

# The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

Volume 9, Issue 15



## *Random Notes from Our Upper Shoals Preserve* by Professor John Lane



The wettest fall in decades. Sand. Mud. The sound of water over stone. Brown thrasher nervous in privet. Crows in distance. Water is silt-laden from last few days of rain. Sun finally out and surreal warmth. Like May or June warm. 66 degrees just past noon.

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“... where does the mystery lie? ... in the fact that place has a more lasting identity than we have...”

~Eudora Welty

“Place in Fiction”

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Still winter but quite warm. We heard frogs last night. Walked to shoals and back with Murphy. Met Betsy on her way back from power walking. No wildlife— flushed a few song birds cutting through the bottom. What were they? Have to pay closer attention. There is one large ephemeral pond in the roadway. Watch it for eggs.

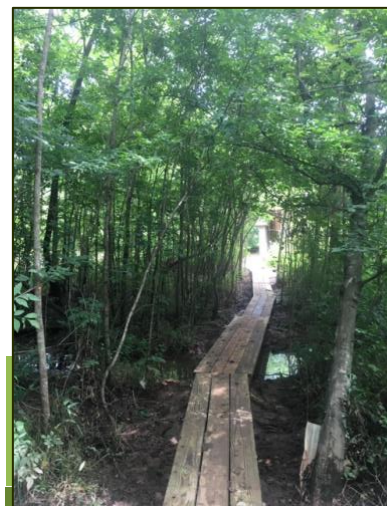
The biggest change over the seasons since I stopped keeping a journal is the sand that all the high water brought in. You can really see it on the trails. Lots and lots of deer prints.

We saw a small piece of a raccoon’s tail, dark yellow and black, down on river trail on the way back. (Murphy ran the entire way home.) Murphy smelled it before I saw it. Hawk kill? Coyotes? I look forward to watching spring arrive again this year.

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Summer Solstice. Walked into the preserve midday to check on the two guys removing brush at Upper Shoals. Doing a good job. Today we begin to build the bog bridges. Hot.

Ripe wild cherries on the ground along Trolley Trail. Lots of ticks.



*Top left: coyote tracks at the upper shoals  
Middle: red bellied water snake  
Bottom: recently built boardwalk  
Right: Trillium blooming on the upper shoals trail*

## Upcoming Events and Opportunities

February 15<sup>th</sup>  
Application Deadline

**Summer 2019 Research Experience for Undergraduates:** [Maryland Sea Grant](#) offers opportunities in marine research on the Chesapeake Bay. 12-week program (May19-August11) with stipend, free housing, and round-trip expenses.

February 15<sup>th</sup>  
Entry Deadline

**South Carolina Wildlife Magazine Photo and Essay Contests:** Winning entries will receive cash prizes and a debut in the “wildly” popular *South Carolina Wildlife* magazine – celebrating its 65th anniversary in 2019! Visit [SC Wild Photo Contest](#) and [SC Wild Essay Contest](#) for more information.

February 15<sup>th</sup>  
1:00pm  
BSA Classroom 2

**Visiting Speaker:** Dr. Lindsay Dreiss of Middlebury College will give a research presentation - *Investigating Forest Responses to Environmental Change Through Field Observations, Models, and Undergraduate Research*.

February 18<sup>th</sup>  
4:00pm  
BSA Classroom 2

**Visiting Speaker:** Catherine Foley of SUNY-Stonybrook will give a research presentation – *Leveraging Quantitative Ecology for Environmental Decision-Making*.

February 20<sup>th</sup>  
8:00pm  
RJ Rockers Brewery

**SURVIVOR Watch Party:** Join us for the premiere of [SURVIVOR: Edge of Extinction](#) as our own ENVS alum Chris Underwood '15 competes to be the next winner!

March 15<sup>th</sup>  
Application Deadline

**South Carolina Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society Scholarship:** A \$1000-scholarship will be awarded to an undergraduate who is a South Carolina resident studying conservation/natural resources. See accompanied document attached to this email for application and requirements.

April 15<sup>th</sup>  
Application Deadline

**Summer 2019 Research Experience for Undergraduates:** The University of Iowa will host a [National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates](#) (NSF-REU) in Geography and Spatial Sciences. A 10-week summer program (May20-July26) will explore human-environment interactions. Participants will receive a stipend and housing in UI residence halls.

April 30<sup>th</sup>  
Application Deadline

**The Goat Island Boat Club Merit Scholarship Program:** The one-year scholarship will be awarded in the amount of \$2000. Eligible student must be from South Carolina enrolled in an institution of higher learning in the state of South Carolina studying marine biology, forestry, fisheries, wildlife management, or other related field focused on environmental protection of the Santee Cooper lakes and river systems. Stop by Wofford Office of Financial Aid to pick up an application.

## PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

### *American University – MA in Natural Resources and Sustainable Development*

American University's MA program in Natural Resources and Sustainable Development is a dual-degree program with the United Nations-affiliated University for Peace in Costa Rica. American University offers an MA in International Affairs, and the University for Peace in Costa Rica offers an MA in Natural Resources and Sustainable Development. This unique program offers students the opportunity to learn about environmental and development policies from the perspectives of both the South and North.

According to their website the two-year program schedule is: “Students spend their first semester at American

*University learning the foundations of sustainable development policy both inside the classroom and within the Washington, D.C. policy community. They spend the next two semesters at the UN-affiliated University for Peace studying concrete practices and tracking international efforts toward sustainable development. During their summer at UPEACE students must complete an internship. They return to AU for their final semester, during which they write a substantial research paper, participate in an integrative seminar and complete their final courses.”*

[American University – School of International Services](#)