

# CALIPER

Newsletter of the Department of  
Natural Resources & the Environment  
University of Connecticut

2016

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*On top of the Eyjafjallajökull glacier in Iceland*

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*J. Clausen, Editor  
Tess Boyles, Design & Layout*

## HEADS UP by John Volin, NRE Department Head

It has been a year of remarkable change and transition for the Department as well as sad news. Dave Schroeder, who was on our Department's faculty for more than 40 years, half of those as Department Head, passed away last spring. The NRE family responded by more than quadrupling the funds for the scholarship held in Dave's name. Fittingly, Dave's scholarship is directed to support undergraduate students, to whom Dave was an incredible mentor.

On the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his hire, Professor Dan Civco, a remote sensing and GIS guru, announced his retirement. Dan has been loved by his students and well respected by the faculty and staff. His wit and humor as well as his experience and willingness to share it with us will be sorely missed. In addition, Beth Sheldon, our Administrative Assistant who kept our financial house in order, retired after 35 years at UConn – the last 10 in NRE. The 116 years Dave, Dan, and Beth have given collectively to UConn is sound proof that UConn is a wonderful place to work! I can attest to that as this coming August will be ten years since I arrived as a faculty member and Department Head in NRE, and I have loved being a part of this community.

This last year we also welcomed Chandi Witharana as a Visiting Assistant Professor, who is teaching courses in remote sensing and GIS as well as conducting research for the new Eversource Energy Center.

The Eversource Energy Center is a partnership with the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, the School of Engineering, the School of Business, and Eversource Energy. The Center was started with an initial \$9 million investment by Eversource Energy with the goal to be the foremost energy utility-academia partnership advancing leading-edge interdisciplinary research and technology to assure reliable power during extreme weather and security events. In addition to this partnership, this has been an extraordinary year in receiving extramural awards. Department faculty members have received as PI, Co-PI or Senior personnel more than \$10 million in extramural funding the last year, of which more than \$7 million has been awarded directly to the Department.

This has been a year of change for our nation, for Connecticut, and at UConn. I invite you to read on to learn more about Department happenings. As always we would love to hear from you.

## TRANSITIONS

**David B. Schroeder** died unexpectedly October 26, 2015 of natural causes. Dave devoted his life to conservation, higher education, and public service. Dave obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in 1965. He joined what was called back then the U of C as an Assistant Professor and Extension Plant Pathologist in 1965 after positions on blister rust control with the USFS in Minnesota and forest inventory with the Northern Pacific Railroad in Idaho, Montana, and Washington. He served as department head for over 20 years until 2006, and was a much beloved dendrology teacher.



A plant pathologist, one of his first papers was a 1961 publication: “Dutch Elm Disease in Minnesota.” For over 40 years, he taught, conducted research, and provided countless hours of outreach throughout Connecticut. In 1980, Dave proposed the idea of a Pinetum to Dean Brand. He developed a list of 66 species to plant, including 22 different pines. John Alexopoulos helped design the layout for the Pinetum, which was located on the south side of Horsebarn Hill behind the softball diamond. Dave once remarked that the Pinetum was too popular. He said many trees were removed for Christmas. But there are still trees growing there today.

Dave is survived by Jill, his wife of 35 years and his sons Andy and Mark, and daughter Kate. Dave’s contributions will live on through the land and forests he helped to conserve and through the graduates of our program. One of Dave’s projects was his Scholarship fund. If you wish, you can donate at <https://uconn.givecorps.com/causes/2339-david-b-schroeder-scholarship-fund>.



**Beth Sheldon** retired from the University in September 2016. She had been the Administrative Assistant in the department since 2006. Beth began work at UConn in 1978 in the Department of Animal Science. While at the university, she also worked in the Schools of Education and Engineering. During that time she took a three year break to work on the family business. Beth loves skiing in Vermont. She and Mark now own a piece of Vermont where she will spend many happy times. We will all miss her expertise and good humor.

**Ashley Sandy** is our new Business Services Supervisor and Fiscal Officer in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment. She graduated from UConn as an Honors Scholar with a B.S. degree in Marketing and is pursuing her M.B.A. in Finance from UConn at the downtown Hartford campus. Ashley previously served as the Financial Assistant for the Eversource Energy Center at UConn. Ashley oversees all state, university and grant-funded financial accounts as well as Human Resource and Payroll activities, and serves as liaison for NRE with College and University departments, faculty, staff and students. Ashley got married in June of 2016 and lives with her husband Bryan and their golden retriever puppy (Brandy Sandy) in Tolland. She enjoys hiking, skiing, running and frisbee golf.



**Daniel Civco** retired from the department August 2016 after more than 40 years at the University of Connecticut. Dan is a highly acclaimed teacher and he will be missed greatly by students and faculty alike. He received six different teaching awards over the years including those bestowed nationally. He taught 12 different courses in the department as his field evolved. He taught his first course in 1980. He was always teaching workshops as well, most recently this last summer. Dan's impacts on the department and University were immense. He was the Director of the Center for Land use Education And Research (CLEAR). He also was the UConn campus director of NASA's *Connecticut Space Grant College Consortium*. Dan was highly successful in obtaining research funds, some as high as almost \$2M. That success translated into adding many graduate students, post-docs and staff support to the department, and produced a large number of books, monographs, and journal articles. He spent a great deal of time presenting at national societies, an outlet important to him.

We all rely on the land use and land cover maps prepared by Dan's group. Dan was always pushing the envelope of technology in remote sensing and presenting results. When he received the Information Technology award at UConn in 2001, instead of presenting a talk, he walked to the podium and pushed the return button on his computer and then sat down. His presentation was fully animated and ran on its own. Dan also contributed strongly to the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, where he was elected a Fellow in 2003. Hundreds of his students have benefited from his dedication to teaching and they carry on Dan's legacy in remote sensing.

## NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION ACADEMY

2015 - 2016



*Expanding with new NSF and USDA funding  
by Laura Cisneros*

Wading hip-deep through rivers, wandering off forested trails to gather wild blueberries, and hiking through tall grasslands, students in UConn's Natural Resources Conservation Academy (NRCA) learn information and skills they need to address conservation issues while also getting a sense of adventure, excitement, and appreciation for local environments and natural resources. Now in its 5th year of programming, the NRCA has trained over 100 Connecticut high school students and connected them with 75 community partners (e.g. professionals from conservation organizations, government agencies, land trusts) to conduct 98 community projects that have directly advanced conservation strategies statewide. The efforts of the NRCA were recently recognized by the New England Environmental Education Alliance, which awarded the NRCA the 2016 Maria Pirie Environmental Education Program Award. The demand and need for similar NRCA programming for teachers and adult learners recently led Dr. John Volin and colleagues from NRE, the Center for Land Use Education and Research, the Center for Environmental Sciences and Engineering, and the Neag School of Education to develop two new NRCA programs: 1) Conservation Training Partnerships and 2) Teacher Professional Learning. In October 2016, the interdisciplinary team received awards of \$3M from National Science Foundation's (NSF) Advancing Informal STEM Learning (AISL) grant program and \$144K from USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture's Professional Development for Secondary School Teachers and Educational Professionals grant program.



### *NRCA Conservation Training Partnerships*

The NSF AISL program seeks to enhance learning in informal environments and to broaden access to and engagement in STEM learning opportunities. The funding for the UConn project—awarded annually over the course of five years—will support an interdisciplinary research project titled “Promoting Lifelong STEM Learning Through a Focus on Conservation, Geospatial Technology, and Community Engagement.” Sixteen 2-day workshops for teens and adults will introduce participants to online mapping tools that can be used to study and address local conservation issues. Teen and adult partnerships will be formed to conduct conservation projects statewide. Concurrently, researchers will be able to investigate the processes and impacts of intergenerational learning.

## NRCA Teacher Professional Learning

The USDA funding—awarded annually for three years—will support a project titled “Water and sustainability: educative curriculum using online mapping tools to support teacher and student learning.” Two 3-day professional development workshops for secondary school teachers will immerse participants in relevant local and regional water resource issues and online mapping tools to study these issues further. Each participant will also design 5-7 modules on a Water and Sustainability Science unit based on Next Generation Science Standards.

To learn more about NRCA programs, visit <http://clear.uconn.edu/nrca> or contact the NRCA coordinator ([nrca@uconn.edu](mailto:nrca@uconn.edu)). The original NRCA program is largely funded through private donations. If you would like to donate, please visit: <http://s.uconn.edu/givenrca>. Thank you for your support.



## CCNR 2016

*10-year Anniversary Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources*

By Jason Vokoun

The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting of the Connecticut Conference on Natural Resources (CCNR) occurred on March 14<sup>th</sup> on the University of Connecticut Storrs campus. To celebrate a decade of CCNR, the meeting featured a redesigned logo and t-shirts. The plenary session focused on Connecticut’s emerging need to think about the management of our growing black bear population. Conference organizers asked out-of-state experts to tell us what they wished they knew before they entered into a bear management program. Dr. Thomas Eason of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission spoke about the Florida experience and Anthony McBride of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Division of Fish and Wildlife represented the New Jersey experience. Both speakers reminded the audience of the need to work with people as much as the bears. What was surprising to many was how much in common each state had even though Florida’s urban bear population lives in a much different climate. Both states have seen bear management become hotly political, and both speakers suggested the need for the state agency to be a fair arbiter of scientific information. The plenary definitely got people thinking about how bears will feature in future conservation here in Connecticut. **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)**



**Jennifer Bourque and Samantha Walker (facing) show off the CCNR t-shirts while discussing the future, both are graduate students in the Natural Resources degree program.**

**CCNR 2016 CONTINUED:** The Keynote speaker was Dr. Timothy Fahey of Cornell University, who spoke about his long-term studies of exotic earthworm invasions in the Northeast. The presentation was followed by a number of questions that spilled into one-on-one discussions after most had left to hear contributed talks, a testament to just how much interest there is in earthworms in our region.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Bureau of Natural Resources celebrated their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in part at CCNR with a mini-session featuring agency projects spanning the mission of the bureau presented by BNR employees. The entire program and conference details can still be found on the archived website: <http://ccnr2016.weebly.com/>. The 2017 conference is already taking shape and is featured here: <http://ccnr2017.weebly.com/>. Finally, the event changed locations, to one of UConn's newer LEED certified classroom buildings. The new venue got rave reviews, and allows conference organizers more flexibility in scheduling with so many classrooms in the building.

While a lot changed for the 10<sup>th</sup> CCNR, the same sentiment that founded the conference "Many Resources, One Environment" rings as true today as it did in 2007.

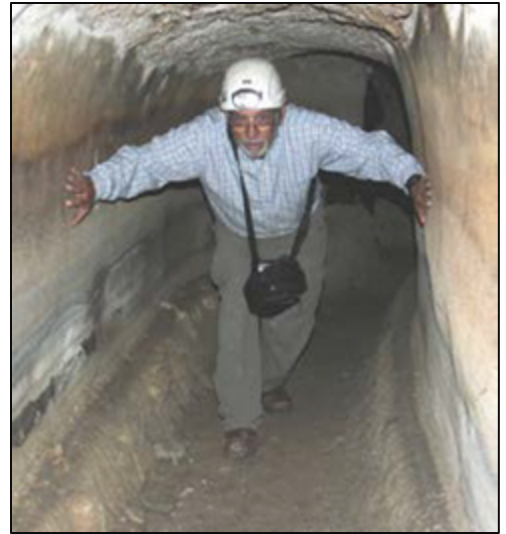
## NEW STUDY ABROAD COURSE

*UCONN Offers New Study Abroad Water Course in Rome, Italy*

*by Gary Robbins*

Nowhere but in Rome can you study some 2000 years of municipal water resource development history. Drs. **Glenn Warner**, Professor and Water Resources Engineer and **Gary Robbins**, a Professor of Geology, specializing in Hydrogeology, developed a new study abroad field course at the University of Connecticut for science and engineering students entitled: "Water Systems of Rome: Ancient to Modern." Because students in science and engineering have heavy course loads, they often cannot find time for a study abroad experience. To help them gain the experience, we designed a course over 17 days in May between spring and summer sessions. We gave the course this past spring and took 16 students to Rome. The major objective of this course is to enhance students' overall understanding of human interactions with the environment in the development of modern municipal water systems. We developed a faculty-lead field course with excursions and field exercises each day. We took students on excursions in Rome, Ostia Antica, Tivoli, Pompeii, and to the major spring in the Apennines that supplies water to modern Rome. **(CONTINUED PAGE 7)**

**NEW STUDY ABROAD COURSE CONTINUED:** Students learned how the water system of Rome evolved over the last 2000 years and saw key elements, including the Tiber River, aqueducts, piping, springs, wells, baths, and fountains. With help from faculty at U. Roma Tre and the American Institute of Roman Culture and assistance by Roma Sotterranea, the students conducted a variety of water related exercises. These included: making observations of water related structures in the Roman Forum and on Palatine Hill to understand the important role water played in the history of Rome and how a gravity fed water system works; mapping the geologic structure and geographic features in the historic area of Rome and correlating them with the occurrence of springs and groundwater flow (Rome is the largest city in the world that relies completely on groundwater from springs); determining aqueduct discharge rates; measuring the water quality of springs and water discharging from an aqueduct; measuring past flood heights to assess how flooding played an important role in Rome's history; conducting stream gauging; and making water balance calculations to evaluate water needs and sustainability. They also had plenty of time for cultural immersion and, of course, to sample Italian food and beverages.



*Sevilla Aqueduct*



We will be offering the course again—tentatively scheduled for May 8 through May 24, 2017. The course is open to both undergraduate and graduate science and engineering students from any academic institution. The course is limited to 20 students. For more information see: <http://abroad.uconn.edu/program/uconn-water-systems-of-rome-ancient-to-modern-rome-italy-summer-faculty-led/>. Gary and Glenn are also planning to offer a Water Systems of Rome excursion for interested professionals and adults to be given from May 26 to June 4th, 2017.

The excursion will consist of trips in Rome, Ostia Antica, and in the nearby countryside to experience the development of the Roman water system. If you are interested, please contact me at [gary.robbs@uconn.edu](mailto:gary.robbs@uconn.edu) to get on our emailing list to receive more information.

## RESEARCH NEWS

### *Researchers Study Challenges to Rural Forest Product-Based Communities*

*by Anita Morzillo*

**Anita Morzillo** is involved in new research funded by the USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative titled, “Biodiversity, ecosystem services, and the socioeconomic sustainability of rural forest-based communities.” Other PIs include Darla Munroe (Ohio State U), Chris Colocousis (James Madison U), Mindy Crandall (U Maine) and Kathleen Bell (U Maine). The objective of the research is to investigate socioecological challenges faced by residents of rural communities that have historically relied on the forest products industry. Of particular focus are “communities in the middle” that are located neither within wilderness nor suburban areas. As calculated, these communities represent more than 27% of land area in the continental US, yet less than five percent of the population. In an earlier paper (citation below), the researchers proposed three trajectories that these communities may take following a change to the traditional forest production economy: 1) ongoing population and employment decline, 2) reorganization to a new form of amenity-based development such as recreation, and 3) reorganization to new commodity-based activities such as biomass energy production. The USDA grant will allow the research team to use case studies of several eastern US communities to explore how the interplay of community attributes such as transportation and telecommunication connectivity to urban areas, social structure and civic culture, and forest characteristics influence community change. Determining how these community attributes operate together will provide valuable knowledge for addressing national-level concerns about rural population loss and availability of services for rural residents.



Morzillo, A.T., C.R. Colocousis, D.K. Munroe, K.P. Bell, S. Martinuzzi, D.B. Van Berkel, M.J. Lechowicz, B. Rayfield, and B. McGill. 2015. "Communities in the middle": interactions between drivers of change and place-based characteristics in rural forest-based communities. *Journal of Rural Studies* 42:79-90.

*Picture taken by M. Kolker in Grampians National Park, Australia*



## Black Bear Density is Higher in Exurban Development Than Rural Areas

by Tracy Rittenhouse

**Tracy Rittenhouse** and **Michael Evans** (PhD Student) have spent the last four years studying CT's black bear population in collaboration with the DEEP Wildlife Division. This research resulted in a landscape model on bear-human conflicts published in *Journal of Wildlife Management* and a state-wide estimate of bear density recently accepted for publication in *Landscape and Urban Planning*. Check out the online storymap for a visual display of their results. You may find photos of the bears who live in your neighborhood. The story map was created by Cary Chadwick, Center for Land Use Education and Research (CLEAR) and Mike Evans.

### The Bears are Back

Getting to Know Connecticut's Bears

*A story map created by Cary Chadwick and Mike Evans, College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources, University of Connecticut.*

Black bears (*Ursus americanus*) have become an unmistakable presence in Connecticut. As their population has grown, these adaptable omnivores have expanded their range to include both rural and suburban areas of the state, bringing them into close proximity with people. Black bears' increasingly conspicuous presence has raised many questions about their population.

Just how many bears call Connecticut home?

**An Established Range**

Over the past several decades, black bears have recolonized part of their historic range in the state. The re-established range occurs primarily in northwest Connecticut, as indicated by the distribution of public reports of female bears (sows) with cubs given to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). [Click on a town](#) to see the number of reports in 2015.

<http://www.cteco.uconn.edu/projects/bears/index.htm>



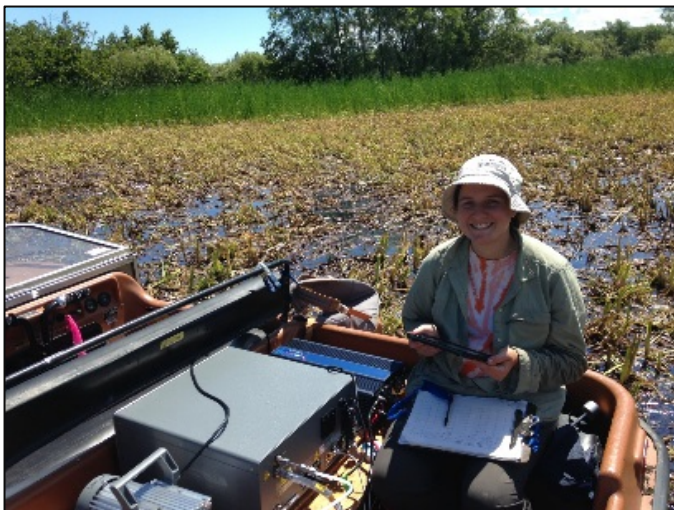
**Dr. Beth Lawrence installing Gas Enclosure**

## *Researchers Study Wetland Restoration in the Great Lakes*

*by Beth Lawrence*

**Beth Lawrence** and a team of interdisciplinary collaborators (Dartmouth College, Loyola University, Michigan Tech, Oregon State, and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians) were awarded a two-year EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant for \$649,695 in July 2016. Their project titled "Increasing biodiversity and habitat complexity in invaded wetlands," will experimentally harvest invasive cattail from 200 acres of Great Lakes coastal wetland in northern Michigan, and test aquatic connectivity and structural complexity treatments on birds, fish, herpetofauna, plants, and greenhouse gases.

The award will support Olivia Johnson, an NRE MS student, and her investigation of how invasive plant management alters carbon and nitrogen-based ecosystem services.



**Above: Olivia Johnson performing gas measurements on amphibious vehicle**



**Top Right: Typha Harvester**

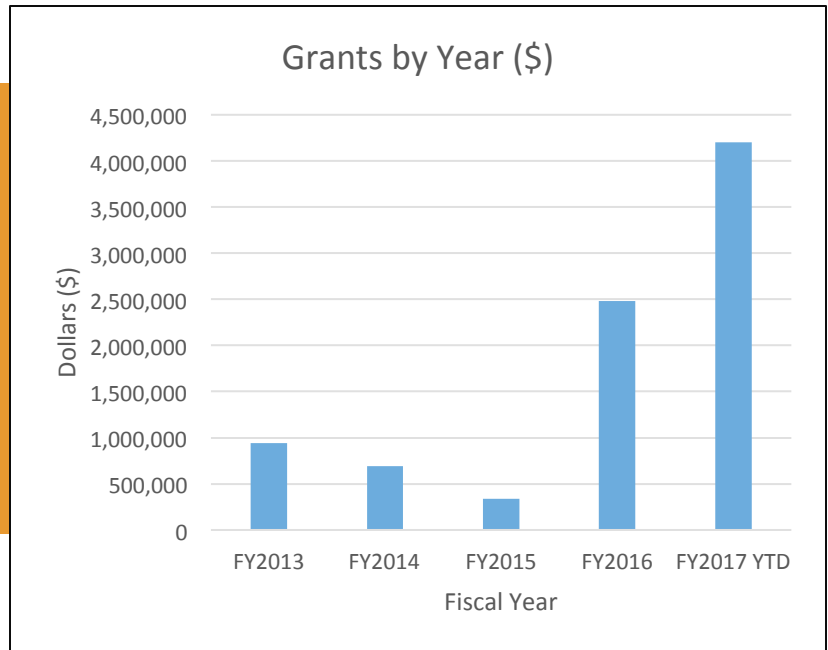
**Bottom Right: Cheboygan, MI Experimental Typha Harvest area**



## Research Grants

*This figure summarizes the total amount of grants obtained annually by NRE faculty since 2012-2013.*

*The past two years show a dramatic increase in funding for research in the department. Many of these grants are multi-investigator and some are multi-institution.*



## STUDENTS/ALUMNI

### Why I'm an NRE Student

by David Sullivan, NRE BS 2017

**What is your concentration and why did you choose it/the NRE program?**

I'm concentrating in Climate and Water Resources within the NRE program. I chose this path because I'm very interested in the ubiquitous importance of water in society, and how it can be best conserved to meet the needs of future generations. This program has given me an intimate

understanding of the basic scientific principles regarding water and its role in biological, physical, and chemical processes on Earth.

I was also very attracted to the applied nature of the NRE program and its curriculum. Courses such as Intro to Geomatics, Natural Resource Measurements, and Intro to Groundwater Hydrology are designed to give students hands-on experience with field equipment and computer programs which will directly benefit them in employment and/or graduate school endeavors post-graduation.

**When do you expect to graduate and what will you do after?**

I'll be graduating in May 2017, and will likely seek full-time work for about one year, before pursuing a graduate degree. I'm currently an intern at the U.S Geological Survey, which has **(CONTINUED PAGE 12)**

**WHY I'M AN NRE STUDENT CONTINUED:** been an incredible experience, and I'd like to continue my work there if possible. I'm not yet set on what I'd like to focus on in my graduate research, but I'm very interested in low-impact development, water quality effects/benefits of different conservation agriculture measures, and climate change effects on coastal wetlands. While there are many unknowns in my future, I'm excited to continue learning and am confident that I chose the right field!

## *Mary Schoell, B.S. 2016: Studying Living Shorelines at the EPA Lab in Narragansett*

*by Jack Clausen*

When I called, **Mary Schoell** was analyzing chlorophyll at the US EPA lab in Narragansett, RI where she works as a contractor. Called the Atlantic Ecology Division Laboratory, this bay-side facility is one of EPA's research and development laboratories. This one focuses on marine and coastal research. Mary is working on a project called "living shorelines" on Martha's Vineyard. The project I am on is one piece to larger project on Cape Cod and the islands and water quality nitrogen mitigation techniques.



This is a cooperative effort among Mass Audubon, the towns of Oak Bluffs and Edgartown, and the EPA lab. The Audubon has a wildlife sanctuary there.

So what is a living shoreline? It is a shoreline stabilization technique that uses natural biodegradable material to make the shoreline resilient to storms and erosion. One of its main features is the Coir log. Mary describes these as giant logs made of coconut fiber. There are 12 feet long and weigh 300 lb each; they take a ton of work. These protect the edge and break the waves. Wooden stakes and rope are used to hold them in place. She also uses recycled oyster shell bags around the logs that also break waves. And they are a good home for other organisms like crabs. She builds bags with biodegradable materials and spends lots of time filling them. In her research she wants to determine if the living shoreline will stop erosion and build back what was lost. She also wants to find out the N removal capabilities of the marsh they protect.

When asked about how UConn prepared her for this work, she said she got lots of help from faculty in NRE. It also gave her confidence in herself. She pointed out the jobs she had as an undergraduate that prepared her to work in both field and lab settings. The analysis she did in Dr. Helton's lab is what she does now and she obtained a background in wetlands. Even though UConn is a big school, the department is small. She encourages others to express interest in what you want to do. You will get lots of help from faculty.

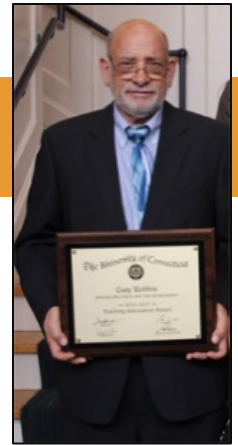
In terms of the future, Mary lives in Narragansett and goes between there and Martha's Vineyard. She is a few minutes away from the beach and swimming. Living there is conducive to her active lifestyle. She says she loves it there; a great place to live forever and working at EPA is wonderful. In the coming years you will likely find her on some coastland somewhere.

## AWARDS

### *Gary Robbins*

*Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning Teaching Innovation Award*

**Gary Robbins** received the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning Teaching Innovation Award for using simulations of field methods for learning, developing the Rome course, developing the online water resources course, developing virtual field trips, and being a ‘edutainer’. Individuals considered for this recognition show a demonstrated commitment to continuously improving teaching through innovation and reflective practice. They are dedicated to teaching effectiveness and support enhanced levels of student engagement and learning.



### *Rachel Smiley*

*IDEA Grant*

**Rachel Smiley** is a senior in the Honors and University Scholars programs. She received an IDEA Grant for work on her thesis “Beyond Capture: development and application of a visual body condition index to determine effects of nutritional condition on timing of migration by mule deer.”



The grant funded two trips to western Wyoming in January and March 2016 to complete her fieldwork. She worked with a biologist from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and researchers from the University of Wyoming to obtain mule deer body condition data. Dr. Chadwick Rittenhouse is advising Rachel in data analysis and preparation of her Honors thesis. The goal of her project is to allow biologists to non-invasively evaluate the nutritional condition of mule deer and evaluate how their condition affects their migration timing. More information can be found at:

<http://naturally.uconn.edu/2016/02/09/new-university-scholars-have-ties-to-cahnr/>

<http://universitiescholars.uconn.edu/2016-university-scholars/>

### *Mike Evans*

*First Place Presentation, The Wildlife Society*

**Mike Evans** won first place for the Ph.D. student presentations at The Wildlife Society annual meeting in October for his work on black bears in Connecticut. The story may be found at:

<http://wildlife.org/student-research-project-bears-are-wary-in-connecticut/>



## *April Doroski*

*Travel Grant from The Wetland Foundation*

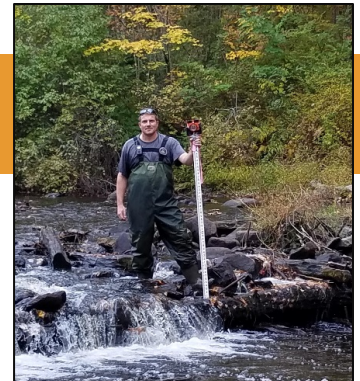
**April Doroski**, a second year MS student, was awarded a travel grant from The Wetland Foundation for \$1,200 to present her research “Effects of salinity and metals on denitrification across coastal wetlands in urban landscapes” at the Society of Wetland Scientists Meeting in Corpus Christi, TX in June 2016. April’s research was also featured in the Connecticut Sea Grant College Program’s Fall/Winter 2016 magazine *Wrack Lines*, “Urban wetlands on the edge – A salty conversation”. April Doroski, a second year MS student, is studying the combined effects of urban runoff and sea level rise on tidal wetland ecosystem function.



## *Kevin Franklin*

*Best Student Paper, Surveying and Land Information Science*

NRE student **Kevin Franklin** published a paper in *Surveying and Land Information Science* that was awarded Best Student Paper 2016, which came with a monetary award of \$1500. The paper is entitled, “Centering Error for Range Poles,” and it presents a new statistical model for the uncertainty introduced into GPS positions due to the impossibility of perfectly centering



Kevin Franklin is a student, teacher, network administrator, and a member of Connecticut’s community of practicing land surveyors. He is currently a UConn graduate student under the supervision of Dr. Tom Meyer, and anticipates conferral of an M.S. degree in Natural Resources with a focus on geomatics in Spring 2017.

After a brief but exciting career as a ski patroller in Vermont, Kevin earned a B.A. degree in Business Management and an A.S. degree in Civil Engineering Technologies. Motivated by his love of the outdoors, maps, and math, Kevin followed a suggestion from friends and family to explore the land surveying profession. He spent the next ten years working in private practice for prominent engineering consulting firms. He is currently employed by UConn and the Connecticut Department of Transportation as the administrator for the Connecticut GPS base-station network ([acorn.uconn.edu](http://acorn.uconn.edu)). He also teaches land surveying courses at Three Rivers Community College since 2013. In addition to these roles, he is the founder and owner of Franklin Surveys, a professional land surveying firm offering a broad array of services throughout Connecticut. Kevin lives in Southeastern CT with his wife and two sons.

## IN THE NEWS

### Help Fight Invasives by Taking Land Survey

[http://nrca.uconn.edu/students/documents/LakevilleJournal\\_2016.pdf](http://nrca.uconn.edu/students/documents/LakevilleJournal_2016.pdf)

NRCA  
Lakeville Journal

### MS Student Climbs through Dense Tickets to Assess Cottontail Habitat

<http://naturally.uconn.edu/2016/01/19/graduate-student-studies-new-england-native-rabbits-interaction-with-habitat/>

Kelly O'Connor  
Naturally@UConn  
Jan 19, 2016

### Support the Next Generation of Conservation Scientists!

<http://naturally.uconn.edu/2016/03/15/support-the-next-generation-of-conservation-scientists/>

Laura Cisneros  
Naturally@UConn  
March 15, 2016

### Meet Alumna Alicia Decina

<http://naturally.uconn.edu/2016/03/29/meet-alumna-alicia-decina/>

Alicia Decina  
Naturally@UConn  
March 29, 2016

### Bridgeport Student Receives Soak up the Rain Scholarship to UConn's Natural Resources Conservation Academy

<http://www.energizect.com/sites/default/files/FINAL%20Soak%20up%20the%20Rain%20Post%20Release%20%206%2016%2016.pdf>

Laura Cisneros  
EnergizeCT  
June 28, 2016

### Conservation Canines Help Researchers Study Cottontail Reproduction

<http://naturally.uconn.edu/2016/07/19/wildlife-conservation-pilot-project-uses-trained-k-9-to-scout-cottontail-nests/>

Tracy Rittenhouse  
Naturally@UConn  
July 19, 2016

### Ranger the Conservation Canine Helps Researchers Study Cottontail Reproduction

(follow the link "here" to see Rancher point & leaf litter move when the bunnies wiggle)

<http://naturally.uconn.edu/2016/07/19/wildlife-conservation-pilot-project-uses-trained-k-9-to-scout-cottontail-nests/>

Tracy Rittenhouse  
Naturally@UConn  
July 19, 2016

### Morty Quoted on Mountain Lions

<http://wnpr.org/post/could-mountain-lions-help-solve-connecticut-s-deer-problem#stream/0>

Morty Ortega  
WNPR  
July 26, 2016

### John Volin, Laura Cisneros Quoted on Natural Resource Academy

<http://wnpr.org/post/uconn-recruits-teens-spark-interest-conservation#stream/0>

John Volin  
WNPR  
July 27, 2016

### The Balance Sheet

<http://www.cheshirelandtrust.org/newsletters/Newsletter%20Fall%20September%202016.pdf#page=2>

Laura Cisneros  
Cheshire Land Trust  
September, 2016

### Landscape Ecologist Studies Human Dimensions in Natural Resource Management

<http://naturally.uconn.edu/2016/09/>

Anita Morzillo  
Naturally@UConn  
Sept 27, 2016

### Meet graduate student Lindsay Keener-Eck

<http://naturally.uconn.edu/2016/10/05/meet-graduate-student-lindsay-keener-eck/>

Lindsay Keener-Eck  
Naturally@UConn  
Oct 5, 2016

### Meet Undergraduate Robyn French

<http://naturally.uconn.edu/2016/10/26/meet-undergraduate-robyn-french/>

Robyn French  
Naturally@UConn  
Oct 16, 2016

**Department of Natural  
Resources and the Environment**

College of Agriculture, Health and  
Natural Resources  
University of Connecticut  
1376 Storrs Rd, Unit 4087  
Storrs, Connecticut 06269-4087

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section of the next newsletter.

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