

Ecology Research

BAHS Faculty



Clay E. Corbin, Ph.D.

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Research Interests

Evolutionary Ecology, Foraging Ecology, Functional Anatomy

In 2018, Dr. Corbin continued his student-based research program by mentoring Masters and undergraduate students in projects including museum collections, ecological morphology, foraging ecology, and birds and West Nile virus.



Lauri Green, Ph.D.

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Research Interests

My current project will investigate the role of artificial wetlands on the foraging behavior and reproductive success of Tree Swallows. Most of my previous research focused on quantifying the effects of eutrophication and applying models to reduce nutrient loads into aquatic ecosystems.



John M. Hranitz, Ph.D.

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Research Interests

My research expertise is in the ecological genetics and physiological ecology of animals. I study amphibians, reptiles and bees, but I also collaborate to study other taxa, providing expertise in ecological genetics or physiological ecology. I use numerous techniques (allozyme genetics, microsatellite DNA genotyping, mtDNA sequencing, western blotting, ELISA, and skeletochronology) to study heterozygosity-fitness relationships, population genetic structure, and the abundance, distribution, and the physiological ecology of animals. Currently, studies by my students and I investigate island dwarfism and coastal ecology of amphibians, island pollination systems, host-vector relationships for West Nile Virus, and stress responses in bees.



Thomas Klinger, Ph.D.

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Research Interests

Invertebrate Zoology, Marine Biology, Nutritional Behavior and Ecology, Aquaculture, Impacts of Climate Change on Marine Ecosystems, Conservation.

My investigations have related to the functional aspects of invertebrate zoology. Most of these studies have focused upon physiological, behavioral, and ecological aspects of nutrition of echinoderms. Recent studies have emphasized impacts of climate change, particularly elevated sea surface temperatures and ocean acidification. This work upon novel challenges to sea animals has led to increased involvement in environmental policy and conservation efforts. In addition to these long standing areas of research, a new interest in the impacts of anthropogenic challenges, such as species introductions and climate change, upon the crayfish of Northeastern Pennsylvania has been fostered by ongoing collaborations with S. M. Hartzell.



Steve Rier, Ph.D.

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Research Interests

Stream Ecosystem Ecology, Algal and Microbial Ecology, Water Pollution

Dr. Rier mentored four Master's Students. Projects included:

- High resolution monitoring of phosphorus dynamics in Fishing Creek
- Phosphorus pulses and polyphosphate dynamics in streams
- Agriculture impacts on stream ecosystem function and the development of rapid functional indicators
- Measuring performance of best management practices installed as part of the implementing precisionconservation in the Susquehanna River Watershed
- Algal priming of coarse particulate organic matter decomposition in streams



Marianna D. Wood, Ph.D.

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Research Interests

Foraging Behavior, Mammalogy, Forest Ecology, Biology Education

In 2018, Dr. Wood collaborated with undergraduate students on projects to assess learning gains in biology courses, to measure decomposition in forest soils and contribute to a global decomposition database, and to document behavior and space use by grey squirrels and eastern chipmunks on campus.

Ecology Research

Other Departments



Alan Gishlick, Ph.D.

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Research Interests

evolution of form, function, and behavior in living and fossil organisms, taphonomy, and sedimentology and stratigraphy.