



Corvallis, OR

• Western Ecology Division •

This Week @ WED



Newport, OR

March 12-18, 2017

-NHEERL Notes / WED-

“Rethinking Environmental Protection: Meeting the Challenges of a Changing World.”

was published in *Environmental Health Perspectives* on March 1, 2017. It was authored by NHEERL and ORD scientists: Thomas Burke, Wayne Cascio, Daniel Costa, Kacee Deener, **Thomas D. Fontaine**, Florence Fulk, Laura Jackson, Wayne Munns, Jr., Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, Michael Slimak, and Valerie Zartarian.



“From climate change to hydraulic fracturing, and from drinking water safety to wildfires, environmental challenges are changing. Today’s environmental problems are increasingly complex, and new scientific approaches and tools are needed to achieve sustainable solutions to protect the environment and public health. In this article, we present examples of today’s environmental challenges and offer an integrated systems approach to address them.”

Susanna Pearlstein (ORISE postdoctoral fellow, WED) presented “Is it working? A look at the changing nutrient practices in the Southern Willamette Valley’s Groundwater Management Area” at NRMRL’s Ground Water and Ecosystems Restoration Division Seminar Series in Ada, OK, on March 7.



Goal of the project is to provide information and tools that will help farmers, managers, and conservation groups quantify the water quality benefits of management practices they are conducting or funding. The next day, Dr. Pearlstein, along with NRMRL’s Bart Faulkner, visited the Oklahoma State Research Farm in Chickasha, OK. The work there supports nutrient leaching research under the Safe and Sustainable Water Resources Research Program’s Project, “Analysis of Agricultural Nutrient Sources of Impairment and Effects on Downstream Waters.”

Set your clocks ahead one hour on **Sunday, March 12** at 2:00 AM.

-WED Publications-

Cornejo-Oviedo, E. H., S. Voelker, D. B. Mainwaring, D. A. Maguire, F. C. Meinzer, and J. R. Brooks. 2017. Basal area growth, carbon isotope discrimination, and intrinsic water use efficiency after fertilization of Douglas-fir in the Oregon Coast Range. *Forest Ecology and Management* 389:285-295.

LB Nickolas, C Segura, J Renée Brooks. 2017. The influence of lithology on surface water sources within the Marys River Basin, Oregon. *Hydrological Processes*. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.11156

SL Voelker, MC Stambaugh, JR Brooks, FC Meinzer. 2017. Evidence that higher [CO₂] increases tree growth sensitivity to temperature: a comparison of modern and paleo oaks. *Oecologia*, DOI: 10.1007/s00442-017-3831-6

Steven L. Voelker, Michael C. Stambaugh, **J. Renée Brooks**, Frederick C. Meinzer, Barbara Lachenbruch, Richard P. Guyette. 2017. Evidence that higher [CO₂] increases tree growth sensitivity to temperature: a comparison of modern and paleo oaks. *Oecologia*.

-EPA in the News-

EPA is withdrawing its request that owners and operators in the oil and natural gas industry provide information on equipment and emissions at existing oil and gas operations. The withdrawal is effective immediately. [Read press release here.](#)

-What's Up at WED-

Main Renovation Kick-Off

In order to get the schematic design phase for the **Main Laboratory Building Renovations** in Corvallis, OR, under way, the A/E team will have a kick-off meeting at 8:00 AM on Tuesday, March 21 in Corvallis. After a morning management level meeting/teleconference among HQ, ORD/WED and A/E team personnel to confirm the scope and goals of the main laboratory building renovations, the A/E team will meet with users and other building personnel Tuesday-Thursday, March 21-23.

A Note about Lab and Office Space

From the desk of Coral Tily:

As we near the main lab renovation, please think about the extra, non-used items in your office and lab space. It will be much easier to relieve these areas of the things you do not need prior to moving them around during the renovation.

Contacts for items:

Scott Turkle: waste chemicals, universal waste (batteries, lamps, mercury, PCB's, etc)
Coral Tily: excess property and equipment

Recycling : <https://intranet.ord.epa.gov/nheerl-wed/facilities-and-recycling>

Post-Doc Forum

Registration is open for ORD's 2017 **National Postdoctoral Fellow Forum** for all postdoctoral staff, to be held April 11-12 at Research Triangle Park in Durham, NC.

Available remotely via Adobe Connect. Recording the forum also is planned for those who are unable to attend. Registration is free. See [registration page](#).

Markwiese Invited to Participate

WED QA Manager **Jim Markwiese** has been invited to participate as a subject matter expert at the Ballast Water Independent Laboratory Audit Meeting. The meeting will be held at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory ([NRL](#)) in Washington DC. NRL will present a draft plan for auditing Independent laboratories that have been approved by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to conduct verification testing of ballast water management systems (BWMS).



"Given your expertise with the EPA Quality Assurance system, your accreditation council membership to the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation, and your experience conducting ISO 17025 audits, your input would be most valuable.", writes Lisa A. Drake, PhD, of the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory.

Drake further notes that having an EPA quality expert represented at this cross-agency meeting (EPA, USCG, Maritime Administration, NRL) will strengthen relationships across federal agencies.

WED Division Seminar

Chanda Littles (ORISE Post Doc) will present the March Division seminar on Wednesday, March 29 at 2:00 PM in Newport Conference Room, with video connection to Corvallis Main LTR. "*Assessing Wintering Florida Manatee Population Dynamics at Multiple Scales.*"

"How vain it is to sit down to write, when you have not stood up to live."

--Henry David Thoreau (1817 - 1862)



Visitors and Travelers

All-Hands Meeting



At an All-Hands meeting at WED on Wednesday March 8, OSU guests **Dr. Cynthia Sagers** (Vice President for Research) and **Dr. Roy Haggerty** (Associate Vice President for Research) met with staff to discuss collaboration between the division and the university and ways both can benefit from the partnership.

Dr. Sagers' association with WED dates back to 2005, when she spent two years as senior research associate with EPA's National Research Council. Prior to coming to OSU as the Vice President for Research, she was Associate Vice Provost for research and economic development at the University of Arkansas. [Read more.](#)

Dr. Haggerty previously served as interim Dean of OSU's College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences. He is a hydrologist with expertise in nutrient and energy flow in streams, and the movement of contaminants in groundwater. [Read more.](#)

Eco-Division Retreat

The week of February 27, Gulf Ecology Division hosted a 3-day retreat for the NHEERL Ecology Division Directors and the Associate Director of Ecology. The retreat focused on a range of topics including collaborations, communicating science, Divi-

sional strategic visions, and NHEERL's flagship research. "The face-to-face discussions strengthened collaborative ties to leverage effort and will deliver impactful science and technology," notes GED newsletter "Week at a Glance".



Participants at the retreat were (*from left*): Dale Hoff (MED); Wayne Munns (AED); Beth George (GED); Alan Thornhill (WED); Bill Fisher (ADD for Ecology)

Photo courtesy of GED.



-Next Door at OSU-

Seminars

Wednesday, March 15
OSU/FES presents Leigh Torres (OSU):
“Stressed Out Whales? New methods to examine the physiological impacts of ocean noise on gray whales.” Learning Innovation Ctr (LINC), Room 302, at 4:00 PM

See [OSU Events Calendar](#)

Research

Fish consumption advisories tailored to specific regions and ethnic groups could help women of childbearing age to eat in even more healthy ways, including better monitoring of mercury intake, [suggests an OSU study](#).

-The Back Page-

Women’s History Month



In 1679, a young German woman, Maria Sibylla Merian, wrote her first book, "The Wondrous Transformation of Caterpillars". Her beautifully illustrated works helped [dispel many myths about the world of nature](#).

Read more about women who have played a vital role in [enlarging our understanding of nature and wildlife](#).

Botanist’s Conundrum

St. Patrick’s Day means shamrocks, and while all shamrocks are clover, not all clovers are shamrocks. But as to what constitutes a “shamrock”, botanists and Irish legend [do not necessarily agree](#).



Fun With Maps

A globe that shows the world’s population skyrocketing is possible thanks to WebGL, a relatively new and esoteric programming library for rendering 3-D graphics. [Read more here](#).

Community Events

Monday, March 13--Native Plant Society of Oregon presents “Gardening for Birds and Insects: ecological diversity”. 7:30 PM, OSU Cordley Hall Room 2087.

Contact: judi.sanders@gmail.com

Saturday, March 18--[Winter Wildlife Field Day](#), Finley Wildlife Refuge. 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. Wildlife watch, activity stations for all ages.

Contact: secretary.friends@gmail.com

[All EPA Blogs](#)

[EPA Region 10 Facebook](#)

To submit photos, announcements or other items to the newsletter, contact [Joan Hurley](#).

[Just For Fun](#)