

# EECPerspectives

The Newsletter of the University of Georgia Environmental Ethics Certificate Program

September 2004

## Grab Your PDA! 2004-2005 Seminar Schedule Announced

We are excited to announce our entire 2004-2005 seminar schedule, Fall and Spring, all wrapped up with a bow here at the start of the year -- it doesn't get any better than this! Well, at least for those of us who get excited about scheduling seminars in an efficient manner. As always, unless otherwise noted, all seminars start at 5:00 pm with a social half-hour preceding the lecture.

We start the Fall semester off on Tuesday, September 28, with UGA Ecology professor Carl Jordan and the video presentation, "My Father's Garden." This award-winning film (Sundance, CINE Golden Eagle, Chicago International Film Festival) will serve as an introduction to a discussion about organic farming. Dr. Jordan began teaching a course in organic farming this past Maymester. On October 19, Dr. Jordan will continue this discussion with a Philosopher's Walk at the Full Moon Cooperative, on his Spring Valley Farm.

On November 9, we welcome one of our newest faculty members, Dr. Jonathan Evans, English professor and Director of the Medieval Studies Program at UGA. Dr. Evans will present his lecture, "J.R.R. Tolkien's Environmental Vision."

The Fall seminar series will end on Friday, November 19, with the annual CHA-EECP Environmental Ethics Lecture. This year, we are proud to welcome Christopher Stone, J. Thomas McCarthy Trustee Professor of Law at the University of Southern California Law School. Professor Stone is author of the classic *Should Trees Have Standing?: And Other Essays on Law, Morals & the Environment*, has served on the Editorial Advisory Board for the journal *Environmental Ethics*, and has testified before Congress about the environment and natural resources. At 2:00 pm on Friday, November 19, he will present his lecture, "Ethics and the Global Environment," in 102 Student Learning Center. You can learn more about Professor Stone at <http://lawweb.usc.edu/faculty/cstone.htm>.

On this page you'll find handy guides to our Fall and Spring seminar schedules, suitable for wallets and refrigerator doors. Look for in-depth coverage of our Spring seminars in our Spring issue.

### Fall 2004 Seminar Schedule

Tuesday, Sept. 28: Carl Jordan, UGA  
My Father's Garden: A Video Discussion  
Founders Memorial House, 5:00 pm

Tuesday, Oct. 19: Carl Jordan, UGA  
Philosopher's Walk at Spring Valley Farm and the Full Moon Co-op  
Meet at Ecology Parking Lot, 5:15 pm for transportation

Tuesday, Nov. 9: Jonathan Evans, UGA  
J.R.R. Tolkien's Environmental Vision  
Founders Memorial House, 5:00 pm

Friday, Nov. 19: Christopher Stone, USC  
Ethics and the Global Environment  
CHA/EECP Annual Environmental Ethics Lecture  
102 Student Learning Center, 2:00 pm

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### Spring 2005 Seminar Schedule

Tuesday, Feb. 1: Dorinda Dallmeyer, UGA  
Dinner for Two: A Video Discussion  
Founders Memorial House, 5:00 pm

Tuesday, Feb. 15: Kleiner and Feighner Awards Presentation  
Winners and lecture to be announced  
Founders Memorial House, 5:00 pm

Tuesday, March 8: MaryCarol Hunter, UGA  
Trends in Sustainable Design  
Founders Memorial House, 5:00 pm

Tuesday, March 29: Peter Hartel  
Philosopher's Walk at the Rock and Shoals Outcrop Natural Area  
Meet at Ecology Parking Lot at 5:15 pm for transportation

Thursday & Friday, April 21 & 22: Chattooga Series  
Various lectures and panel discussions

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## The EECP Welcomes New Faculty Members

At the Spring Faculty Meeting, in April 2004, the EECP faculty unanimously accepted two new faculty members: Jonathan Evans and MaryCarol Hunter.

Dr. Evans is an Associate Professor of English and Director of the Medieval Studies Program here at UGA. He is currently working on a book with Matthew Dickerson entitled, "Ents, Elves, and Eriador: The Environmentalism of J.R.R. Tolkien."

Careful readers of this issue will note that this is the subject of his Fall EECP seminar as well.



Dr. Hunter is an Assistant Professor in the College of Environment and Design, with an interest in ecological restoration and ecological design as a "merging of art, ecology and engineering for beauty and sustainability." She is also a member of the Oconee River Greenway Commission, Executive Board & Secretary of the Northeast Georgia American Society of Landscape Architects, and a member of S.E.E.D.S., the Students and Educators for Ecological Design & Sustainability. Dr. Hunter will present a lecture on ecological design in the Spring.

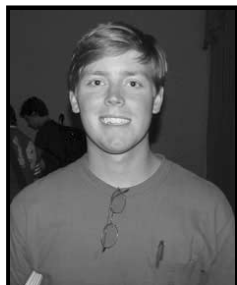
## EECP Abstracts and Recent Alumni

*The 2003-2004 academic year was one of the best we've had, with the highest number of certificates we've ever handed out. Therefore, we have a wonderful abundance of abstracts to share in this issue. For a complete list of last year's graduates, please see our Annual Report at [www.uga.edu/eeep/resources](http://www.uga.edu/eeep/resources).*

### Georgia Lights Lead to Less Starry Nights: Light Pollution in Athens-Clarke County

*Gordon Harper, Certificate Awarded May 2004*

This report focuses on light pollution in Athens-Clarke County (ACC). Athens-Clarke County is a heavily urbanized area that contains the cities of Athens and Winterville. In terms of intrinsic value, excessive artificial night lighting adversely affects our community through a loss of starry nights, a loss of beauty that I find unacceptable. There are ways to reduce our county's light pollution and I propose a lighting plan for ACC. If this plan is followed, then ACC residents will be able to see 2,000 to 3,000 more stars at night instead of the current 800 stars. Such an improvement would enhance the sky's beauty.



Reader: Judith Wasserman

### Ethical Consideration of the U.S. Forest Service Proposed Usage Control Plan for the Chattooga River

*Jennifer Pugh, Certificate Awarded May 2004*



The Chattooga River, which forms a natural border between Georgia and northwestern South Carolina, has been a source of aesthetic pleasure and recreation for many people throughout the years. However, because of recent surges in recreational use, the U.S. Forest Service proposed a permit plan to

minimize the effects this rising demand has on water quality, local wildlife, and plant life. I discuss this proposed plan, what it means for all stakeholders involved, and the environmental and ethical issues involved. Part I is a description of the Chattooga watershed; Part II is a description of the concerns of each stakeholder: the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), the commercial outfitters, the public, the wildlife, and the Chattooga Conservancy; Part III discusses the positions for each stakeholder in the event that this permit system is actually imposed; and Part IV presents my thoughts on the best ethical solution based on deontological and teleological grounds.

Reader: John Bergstrom

### Blackwater Canyon

*Lindsay Browning, Certificate Awarded May 2004*



A month ago, I gazed over my shoulder as I stood on the edge of Lindy Point in my home of Tucker County, WV. The wind blew fiercely as it always did, but this time the view into Blackwater Canyon was somehow different. I realize now that it was not the view that was different — it was I. Now when I gaze in awe at

Blackwater Canyon, it is not simply because of its aesthetic value; I gaze because I appreciate the ethical conflict that is occurring within the Canyon. Allegheny Wood Products has completed "selective timbering" on their 3,000 acres adjacent to Blackwater Falls State Park and have staked the land for condominium development. Not only does the acreage possess intrinsic value, but it is also home to three threatened and two endangered species. We have a collective responsibility to respect the habitat for our future generations; therefore, the 3,000 acres should be condemned and managed by the federal government.

Reader: Dorinda Dallmeyer

### The Possible Sale of the Sweetgrass Bed & Breakfast, Serenity Island: A Simulated Negotiation

*Beth Adams, Certificate Awarded December 2003*

The idea for this simulation is derived from the author's study of actual events that have taken place in the Gullah/Geechee community of Hog Hammock on Sapelo Island, Georgia. The events portrayed in the simulation exercise, however, are fictional. Where circumstances from actual Sapelo Island events have been

incorporated, they have been intentionally, necessarily, and significantly altered to preserve the fictive nature of the simulation, and to enhance its use in a classroom setting.

The objective of this negotiation is to demonstrate to students the gains that can be achieved by use of principled, cooperative negotiation strategies versus negotiation strategies that focus on positions only. The idea is to allow students to practice using principled negotiation techniques to search for, and ultimately agree on, solutions that best represent the substantive and legitimate interests of each party.

Reader: Dorinda Dallmeyer



Of Hope and Heed: A look at how Costa Rica has dealt with the mixed blessing of Ecotourism  
*Kerry Brewster, Certificate Awarded May 2004*



In 1999 I took a trip to Costa Rica. At the time I had little clue of what ecotourism might mean or even where exactly I was heading. I fell in love with a country and landscape I only had ever imagined. What was supposed to be a three-week trip stretched on for two and a half years. In this time I learned a great deal about tropical ecology, Costa Rican culture, and how

this country has had such a complex history in conservation and ecotourism. It astounded me the knowledge that could be found in the most humble of people throughout this country on the subjects and their apparent dedication to it. It was amazing to discover that a country with such a high population density and growing population would devote more of its land space to conservation than any other country in the world. Not only had I found a place I thought only existed in fantasy, but also some sort of preservationist utopia along with it. It was not until later, when I started to travel to the more developed and expensive luxury areas of Costa Rica, that the illusion shattered. It was at this point that I became concerned with the multi-dimensional aspects of tourism and how it could effect a community, culture, and country. This essay is the fruit of an obsession in learning how ecotourism can effectively boost a country's economic status while providing incentives for the preservation of biological treasure, and how to avoid the demons that trail on its coattails.

Reader: William Griswold

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Ethical Consideration for a Tree Ordinance in Athens, GA  
*Abby Stone, Certificate Awarded May 2004*

Trees are a vital resource to the world and individual communities. Tree ordinances are city measures designed to ensure protection for this resource. Trees add several benefits to communities, and Athens-Clarke County must recognize these benefits and enact an ordinance that protects its trees. Problems with an ordinance arise when stakeholders feel that the government is infringing on their individual rights. This paper explains the reasons how a tree ordinance will benefit Athens-Clarke County. Ethical dilemmas will be examined resulting in recommendations for an ordinance.



Reader: Dick Field

Duty to Distant Generations and the Importance of the Preservation of Nature  
*Elizabeth Long, Certificate Awarded May 2004*



In the paper I address the question of duty to posterity and its relevance to preservation of nature. In particular I focus on whether or not we (the currently existing generations) have any obligation to those generations in the distant future. I argue that existing generations are obligated to take into account the impact of our actions and policies on all generations in the near and distant future and make decisions concerning our actions accordingly. I claim that the present generations are obligated to provide for the "needs" of future generations since we have no way of knowing their wants and desires (a definition of "need" is given later which deciphers it from "want" or "desire"). I claim that from an egocentric point of view, humans have a need for the natural environment and therefore we have an obligation to the future to preserve the natural environment in which we live and on which we depend.

Reader: Betty Jean Craige

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A Right to Environmental Education  
*Libby Ormes, Certificate Awarded May 2004*

Much legislation, both federal and state, is being designed to protect the environment. Examples include the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Air Act, all of which are federal statutes that are implemented through state agencies and state legislation. These and associated federal and state environmental laws give the public a right to information and to participate in agency decision making. No federal and few state laws, however, provide a public right to environmental education. In this paper, I explore the history of environmental education, addressing some of the criticisms and recommendations for improvement. I also look into international human rights law and federal and state environmental legislation to discern what rights these laws provide to the public concerning information and participation. In conclusion, I address the need for legislation that provides the public a right to environmental education, and the steps that will have to be taken to make this happen.



Readers: Ron Carroll and Laurie Fowler

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**Big Waters and Pink Dolphins: Environmental and Cultural Degradation in the Amazon Basin**  
*Nathan Ratledge, Certificate Awarded May 2004*



The pink dolphins of the Amazon basin are an important mythological element for the majority of traditional cultures throughout the Amazon River system; furthermore, they are an integral part of the river ecosystem. Having thrived in the Amazon River and its tributaries for upwards of 15 million years, the dolphins, like many other species in the

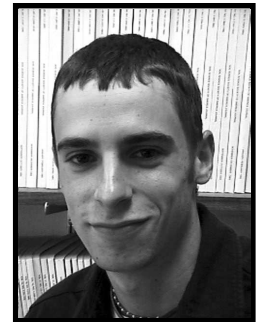
rainforest, are at risk of extinction. Although they are not yet critically endangered, a quick and drastic decline in population could easily occur, much like the loss of river dolphins in the Indus River (India) and Yangtze River (China). Developmental studies from around the world and current trends in Brazil were evaluated and compared in order to construct the most feasible and promising plan for protecting the pink dolphins. The best solution is a long-term program that will preserve the dolphin's habitat, protect indigenous knowledge, and allow for economic sustainability. Appropriate foresight and implementation will not only safeguard the dolphins and their habitat; moreover, proper forest and river management will benefit a number of interested parties both socially and economically.

Reader: Ben Blount

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**Let Wildfires Burn Wild**  
*Aaron Redman, Certificate Awarded May 2004*

This essay presents the argument that all wildfires, regardless of how they are ignited, should be left to burn unsuppressed. Believing that current fire suppression policies are jeopardizing firefighters' lives, wasting money, and are environmentally unfriendly, the essay advocates changes to wildfire management. It suggests a biocentric approach to fire policy as the key to reversing over a century of total fire suppression in our nation's forests. In doing so, it chronicles the history of fire management policy in the United States. In addition, the essay shows how fire management has been affected by events such as the Yellowstone fires of 1988 and the Florida fires of 1998. Finally, it discusses current and future changes to fire management policy through legislation like President Bush's recently enacted Healthy Forests Restoration Act.



Reader: Paul Sutter

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