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CNR Offers Restoration Ecology Certificate Online

Thad Berrett

Scheduling classes of interest may sometimes seem difficult. The College of Natural Resources has come up with an innovative way to take some courses that students may need or are interested in. This is through classes that are entirely available via the World Wide Web. A Restoration Ecology Certificate is offered upon the completion of five web-based courses in the field of restoration ecology. The other course now available is RNGE 221 Natural Resources Ecology, a valuable course that provides the prerequisite to many other Natural Resource courses. Natural Resources Ecology is taught by R. Robberecht at the same time he teaches this course in the classroom.

The Restoration Ecology Certificate is described on its website as providing "background and depth in the concepts and tools currently used in restoration ecology." This can all be gained through five courses with a total of 12 credits. Four of the five courses are graduate level, with RNGE 440 Restoration Ecology being the exception. The restoration ecology courses are similarly organized with a large portion of each course being spent reading relevant material through required text along with some additional research readings. Since anyone in the U.S. is able to take these courses,

there is the opportunity to share ideas with the threaded discussion provided by Webct. Here students can post writings to be critiqued, and share any relevant information found throughout the semester. Other writing assignments are sent to the instructors, and some courses have additional projects to complete.

Wildland Restoration Ecology RNGE 440, taught by Jim Kingery, is a broad-based course with the objective of providing an in-depth overview of the field of restoration ecology as an approach to repair/restore damaged wildland ecosystems. This is done partly by examining case studies of restoration projects in arid land, forest-land, and riparian settings. RNGE 440 is graded through written assignments without exams or major projects.

Fire Ecology FOR 526 can be taken as a 1-credit restoration web-based course, or for 3-credits with the additional 2 credits being classroom-based; all are taught by Penny Morgan. This class is designed to give you an in-depth understanding of fire ecology in a variety of ecosystems with part of the focus being on fire in restoration ecology. Students will learn about restoration in prairie,

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SPECIAL MULTI-MEDIA CD INSERT!!!



Online Certificate (Continued)

ponderosa pine, and whitebark pine ecosystems, and also critique restoration projects that incorporate fire. This course involves a take-home test along with the basics of all the other courses.

When human values are to be looked at when dealing with restoration ecology, a student might desire to take Human Dimensions of Restoration Ecology RRT 572. Three professors take charge of this class with the lead instructor being Chuck Harris with the help of Keith C. Russell and Ed Krumpke. This course takes into consideration human values and important issues that are raised for resource management and planning as ecological values. Human problems arise as there is a decision made on the desirable condition of an ecosystem. This course allows students to gain a broad sense of understanding the human dimensions of ecosystem management. A course objective stated on the web is: "The 'deeper values' of natural areas: what they are, how they and people's 'sense of place' might be significant factors in ecosystem management." Knowledge that has been gained in this course is used on the final project that students prepare.

Those interested in impacts on lake, stream, and wetland ecosystems might choose to take Aquatic Restoration Ecology FISH 513. This course is taught by C. Michael Falter and has a prerequisite of a limnology course or equivalent aquatic ecology course and/or work experience. Objectives upon completion of this course are for students to understand: concepts of restoration and rehabilitation of aquatic ecosystems, the process of goal setting, essential components of site assessment in early restoration activities, and the essential components of an aquatic restoration plan. The student will also be familiar with ecological similarities and differences between restoration of streams vs. lakes vs. wetlands, and be able to critique policy and ethical considerations of aquatic restoration plans. Students are to complete a detailed literature analysis and critique of an aquatic restoration project, which should be very valuable to the course.

The capstone of the Restoration Ecology Certificate is Restoration Practicum RRT 580. This course can be taken after completing two of the already mentioned courses. Freedom to identify, analyze, and present restoration ecology projects to the instructor and classmates through a series of objectives is completed by the students, and then shared online in group discussion format. It gives students the opportunity to learn from each other about a variety of restoration projects. Graduate students that complete these five courses are able to get their Restoration Ecology Certificate. All of this information and additional information can be accessed at:

<http://www.cnr.uidaho.edu/cnr/certificates/>

Weyerhaeuser Loses Lawsuit

Travis Naillon

Ross-Simmons, a hardwood lumber company out of Longview, WA, won a lawsuit filed against Weyerhaeuser. Ross-Simmons filed a lawsuit of 109.8 million dollars and was awarded 26 million dollars. They accused Weyerhaeuser of pressuring competitor mills out of business. By doing this they had control of the hardwood market.

In the eighties there were forty hardwood sawmills in Washington and Oregon. Toward the end of the nineties Weyerhaeuser owned seventy-five percent of the hardwood market, driving competitors to shut down their mills. The timber giant claims that only four percent of their billion-dollar company revolves around hardwoods, but since they stepped in production and prices have increased.

The Ross-Simmons attorney Mile Kelly says, "This sends a positive message to the small hardwood mill owners to keep competing with Weyerhaeuser." Weyerhaeuser is saying this was an unfair decision and nothing was done wrong, and blames it on the slow economy. They are already working on an appeal.



Morel Therapy 101

Adam Prazenica

From a swirling, almost ethereal mist she emerges. The sight of her is extraordinary, her soft textures pleasing to the touch, her earthy fragrance sweet to the nose, and her taste is like no other... mushroom. She is Morchella, the morel mushroom.

Every spring and summer thousands of Idahoans flock to fields and forests to find the same sense of communion; to be one with the natural world in their quest for the elusive morel. By evolutionary design the morel has become a master of camouflage through mimicking different objects which are often found in its immediate habitat such as pine cones, bark, charred wood, earth tones, and even rocks!

Given that they are often so difficult to find, the reward of discovering one or even dozens is hugely satisfying. Morel hunting in McCall, where I

call home, is an annual ritual for many of the locals whom don't qualify the arrival of spring until a morel is found.

The amount of moisture we've had this spring should equate to a bumper crop, so if you would like some ideas of where to look then write to me. I encourage you to experience a deeper relationship with the environment and discover more than just a mushroom, discover yourself within the ecosystem... but please tread lightly and remove at least some of the trash you will inevitably find (I often find many morels when I pack out somebody else's trash). You can contact me by e-mail with any questions about morels. Enjoy the end of the spring semester by taking time out and go mushroom hunting!

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Honor the Earth and Indigo Girls Promote Environmental Awareness and Activism at UI

Corey Shake

With the strong musical support of the Indigo Girls, the Honor the Earth organization urged a crowd at the UI's SUB ballroom to actively support environmental protection and alternative energy sources. The Grammy Award winning duo played a powerful set amongst words from Honor the Earth program director Winona LaDuke, and Nez Perce Tribal Council Vice Chairman Anthony Johnson.

Honor the Earth, a grass roots Native-led advocacy group, shared with a sold-out crowd the Native American perspective on our nation's utilization of the environment. LaDuke, Native American activist and former running mate to presidential candidate Ralph Nader, spoke of the organization's accomplishments and of their mission to publicly and financially support front line Native American environmental work.

The event's proceeds from ticket sales benefit the Honor the Earth organization to support its projects throughout the United States.

In her short discussion, LaDuke attributed much of the environmental destruction that has occurred throughout the world to past energy-related ideology and policy. She called for opposition to the use of exploitative, non-renewable energy sources and support of renewable energy like wind and solar power.

She cited the United States military to be the greatest producer of pollution in the world. LaDuke also said that more environmental regulation exemptions for the military are being considered in Congress, and that it is these kinds of policies that can be environmentally devastating.

Nez Perce Tribal Council member Anthony Johnson brought to the event a local Native American view of the effects of these energy policies. He described the great importance of the salmon to his

people, and the need to remove the Lower Snake hydroelectric dams to ensure that the salmon return to his people year after year.

The Indigo Girls played a short acoustic set, with activism as a theme in many of their songs. They also made themselves available for a question-and-answer period, in which both LaDuke and Johnson participated. Some of the concertgoers asked for solutions or information sources on environmental issues, while others simply asked about the Indigo Girls and LaDuke's personal successes.

Many other environmental organizations and student clubs attended the event to pass out information and promotional material. The Native American Student Association, a co-sponsor of the event, held a raffle and sold fry bread to raise money for their club.

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