and hiking across the mountains. None of them were burning at the time. The culmination was a lively bushwhack through Hickory Nut Gorge, near Lake Lure, where we summited a wild knob as the sun got lower and looked out on a landscape of fire.



This interim was the Greatest Of All Time!



Upcoming Events and Opportunities

- February 16th** *Application Deadline for Maryland Sea Grant's Research Experience:* Paid 12-week summer program (May20-August12) in marine research on the Chesapeake Bay. Visit www.mdsg.umd.edu/reu for more information.
- February 25th**
2:00pm
Richardson Indoor Arena *First Zero-Waste Basketball Game:* Volunteers needed for the men's basketball game. See Dr. Telligman (telligmanal@wofford.edu) if you are interested in helping out.
- February 28th**
7:30pm
Leonard Auditorium *Poetry Reading by Nikky Finney:* Finney is a National Book Award winner for poetry and a Wofford honorary degree recipient. She will read from her work.
- March 1st** *Applications for Middlebury Summer Environmental Studies Program in China:* Program dates - June15-July 28, 2018. Students will work alongside faculty and practitioners in the Yunnan province to tackle significant environmental problems that stretch beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries. Visit <http://www.middlebury.edu/environment> for application and additional information about the program. Financial aid available.
- March 5th** *Deadline to Submit Artwork for Spartanburg Earth Day Festival:* Submit your entry for the Make a World of Difference Art Contest. The winning college entry receives \$400 at the festival awards ceremony. For information and how to apply visit: www.spartanburgearthday.org/Contests18.html
- March 14th**
7:00pm
Jerome Johnson Richardson Theater, Richardson Center for the Arts *The Way I See It: A Particle World View and Rooted Abstraction:* Speaker Judith Kruger is a visual artist whose paintings, prints and mixed media works address Human-Environment connectivity and their shared vulnerabilities. She is recognized internationally for her advocacy of natural painting materials and historic, ecological processes. Her exhibit, *Mingled Terrain*, is open in the Richardson Family Art Museum.
- March 15th**
7:00pm
Richardson Family Art Museum *Gallery Talk by Judith Kruger:* Join us for a gallery talk by Kruger. The on-going work of the artist is the byproduct of a deep engagement with environment, place and the physicality and materiality of all phenomena. Her exhibit, *Mingled Terrain*, is open February 6–April 7 in the Richardson Family Art Museum.

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

Dartmouth College – Earth, Ecosystem, and Ecological Sciences Program

Earth, Ecosystem, and Ecological Sciences Graduate Program (EEES) was established in 1993 as part of Dartmouth's interdisciplinary Environmental Studies Program, which is one of the oldest in the country.

Dartmouth has partnerships with field sites around the world as well as local sites near campus for environmental investigation and research. There are EEES Fellowship opportunities for qualified applicants that pay a stipend and tuition. EEES also offers the opportunity to further this degree with a

Ph.D. through the Department of Biological Sciences or the Department of Earth Sciences.

The school also has an organic farm located 3 miles from campus where students learn about sustainable food and energy systems. The farm provides research and internship opportunities to undergraduate and graduate students at Dartmouth.

To learn more about Dartmouth's EEES Graduate Program, visit their website: <http://envs.dartmouth.edu/graduate>