

Biology & Conservation

SPONSORED BY THE NEW YORK STATE BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Wednesday, October 7, Noon

White-nose Syndrome—the Darkest of Nights for North American Bats

During the winter of 2005–2006, a disease appeared in a Schoharie County cave that has, in only three years, nearly eliminated the bats that winter in the Northeast. White-nose syndrome is spreading quickly and is expected to envelop most of eastern North America within the next few years. If current trends continue, 25 of the 45 bat species in the United States will be at risk, with extinctions being a real possibility. Alan Hicks, the bat specialist for New York State's endangered species program, will present information about the history, current status, and future conservation efforts regarding this unprecedented problem.

Wednesday, October 14, Noon

Impacts to Wildlife from the Consequences of Exurban Development in the Adirondack Park

Exurban development refers to low-density, large lot development outside the boundaries of incorporated cities and towns. Research suggests that large-scale fragmentation resulting from exurban development may decrease biotic integrity, alter species behavior and composition, and increase human-wildlife conflict. Dr. Michale Glennon, a scientist with the Wildlife Conservation Society's Adirondack Program, will discuss her work to understand the responses of avian communities surrounding residential homes in the Adirondacks.

Wednesday, October 21, Noon

*Benthic Biodiversity in the Great South Bay: Effects of Hard Clam (*Mercenaria mercenaria*) Restoration*

Overexploitation and degraded environmental conditions have depleted populations of hard clams, *Mercenaria mercenaria*, in Long Island's Great South Bay. In an effort to restore this important component of the marine ecosystem, The Nature Conservancy has created hard clam spawner sanctuaries there. Michael Doall, manager of the Functional Ecology Lab in the Ecology and Evolution Department at Stony Brook University, will discuss the impacts of increasing hard clam populations on benthic biodiversity, as well as examine the potential ecosystem benefits of hard clam restoration efforts.

NEW ADDITION! Wednesday, October 28, Noon

Forgotten Floras: Making the Case for Vouchered Plant Collections

In 2004, a species-area curve analysis revealed that at least 10 counties in the state documented fewer than half the plant species than predicted. Five years later, Otsego, Montgomery and Fulton counties were surveyed, generating more than 1,000 new records, including several rare and some newly invasive plants. Dr. Donna Vogler, of the State University of New York College at Oneonta, discusses the major findings of those efforts and the role of voucher-based natural history collections in the increasingly molecular and digital world of biology.



Tri-colored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) with white-nose syndrome in Barytes mine (Alan Hicks)



Directions Available at: www.nysm.nysed.gov/bri