

Fisheries and Wildlife Program News

Department and Program Information and Faculty Achievements

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Namibia Study Abroad Program

Namibia May 29 – June 19, 2005

Contributed by **Dr. Werner G. Dörgeloh**

In the summer of 2004 the idea came up to lead a study abroad tour to Namibia. After a year of planning, bookings, marketing and many administrative hurdles, the date was set for the end of May 2005. To our delight a group of 14 people signed up, 7 of which were students from NCSU.

These were **Jennifer Miller** and **Amy Shepherd** from Fisheries & Wildlife Sciences; Jonathan Cochran, Martha Flanagan, Courtney Long, Lauren Thibault from Zoology, and Christina Herring from Parks, Recreation & Tourism Management. What made this tour also special, it was the first overseas tour offered through the Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences Program at NCSU.

The three week tour started from Atlanta with a 17 hour flight to Johannesburg, South Africa. Another 2 hour flight took us to Windhoek, the Capital of Namibia. The first two nights were spent in a game reserve where students had the first opportunity to experience the African bush and various wildlife species. Windhoek was a convenient first stop to acclimatize and to buy provisions for the upcoming trip into the desert.

We spent two days at the Gobabeb Training & Research Centre in the Namib desert. In this unique desert wilderness, students saw many small critters and plants and observed their unique adaptations to survive in this harsh environment. Especially the variety and numbers of Tenebrionidae beetles were of particular interest. Lectures and field surveys gave students further insights into desert ecology.



Driving towards the southern Atlantic coast we spent one free day at the coastal town, Swakopmund. Here some students went on a boat or kayak trip to watch dolphins and seals, while others went dune riding on ATV's. In the afternoon some departed on a scenic flight over the extensive dune fields of the southern Namib desert. Traveling north along the coast, visiting a seal colony on the way, we slowly moved inland across the vast gravel plains of the northern Namib. Around the southern perimeter of the

highest mountain in Namibia, the trip took us to the northern parts of Damaraland to Twyfelfontein, a national monument of 6000 year old petroglyphs. On the way farther north, we visited a petrified forest. Staying for two nights on the western side of the Etosha National Park, gave students their first experience of real Africa. In this wilderness area, where lions and elephants roam freely, we camped in the bush. A night drive, during which we saw the first lions, added to the excitement.



Traveling south we stayed for 2 days at the Cheetah Conservation Fund. Feeding and exercising cheetahs as well as taking a cheetah into the bush were some of the highlights at CCF. Lectures on cheetah management and conservation, bush control, and game ranch management enhanced the overall learning experience. We spent the last day at the nearby Waterberg Plateau Park where students had an opportunity to reflect on their experiences in Namibia, land of thirst and thorns.



*Namibia study abroad
program.*

Three days in the Etosha N.P. were well spent. We saw literally hundreds of antelope, zebra, giraffe and elephants, even right on our doorstep. Scientists gave an informative overview of how a large protected area is managed and highlighted the many challenges faced by authorities. Various aspects of African wildlife ecology and behaviour were also discussed. Etosha N.P. was much appreciated by the students and was definitively one of the highlights of the tour.



For most students this was their first visit to Africa. The combination of a desert and the African savanna ecosystem with its diversity of wildlife species made this a very special tour. Every wildlife, zoology or natural resources student should consider visiting Africa at least once to experience the diversity of life first-hand. Not only for the unique flora and fauna, but also for the many management challenges which are very different to those found on the North American continent. This tour broadened the students' horizons and brought alive some of the course material covered in class.



Study Abroad Program — Namibia 2006

The preliminary date for next years tour to Namibia is from May 21 – June 10, 2006. If you are interested in joining this once in a lifetime tour or have any questions please contact: **Dr Werner Dörgeloh** (Wildlife Ecologist) wgdorgel@unity.ncsu.edu



*Plan to attend -
Namibia 2006!*

The NCSU Student Subunit chosen as the 2005 American Fisheries Society Outstanding Student Subunit

The NCSU Student Subunit of the NC Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) was chosen as the 2005 AFS Outstanding Student Subunit. The award recognizes a student subunit that exhibits outstanding professionalism, active resource protection and enhancement programs, and commitment to the mission of the American Fisheries Society. The award was for 2004, when the chapter officers were **Summer Burdick** (president), **Lori Davias** (vice-president), **Ed Malindzak** (treasurer), and **Jason Edwards** (undergraduate vice-president). Among the subunit's activities in 2004 were teaching Fish and Wildlife Management Merit Badge to a local boy scout troop, assisting with a mark-recapture workshop, conducting a women's fishing clinic, participating in an Eno River conservation project, and organizing and hosting an electrofishing certification course. Current co-presidents **Jenny Vander Pluym** and **Warren Mitchell** will receive the award at the upcoming 2005 AFS meeting in Anchorage! Congratulations!

The 2005 Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences Program's Fall Cookout at the Turner House a success

On Wednesday, August 24, the Fisheries & Wildlife Sciences Program held their 2005 Annual Fall Cookout at the Turner House. The event was attended by approximately 80 students, faculty and staff. This was a great opportunity for the students and faculty to meet and interact. The event was planned and coordinated by Cindy Burke, Program Assistant for the Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences Program. Thank you, Cindy!



Students and faculty enjoying free food at the 2005 Fall Cookout. Photo provided by **Dr. Chris DePerno**.

The Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences Program's 2005 Fall Cookout a success!

Hot dog chef, **Dr. Chris Moorman** (left) and assistant, **Dr. Richard Lancia** (middle) serving students. Senior Wendy Welborn (right) with a plate of food! Photo provided by **Dr. Chris DePerno**.



Left to right: **Drs. Richard Lancia, Joe Hightower, Jim Rice, Barry Goldfarb, and Werner Dörgeloh** prepare to address the students. Photo provided by **Dr. Chris DePerno**.

Ben Noffsinger, Fisheries and Wildlife Student, participates in the National Student Exchange Program

This past year, Ben Noffsinger participated in the National Student Exchange Program. Ben traveled to The University of Alaska - Fairbanks and contributed the following to highlight his experience.

“Alaska reminded me of the grandeur and scope of the natural world. Sky scrapers and massive concrete bridges are impressive, but compared to Denali, or gigantic birch and alder forests they're pretty pathetic. Alaska brings back the connection to nature and the wilderness that is lost in everyday urban life. On cold September nights the northern lights start to show themselves, and no laser show or special effects can ever duplicate their amazing colors and the way they dance across the sky. Alaska allowed me to get away from everything I had become comfortable with and lackadaisical to. Being surrounded by thousands of acres of wilderness and the permanent threat of so called “inclement” weather brings perspective onto everyday inconveniences. The University of Alaska at Fairbanks was a great place to further my studies with wildlife. Alaska hosts a very different flora and fauna than the southeastern United States. Paired with excellent instructors and professors, I was able to learn that there was more to know than I every thought, and just how long my journey was going to take.”

Sabrina Smith, Fisheries and Wildlife Student, participates in the International Student Exchange Program

This past year, Sabrina Smith participated in the International Student Exchange Program. Sabrina studied at the University of Queensland in Australia and contributed the following to highlight her experience.

“If you’ve ever thought about studying abroad, all I can say is go for it! Recently, I studied abroad in Australia, at the University of Queensland (UQ). What began as five months away for school and some travel quickly turned into a year. Australia was not only a great place to study; it was a great place to travel and make friends. The school system in Australia is much more geared towards self-teaching. Professors lay down the ground work and let you take it from there. The classroom atmosphere tends to be a bit more relaxed as well. UQ offers courses in rainforest ecology, Australia’s marine environment, range management, and many more—most of which transfer easily back to State. I was fortunate enough to do a research project on Beloniformes with Dr. Ian Tibbetts. It was a great way to learn about phylogeny and fish biology with out reading out of a text book.

When I was in Australia I made friends from around the world. A year ago all of my friends were American; now I have friends in England, Scotland, Germany, New Zealand, and of course Australia. My best friend is even Canadian. During our summer holiday we traveled to the Outback and the whole of southeastern Australia, from Adelaide up to Sydney. Tasmania was outstanding in terms of wildlife—we saw everything! Kangaroos, wallabies, paddymelons, kolas, wombats, Tassie devils, penguins, parrots, you name it! On the mainland, in more arid areas we say all sorts of monitors, skinks and dragons...I even came across a few deadly snakes. On a separate occasion, I made it to the far north and visited the Great Barrier Reef and tropical rainforest. The hardest part is coming home after settling into a different way of life and a different set of friends for a year. Fortunately, we all do a good job of staying in touch. However, no matter how hard it may be to readjust, I would never trade in the experiences I had.

Fisheries and Wildlife students participate in the National and International Student Exchange Program

White-tailed Deer Management Workshop: White-tailed Deer Management: The Basics and Beyond

On August 25, 2005, a white-tailed deer management workshop, 'White-tailed Deer Management: The Basics and Beyond' was conducted in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. The event was sponsored by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service and the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and coordinated by the Forestry and Environmental Outreach Program. The workshop was attended by approximately 103 individuals including landowners, land managers, deer hunters, foresters, wildlife biologists, environmental consultants, environmental educators, and others interested in managing for an improved deer herd. Topics covered included basic white-tailed deer biology, North Carolina laws and regulations related to deer, habitat management for deer, food plot management for deer, predation and other forms of deer mortality, disease risks to deer, and deer herd management strategies.

Speakers included **Dr. Craig Harper**, an Associate Professor and the Extension Wildlife Specialist in the Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries at The University of Tennessee, **Evin Stanford**, state deer biologist for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, **Dr. Chris Moorman**, an Associate Professor and Extension Wildlife Specialist at NC State University, **Dr. Chris DePerno**, an Associate Professor and Extension Wildlife Specialist at NC State University, and **Dr. Jonathan Shaw** who recently received his Ph.D. in Forestry from NC State University.

*White-tailed Deer
Management Workshop:
White-tailed Deer
Management: The
Basics and Beyond*



Evin Stanford discussing deer physiology, diseases and North Carolina regulations. Photo provided by **Dr. Chris DePerno**.

Dr. Chris DePerno discussing deer predation and other forms of mortality. Photo provided by **Dr. Jonathan Shaw**.



Dr. Chris Moorman discussing habitat management for deer. Photo provided by **Dr. Chris DePerno**.





Dr. Craig Harper discussing managing food plots for deer and quality deer management: a case study. Photo provided by **Dr. Chris DePerno**.

Dr. Jonathan Shaw discussing quality deer management; a research study. Photo provided by **Dr. Chris DePerno**.



*White-tailed deer
management workshop
a success!*

Successful survey results from the White-tailed Deer Management Workshop

Attendees at the White-tailed Deer Management workshop in Rocky Mount, NC, returned 93 surveys. Attendees included foresters (39%), hunters (28%), biologists (8%), and other (5%). Attendees owned (62,961 acres), leased (65,937 acres) and consulted (907,122 acres) over one million acres. Ten respondents estimated that the workshop saved them an average of \$735, and six respondents estimated the workshop would help them earn an average of \$900. Although 55% of attendees already used prescribed fire, an additional 34% planned to burn following the workshop. Seventy-two percent already thinned pine stands, but an additional 23% planned to conduct thins. Also, the workshop increased attendee interest in fallow field management, quality deer management, and use of cost-share programs.

Dr. Michael Mitchell, NC State Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences Program Alumni accepts a position as the Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit Leader

Photo provided by **Dr. Mike Mitchell**

Degrees Earned:

James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA, 79-83, B.S. in Biology
 NC State, 90-92 M.S. in Wildlife Biology
 NC State, 93-97 Ph.D. in Zoology

Past and current relationship to NC State:

Two graduate degrees, post-doctoral teaching and research, an adjunct professorship, and ongoing collaboration with NC State faculty (**Drs. Roger Powell** and **Dick Lancia**).

Projects worked on at NC State:

M.S.: Effects of intensive silviculture on small mammals of North Carolina pocosins (advisors: **Drs. Dick Lancia** and **Ed Jones**).

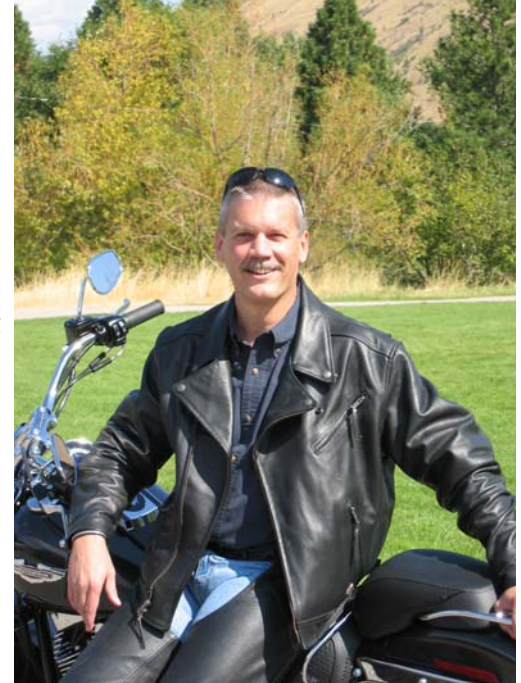
“Dick thought up the nastiest project he could imagine, found a retreat jarhead desperate enough to do it, then basically gave him a MS degree for having survived the experience.”

Ph.D.: Optimal home ranges: models and application to black bears (advisor: **Dr. Roger Powell**). “The “payback” project for having worked 2 years in pocosins. Spent several years stomping through the southern Appalachians with Roger, catching bears, bushwhacking endless miles in the name of habitat sampling, and otherwise having a great time.”

Post-doc: Modeling the distribution of songbirds on managed forest landscapes. Worked with Dr Lancia. “In spite of the apparent taxonomic departure for me, the work was consistent with my interest in landscape-scale ecological processes and resource management.”

Best memories of NC State:

Having the bejeezus scared out of me by **Dr. Phil Doerr** in my first day of class. Arguing over beer with my graduate colleagues over whether facial and body patterning in African ungulates is for intraspecific communication or predator deterrence. The night a certain unnamed faculty member threw a large, gooey artificial slug, intending to strike a wall but instead nailing his certain unnamed significant other square between the eyes. The field trip to Pisgah National Forest with Roger Powell's mammalogy class. Learning enough Latin in Roger's mammalogy class to conduct mass at St. Peters. Standing in the middle of a god-forsaken pocosin in blazing, suffocating heat, watching a formation of the helicopters I used to fly (equipped with air-conditioning) zoom about 20 feet overhead (if I had had a rock...). Hand-picking my PhD committee only to receive from them (and I quote one of my committee members) “the toughest oral prelim he had ever seen”-- 3.5 solid hours of “I don't know, I don't know, I don't know...” The annual Zoology pig-pickin' with the usual



Dr. Michael Mitchell,
*Unit Leader for the
 Montana Cooperative
 Wildlife Research Unit.*

Dr. Michael Mitchell (cont.)

knock-down, drag-out, bare-knuckled competition between the gas and charcoal schools of pig cooking (I'm not sure if anyone ever won). Splitting a bottle of scotch with Roger after my defense. The night my computer monitor at the office caught fire, requiring a dramatic intercession from the fire department-- thank God, all the data on the CPU were insulated from the fire by a row of SAS manuals (I knew they were good for something...). Getting a pickup buried in mud up to its frame at the end of a logging road in the middle of nowhere, and the look on my colleagues face when I walked up to him (hours later) and explained why I was not picking him up. Driving a telemetry truck down the Blue Ridge Parkway at night with fog so thick the only way I could see where I was going was to open the door and look down at the yellow lines. The narcotic effects of holding a bear cub snuggled and snoring in your arms.

Your time spent in Alabama:

I left NCSU to become the Assistant Unit Leader in the Alabama Cooperative Research Unit at Auburn University. I spent 6 years there, had a great time, performed research on black bears in NC, fire ecology of longleaf pine and small mammal communities, modeling distribution and community structure of songbirds on managed forests, and... (drum roll) demographic and behavioral responses of feral pigs to lethal control measures on Fort Benning, GA. While at Auburn, I graduated 2 M.S. students and continue to work with 2 Ph.D. and 2 M.S. students who began their work there but have now moved with me to Montana.

Now the opportunity in Montana:

I am the Unit Leader for the Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit (no fishy stuff, that's a separate Unit in Montana), located at the University of Montana, Missoula. I anticipate developing several projects on large carnivores in the not-too-distant future.

Some info on your family:

I am married (happily, my wife assures me) to my wife of 22 years, Connie, who is a nurse specializing in cardiac and intensive care. I have a 16-year-old son, Ryan, who is a junior in high school and quite the trumpet player, playing in marching band, honors band, and jazz band.

We want to help you look good and highlight you in the newsletter:

Ha! Good luck!

If you have a nice digital picture of you in your new office looking scholarly that would be great:

I'll have to work on that, I am the world's biggest camera-phobe.

What we really want to know is how we can co-advise graduate students between NCSTATE and UM!

That's easy, how much money you got?

*Dr. Michael Mitchell,
NC State Alumni!*

Dr. Chris DePerno continues tenure as President of the Great Plains Natural Science Society

Dr. Chris DePerno continues his second year as president of the Great Plains Natural Science Society (GPNSS). Chris will serve as President until the 2006 annual meeting. The GPNSS seeks to promote interest in and understanding of the natural history of the Great Plains, to encourage the conservation of natural resources, and to provide communication among individuals, institutions, and organizations. THE GPNSS publishes the peer-reviewed journal, *The Prairie Naturalist*. If you are interested in joining the GPNSS please contact Chris at 919-513-7559 or chris_deperno@ncsu.edu. Annual membership dues are \$10 for students and \$15 for individuals. In September, the GPNSS held their 2005 Annual Meeting in Sisseton, South Dakota.

2005-2006 Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources Scholarships Announced

The Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources has announced the academic scholarships for the 2005-2006 academic year. These scholarships carry a monetary award and require the recipient to remain in the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources, take at least 12 hours of coursework, write a letter of thank you to the donor, attend the scholarship banquet, and demonstrate high professional standards.

*Dr. Chris DePerno
continues tenure as
President of the Great
Plains Natural Science
Society.*

Nathan W. Beasley received the Hoffman Forest Academic Scholarship.

Luke A. Decker received the George K. Slocum Work-Study Scholarship.

Michael B. Horner received the Hoffman Forest Academic Scholarship.

Gabriel Karns received the Felton F. Coley Scholarship and the Hoffman Forest Academic Scholarship.

Rupert H. Medford received the James L. Goodwin Work-Study Scholarship.

Brent E. Mortimer received the Hoffman Forest Academic Scholarship.

Casey E. Phillips received the James L. Goodwin Work-Study Scholarship.

Amy L. Raybuck received the Hoffman Forest Academic Scholarship.

Sabrina N. Smith received the Hoffman Forest Academic Scholarship.

Robert H. Snow received the Hoffman Forest Academic Scholarship.

Crystal A. Stokes received the Hoffman Forest Academic Scholarship.

Stephanie Zolkowski received the Hoffman Forest Academic Scholarship.

CONGRATULATIONS to all recipients!

Recent Publications, Reports, Presentations, and Funding

Publications & Reports

DePerno, C. S., B. J. Bigalke, J. A. Jenks, B. S. Haroldson, and R. G. Osborn. 2005. Electrocutation of an adult white-tailed deer. *The Prairie Naturalist* 37:47-49.

Ulyshen, M. D., J. L. Hanula, S. Horn, J. C. Kilgo, and **C. E. Moorman**. 2005. Herbivorous insect response to group selection cutting in a southeastern bottomland hardwood forest. *Environmental Entomology* 34:395-402.

Ulyshen, M. D., J. L. Hanula, S. Horn, J. C. Kilgo, and **C. E. Moorman**. 2005. The response of ground beetles (Coleoptera: Carabidae) to selection cutting in a South Carolina bottomland hardwood forest. *Biodiversity and Conservation Online First, June 16th*.

Presentations

DePerno, C. S. 2005. White-tailed deer mortality. Presented to 103 individuals at the White-tailed Deer Management: The Basics and Beyond Workshop. East Carolina Agriculture and Education Center, Rocky Mount, North Carolina.

Moorman, C. E. 2005. Wildlife Management in the Urban-Rural Interface. Urban and Community Forestry Training, Statesville (8 people).

Moorman, C. E. 2005. Youth and Adult Conservation Education. North Carolina Birding Trail Conference, Plymouth (100 people).

Moorman, C. E. 2005. Habitat Management for Deer: Beyond the Food Plot. Presented to 103 individuals at the White-tailed Deer Management: The Basics and Beyond Workshop. East Carolina Agriculture and Education Center, Rocky Mount, North Carolina.

Moorman, C. E. 2005. Wildlife Management in the Urban-Rural Interface. Urban and Community Forestry Training, Kinston (21 people).

Moorman, C. E. 2005. What's the Problem with Exotic Plants. Water Quality Group Training on Invasive Plant Control. Centennial Campus, Raleigh (50 people).

Riddle, J., C. Moorman, and F. Perkins. 2005. Maximizing the Impact of Field Borders for Quail and Early-succession Songbirds: What's the Best Design for Implementation? 11th Annual Southeast Quail Study Meeting, Gilbertsville, KY (POSTER).

(**J. Riddle** = graduate student)

*Recent publications and
reports!*

Upcoming Events

Leopold Wildlife Club

The next 2 meetings for the Leopold Wildlife Club will be Tuesday, October 11, 2005 and Tuesday October 25, 2005 at 7:00 pm in 2211 Gardner Hall.

Job Opportunities and Scholarships

Please see the NC State Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences website for additional information, current position announcements, scholarship opportunities, and links to job websites.

<http://www.cfr.ncsu.edu/for/fishwildlife/>

Giving Back!

Giving Back

Giving Back

It only takes a moment to make a huge impact. NC State offers a wealth of programs that educate students and provide assistance to the community, but we need your help. Your contribution to the College of Natural Resources can make a huge impact on all facets of university life and ensure that these valuable programs can continue. The College of Natural Resources needs the support of our alumni and friends. Please consider making a gift today through the NC State Annual Fund or contact Jennifer Viets Catalano at 919-513-7734 or jennifer_viets@ncsu.edu.

Also, you may consider giving to our 2 Summer Camp student endowments (1 Fisheries, 1 Wildlife). These endowments help undergraduate students attend the Wildlife and Fisheries Summer Camp. For more information on how to contribute, contact Dr. Richard Lancia at 919-515-7586 or richard_lancia@ncsu.edu.

Compiled and edited by:

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*Contact Dr. Chris
DePerno with questions
or comments.*



A successful electrofishing experience at ponds that are managed in collaboration with Fisheries and Wildlife faculty that serve as research sites (or an outdoor laboratory) for Fisheries and Wildlife students. All fish were released back into the pond unharmed.

Left to right: **Dr. Jim Rice**, **Dr. Rich Noble**, Russell Kitchens, M.D., **Dr. Phil Doerr**, **Dr. Tom Kwak**, and Cliff Edwards (of Premiere Ponds, Inc.). Photo provided by Patrick Cooney.