IDUNC INSTITUTE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

2023 Highlands Field Site Independent Research Symposium

Thursday, December 14, 2023 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM Highlands Nature Center (930 Horse Cove Road) Public Zoom Webinar ID: <u>985 801 152 022</u>

SCHEDULE OF SPEAKERS:

10:00 AM	\diamond	INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME
10:10 AM	\diamond	NIKITA MCCLURE, PAIGE HANNAM & CAROLINE TINTINGER Mentors: Gary Kauffman (USFS, National Forests of North Carolina) and Maria Dunlavey (USFS, Nantahala Ranger District)
		TITLE: SURVEY OF DISJUNCT RED SPRUCE (PICEA RUBENS) STANDS IN THE RICH MOUNTAIN AND ALARKA LAUREL BASINS, NORTH CAROLINA
10:25 AM	\diamond	ADRIANA KIRK & NICOLE BARRET
		Mentors: Dr. Todd Pierson, Kennesaw State University
		TITLE: TEMPORAL VARIATION IN THE FREQUENCY OF
		ALTERNATIVE REPRODUCTIVE TACTICS IN AN
		APPALACHIAN SALAMANDER
10:40 AM	\diamond	CONNOR PHILLIPS & ELISE TREXLER
		Mentors: Troy Walton (UNC-CH) and Dr. Rada Petric (UNC-CH)
		TITLE: ASSESSING THE DETECTABILITY RATE OF
		MOTUS TOWERS USING SMALL UNOCCUPIED
		AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS
10:55 AM	\diamond	SUSIE CANTONWINE AND ROSE DECONTO
		Mentors: Jason Love (Highlands Biological Station, WCU), Juliet Spafford (UNC-CH, WCU), Reagan Jarrett (WCU) & Dr. Rada Petric (UNC-CH),
		TITLE: EVALUATING WETLAND HEALTH WITHIN DEGRADED AND REFERENCE WETLANDS ALONG THE LITTLE TENNESSEE RIVER, UTILIZING WILDLIFE BIODIVERSITY AND ACTIVITY LEVEL

11:10 AM 🔷 ZOË HEARD & SYDNEY SIBILLIA

Mentors: Dr. Rada Petric (UNC-CH), Juliet Spafford (UNC-CH), and Jason Love (Highlands Biological Station, WCU)

TITLE: BAT ROOSTS AND HIBERNACULA IN THE MINES OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

BREAK

11:40 AM \land ZACH LAIBINIS & TAYTON ALVIS

Mentors: Dr. Bill McLarney (Mainspring Conservation Trust) and Jason Meador (Mainspring Conservation Trust)

TITLE: JUST CHILLIN': FALL MIGRATION OF CYPRINID MINNOWS NOT DETECTED IN TRIBUTARIES OF THE LITTLE TENNESSEE RIVER

11:55 AM 🔷 NIYA FRIDAY & DANIELLE MOU

Mentors: Dr. Robbie Burger (University of Kentucky) and Dr. Rada Petric (UNC-CH)

TITLE: FACTORS AFFECTING TRAPPING PROBABILITY OF AMERICAN RED SQUIRRELS IN SOUTHERN APPALACHIANS

12:10 PM \Rightarrow ZOË HEARD, NICOLE BARRETT, NIKITA MCCLURE & CONNOR PHILLIPS

Mentors: Jason Love (Highlands Biological Station, WCU), Dr. Jerry Miller (Western Carolina University), Juliet Spafford (UNC-CH), and Reagan Jarrett (WCU) & Dr. Rada Petric (UNC-CH),

TITLE: MICROPLASTICS IN SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN HEADWATER STREAMS: ASSESSING ATMOSPHERIC, HYDROLOGICAL, AND BIOLOGICAL CONNECTIONS

12:30 PM 🔷 SLIDE SHOW

1:00 PM 🔷 CAMPFIRE AND GOODBYES

