



State University of New York  
College of Environmental Science and Forestry

**INTERDISCIPLINARY SCHOLARSHIP IN  
LAND USE AND ETHICS  
SUNY College of Environmental Science and  
Forestry's Northern Forest Institute  
Symposium program  
June 1 – 3, 2012**

**Symposium Chair:** Marianne Patinelli-Dubay  
**Symposium Coordinator:** Rebecca Oyer

**Special Thanks**

Abbie Larkin	Mark Miller
Barb Schraever	Mike Yandon
Charlotte Demers	Mary Jo Monatanye
Dana Mazza	Natasha Karniski
Jaime Anello	Paul Hai
Jen Yantachka	Robin Weiss
Jodi Larabee	Teagan Dolan
Kristen Pasquino	

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SUNY ESF Office of Communications  
SUNY ESF College Foundation  
Town of Newcomb

**Keynote Speaker and Scholar-in-Residence  
William Vitek**



Bill Vitek is Professor of Philosophy and Chair of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at Clarkson University in Potsdam, New York, where he has taught for twenty four years. His current research focus is on the substantial cultural and social changes that will be necessary—in our lifetimes—to live without easy access to cheap, carbon-based energy in the form of soils, forests, oil, natural gas and coal. He is the author of *Promising* and the co-editor of *Applying Philosophy; Rooted in the Land: Essays on Community and Place*; and *The Virtues of Ignorance: Complexity, Sustainability and the Limits of Knowledge*. He is currently writing a book titled *Where the Wild Things Are: Deep Roots for a Resilient Culture*.

Vitek was W. Ford Schumann Professor in Democratic Studies at Williams College in 2010-2011. He co-founded and directed Clarkson University's Environmental Science & Policy Program, and served as Associate Director of Clarkson's Center for the Environment. He also

directed Clarkson' Campus Sustainability Initiative in 2001-2002.

Vitek is a jazz pianist. He co-wrote and co-produced three collections of jazz nursery rhymes. "Rhythm and Rhymes" (1982) was awarded an American Library Association "Notable Children's Recording," and the Oppenheim Gold Seal "Best Audio Award." "Go with the Flow" (1994) was awarded Family Life's Critic's Choice Award. He currently performs with bassist Dan Gagliardi. They recently released "A Fine Line," a collection of jazz classics.

**TRANSPORTATION**

**Time:** 9am – 6pm (and throughout the weekend)

**Location:** Adirondack Interpretive Center (AIC)

**REGISTRATION**

**Time:** 1pm Shuttle

**Location:** Albany Airport to Huntington Forest

***Friday evening, June 1***

**Time:** 6pm

**Activity:** Dinner

**Location:** Dinner Rich Lake Dining Center (RLDC)

**Keynote Address**

**Date:** Friday, June 1, 2012

**Time:** 7:30pm

**Location:** AIC

***“Goose Honks and Crane Clangor: Emergence,  
Convergence and the Perennial Quest for Unity”***

William Vitek (*Clarkson University*)

We come together this weekend from many fields of study and geographical locations for a first annual symposium and conversation about land use, ethics and social justice. Despite the disagreements and differences that must necessarily arise in such a gathering, our efforts can be viewed within a larger and restless movement to articulate and implement transformational concepts that bring truth to power.

One such emerging concept is the ecosphere, and it finds a voice in many of our great American environmental thinkers, beginning with Thoreau. This talk will explore the ideas of some of these thinkers with the goals of connecting their work with ours and demonstrating that collectively we are engaged in a timeless desire to seek unity in a well-ordered cosmos.

**Time:** 8pm

**Activity:** Reception

**Location:** AIC

## ***Saturday morning June 2***

**Time:** 7 – 8am

**Activity:** Guided bird walk

Sucker Brook Trail. This 1.0-mile mostly flat trail runs along the outlet to Rich Lake providing opportunities to glimpse mink and otter in the open water. The surrounding hardwood forest is an ideal place to spot pileated woodpeckers. There are some open areas including an abandoned beaver pond that is a great spot for kingbirds and flycatchers.

**Guide:** Jen Yantachka is a Vermonter who started birding as an undergraduate at Cornell University. She is now a Master's student at SUNY-ESF studying bird diversity patterns in the Adirondack Mountains.

**Location:** Meet at the AIC

**Time:** 8am – 9am

**Activity:** Breakfast

**Location:** RLDC

**Session topic:** *Land Use, Ethics, and Development in Theory and Praxis*

**Time:** 9 – 10:15am

**Location:** Conference Room 1

**Discussant:** Wayne Ouderkirk (*SUNY Empire State College*)

**Presenters:**

- Monica List (*Michigan State University*)
- Samantha Noll (*Michigan State University*)
- Anna Malavisi (*Michigan State University*)
- Ian Werkheiser (*Michigan State University*)

Attempts to alleviate poverty and lessen suffering can be difficult. While development projects work well on paper, in praxis such plans often lead to unintended negative consequences and become morally problematic. This raises a number of issues including the difficulty of balancing individual, community, and international priorities with respect to land use; the problem of harmonizing environmental and production interests; and the problematization of what we mean by “development,” itself. The purpose of this panel is to explore how some of these difficulties play out on the ground during praxis in different contexts. This will be valuable to a number of disciplines working in the highly interdisciplinary field of development, as it touches upon both theoretical and practical issues.

Monica List will speak on aspects of social justice in agricultural land use in Costa Rica. The inclusion of social justice issues in sustainable agriculture is central to the concept of sustainability. While sustainability often focuses on the conservation of resources, for example land, nutrients, or financial resources, most approaches do not consider the just distribution of these resources as an important part of the sustainability of agricultural projects. Agriculture in Costa Rica provides a good example of this, for while this country is often praised for its green practices and conservation initiatives, industrial agriculture is a growing threat to the sustainability of its rich agricultural lands and watersheds, and the communities that inhabit them. I will discuss how the unjust distribution of risks and benefits in some intensive agricultural systems in Costa Rica is what makes them particularly unsustainable.

Samantha Noll will discuss urban agriculture in Michigan and the value of food sovereignty development programs. Grassroots urban agriculture movements have sprung up around the country in response to food safety concerns and as solutions for providing healthy food directly to impoverished neighborhoods. However, this form of land use often goes against dominant development paradigms that focus on fostering industry and on growing cash crops. Local urban farming initiatives provide a blueprint for designing more context specific, local food based, development programs that could be used to help alleviate hunger in other contexts. Urban agriculture projects in Michigan will be used as examples of such programs working in praxis.

Anna Malavisi will critique the epistemic foundations of development and explore some of the feminist concerns brought about by such projects. Despite efforts made to contribute to the amelioration of people's lives and address the appalling global development indicators, development is rife with problems. Problems, such as the implementation of ineffective projects and programs; the dynamics of relationships between the multiple actors who play a role in development; poor mechanisms of accountability in place and others. The theory and praxis of development will be challenged from a feminist standpoint, claiming that epistemological assumptions inherent in development have excluded other forms of knowledge, as well as other voices.

Finally, Ian Werkheiser will problematize the term "development." The basic concepts employed by NGO's, governments, and other groups when coming in to another country are rarely examined, but can

have unforeseen negative consequences and can have inherent problematic ethical implications. Two examples of this are “resources” and “development.” These conceptions of the land and the people and other living things that live on it have led to environmental destruction, displacement into cities, and a loss of self-reliance.

***BREAK***

**Time:** 10:30 am – 11:45pm

**Location:** Conference Room 1

**Discussant:** Christopher Shaw (*Middlebury College*)

**“Green Criminology, Zemiology, and Relational Justice: Implications for Land Use in the Anthropocene Era”**

Avi Brisman (*Emory University & John Jay College of Criminal Justice*)

Human activity has had a marked effect on the Earth’s climate and ecosystems, leading German atmospheric chemist and Nobel Prize winner (2000), Paul Crutzen, to coin the term “Anthropocene.” This paper begins by noting how humans have affected every aspect of our environment—from the far reaches of the atmosphere to ocean bottoms. Next, it considers how criminologists have approached environmental harms (especially those pertaining to land use)—both those environmental harms that are statutorily proscribed and those that are not, but that are still ecologically destructive. From here, this paper contemplates Green and Ward’s (2000) position that “crime” should not be extended to cover all social harms and that criminology should retain at its essence the concept of deviance. This paper



explores whether criminology should adopt a zemiological approach to the adverse human impacts on the environment, and then ponders how criminology should address individual-level environmental harm (as “environmental delinquency”? as “eco-deviance”?). This paper concludes by evaluating the appropriateness of an approach based on “relational justice” (Bottoms 1994)—one that might account for differences in class, socioeconomic status, and cultural values.

**Session topic:** *Innovative models of Community Planning for Towns and Intentional Communities*

**Time:** 10:30am – 11:45pm

**Location:** Conference Room 2

**Discussant:** Paul Hai (*SUNY ESF*)

**“Participatory Planning For a Promised Land: Citizen-Led, Comprehensive Land Use Planning in New York’s Adirondack Park”**

Ann Hope Ruzow Holland (*SUNY Plattsburgh & Antioch University New England*)

New York’s Adirondack Park is internationally recognized for its biological diversity. Greater in size than Yellowstone, Everglades, Glacier, and Grand Canyon National Park combined, the Adirondacks are the largest protected area within the Northern Appalachian/Acadian Eco-Region and within the contiguous United States. Ecologists, residents of the Park, and others are concerned about rapid land use change occurring within the borders of the Park. Almost half of the six million acres encompassed by the Park boundary is privately-owned, where 80% of land use decisions fall within the jurisdiction of local governments. The comprehensive planning process

of one such local government, the Town of Willsboro, New York, was the focus of a Participatory Action Research (PAR), single case study. Using a PAR, mixed methods approach, community-led comprehensive planning integrated natural science, technology and citizen participation. I evaluated the role of PAR in helping to transform conventional land use planning practice into a more democratic, environmentally conscious, and durable civic responsibility. Stakeholder viewpoints about the local environmental setting revealed deep connections to nature. Findings of the research indicate that comprehensive land use planning capacity increases when citizens increase their scientific and ecological literacy, especially when tools such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) are used for data collection and analysis. Applying ecologically-based comprehensive planning utilizing a PAR framework improved citizen's confidence in land use decision-making and also expanded science literacy. PAR holds great promise as a methodological framework to bring together ecologically-focused natural science with citizen-led collaborative land use planning. Areas of further research identified during this study include assessing age-specific gaps in stakeholder participation, evaluating the relationship between plan recommendations and regulatory implementation, and investigating factors that contribute to a culture of community engagement. Local land use planning decisions have important cumulative impacts on protected area land development at the local and regional scale. A comprehensive plan can reflect an emergent process, where the primacy of community self-determination and consensus-building yields

recognition of the link between, and sanctity of, nature, home, and homeland.

### **“Creating a Model Intentional Community for Emancipating Adolescents”**

Glenn Kendall (*Independent Scholar*)

This research is directly tied to the U.S. D/Health and Human Services Foster Care permanent placement and safety National Outcomes. The study’s purpose is to analyze findings to determine if data can support the improvement of the existing foster group home model based on a critical review of five distinct group models: 1) Effective Foster Care Group Homes, 2) Effective Non-Foster Care Group Homes, 3) Effective Ecovillages/Intentional Communities, 4) Effective Boarding Schools, and 5) Any Model Program. The study is designed to make recommendations for stabilizing placement and for improving the safety concerns for emancipating adolescents. The study plans to address three research questions:

1. What are the best practices for improving safety and home placements in foster care group homes for emancipating youth and runaway youth?
2. What suggestions can be offered to improve the outcomes that result from a weak foster care group home model?
3. What are the philosophical factors that may support an effective or successful residential program?

Subsequent to the research phase, there is an implementation stage. It involves incorporating the

best-practices and recommendations from each of the group-care models. In addition, the operations of *this* intentional community will also focus on 1) embodying the principles of ecosophy, 2) integrating the philosophical similarities among care ethics, feelings, and justice, and 3) encompassing the principles of Humane Education. The *500-year vision* is for transitioning adolescents living in *this* intentional community will learn the value of carrying capacity, veganism, and sustainability.

***Saturday afternoon, June 2***

**Time:** 11:45 – 1pm Lunch buffet

**Location:** AIC

**Session topic:** *Evaluating what Conservation Means and How it is Applied to a Hierarchy of Landscape Types*

**Time:** 1 – 2:15

**Location:** Conference Room 1

**Discussant:** Colin Beier (*SUNY ESF*)

**“Conservation Science, Conservation Ethics, and the Past and Future of Conservation”**

- Michael P. Nelson (*Lyman Briggs College, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, and Department of Philosophy, Michigan State University*)
- William F. Porter (*Boone and Crockett Chair of Wildlife Conservation, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Michigan State University*)
- John A. Vucetich (*School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science, Michigan Technological University*)

- Nathan Snow (*Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Michigan State University*)

The history of the North American Model of Conservation is rich and worthy of attention because of both the scientific contributions made by leading conservation scientists *and* because of the ethical contributions made by leading conservation figures from Theodore Roosevelt to Aldo Leopold to Rachel Carson. This unabashed fusion of science and ethics not only lies at the core of historical conservation, but it explains the success of conservation in North America. The place of this fusion in contemporary conservation, however, is uncertain.

The uncertainty arises, in part, because there is currently confusion about whether natural resource conservation and management represent, in general, the same endeavor or whether they are independent efforts that sometime have common goals. This confusion is associated with, failure to have an adequate consensus or understanding about the very definition of conservation. Making matters worse, it is unclear that we even understand the nature of this failure, and therefore currently lack the ability to reason our way out of it. This confusion is rooted in a set of both scientific and ethical confusions.

Scientifically, we are critically limited by an inability to reach consensus on the meaning of ecosystem or population health, or the relationship between these notions of health and conservation (i.e., are these the appropriate target of conservation). While progress could be made by provisionally supposing conservation is “the restoration and maintenance of ecosystem health and population health,” the critical limitation of this definition is in understanding the meaning of ecosystem health and population health.

To address this issue, we explore the underlying scientific problems, and attempt to explicitly address the ethical dimensions of conservation. Our approach is intended to foster a broader conversation that we hope eventually will articulate, understand, and accept that there is a significant difference between anthropocentric conservation aimed human ends (“expedient” in Leopold’s quote above) and non-anthropocentric conservation aimed at preserving the health and well-being of land itself (“ethical” in Leopold’s quote). We argue that neither simple clarification of the ethics of conservation, nor more and clearer conservation science, alone will adequately lead us into the next step in the evolution of a conservation: sustainability. The future of conservation is dependent upon the fusion of science and ethics in a manner not yet seen in current conservation discourse, but in a manner consistent with the life and work of Aldo Leopold, and in a manner fully integrating conservation science with environmental ethics.

### **“Environmental Ethics, Urban Agriculture, and Cityscapes as Habitat”**

Samantha Noll (*Michigan State University*)

In *The Spirit of the Soil*, Paul Thompson argues that, true to its intellectual foundation of Leopold, Muir, and Pinchot, environmental ethics was largely formed by individuals who promote the preservation of species and wilderness. Thus, you could argue that environmental ethics has historically focused on conservation. Thompson goes on to argue that environmental ethicists need to also take up questions of production that are especially illustrated by agriculture; thus moving agriculture into the scope of

environmental ethics (Thompson, 1995). In addition, according to Dana Jackson, while some wilderness areas are being set aside, agricultural regions, such as parts of the Midwest, are accepted as “sacrifice areas” and treated like industrial zones (2002). She goes on to call for a re-conception of farming areas as natural habitat. In this paper, I draw upon and expand the work of both Jackson and Thompson. Specifically, I argue that cityscapes are also viewed as “sacrifice zones” and largely ignored by current environmental ethics. However, this does not need to be the case. Drawing upon Aldo Leopold’s land ethic, I argue that cities can also be managed to create habitat for other species. This is especially the case due to the rise of the sustainable urban agriculture movement. Thus, cityscapes should also be moved into the scope of environmental ethics.

**Session topic:** *A Linguistic and Ethnographic Exploration of Endangerment*

**Time:** 1 – 2:15

**Location:** Conference Room 2

**Discussant:** Yamuna Sangarasivam (*Nazareth College*)

**“Language of Riverine Ecology Among the Toba”**

**Presenters:**

- Stephanie C. Kane (*Indiana University*)
- Harriet E. Manelis Klein (*Stony Brook University*)

In this paper, a preliminary exploration of the human-water relationship, we would like to put environmental science in conversation with indigenous conceptualization and practices. In the process, we contemplate the ethics of land use from

the perspective of the waters that flow above and below earth's surface. By developing an ethno-ecological methodology that elicits linguistic representations of riverine habitat we aim to empirically illuminate this moment of endangerment—of peoples, languages, and natures—in which we live. Combining Klein's in-depth knowledge of the endangered Toba language with Kane's ethnographic approach to the study of industrialized aquatic habitats, we propose to analytically integrate the ecological and socio-cultural parameters and dynamics of disruption and displacement. How do the Toba talk about their relationship to the historical changes in water's paths and qualities? How do they prepare for and respond to sudden, unpredictable flood or drought? What are the multiplying micro-effects of mega- and urban engineering projects such as canals, dams, and (lack of) water and sanitation infrastructure? What are the ecological dimensions of cultural marginality? Can we identify cultural parameters of ecological keystone species? Can we discover an eco-grammar that we can translate across aquatic spaces and cultures? Can such a study contribute to the recognition and participation of indigenous people in the ethical practice of environmental science? Such questions will organize the proposed collection and analysis of the layered forms of linguistic encoding embedded in multi-faceted accounts of indigenous and scientific environmental endangerment.

***BREAK***



**Session topic:** *Ethical Land Use or Ethical Land Abuse? A Critical Look at Ethical Discourse and Current Land Use Issues*

**Time:** 2:30 – 3:45pm

**Location:** Conference Room 2

**Discussant:** Christopher Robinson (*Clarkson University*)

**“Environmental Ethics and Tribal Sovereignty”**

Kyle Whyte (*Michigan State University*)

Environmental ethics have often been used to suggest that members of Tribes and First Nations have special land based values that non-Native people could learn from. However, in Canada and the United States, environmental ethics has also been used to suggest that many contemporary Tribal and First Nations conservation ethics and treatment of wildlife are inauthentic, and hence wrong (Krech 1999, Smith 1988, Livingstone 1989, Condon et al. 1995, Donner 1997, Gaard 2001, Freedman 2002, Nesper 2002, Taylor 2003, Kemmerer 2004, Riemer 2004, van Ginkel 2004, Dudas 2005, Rosser 2010). While it is commonly known that embracing Indigenous people’s values often falls prey to romanticism, there has been little effort to understand how and why environmental ethics is used to invalidate contemporary practices. Drawing on two projects in the Great Lakes, I will argue that ethical discourse limits tribal sovereignty over land use.

**“Fences and Space: Managing Freedom”**

Brian Seitz (*Babson College*)

This paper focuses on the philosophical ramifications of the use of fences and enclosures as a land-

management and life-management technique (cf. Chazkel and Serlin 2010). More specifically, it problematizes the notion of control that is presupposed by mainstream environmental ethics. I am interested neither in fences as metaphors nor in our “subjective” response to them, nor, following this, in whether some fences are more ethical than others. Instead, I will focus on the effects that fencing and enclosing practices have on human (and non-human) identity, particularly since fences and enclosures are apparently an ancient method of control, i.e. of containing, dividing, shielding, and collecting.

First, I will argue that while traditional fences are site-specific and associated in each case with the cultures using them, modern fences are now interconnected with each other such that it makes sense to talk about a global system of fences. Yes, it is a variegated system, since there are clear and obvious differences between a barbed wire fence used in the service of cattle production, a salmon pen, and a gill-net (which is an active fence or corral, one put into motion). But as a technique in the service of global food production, fences are also all interlinked in a system that demands philosophical reflection, which may turn its gaze away from any particular fence in order to consider (not the universal) but the general material significance of the system. Second, inspired by key concepts introduced by Martin Heidegger (cf. “The Question Concerning Technology”), I will argue that fences are not simply instruments used in the service of a masterful human agency—put differently, they are not just ways of realizing ideas—but that what is above all fenced in is “humanity.”

**“We’re good on the count, but short on the gain;”  
the Political Economy of Wolf-loathing in the  
West”**

Thomas Thorp (*Xavier University*)

Beginning with the decision to introduce non-indigenous arctic wolves from Canada, thereby disengaging some aspects of the ESA (Urbigit 2008), the reintroduction of wolves to the Yellowstone has generated a predictable catalogue of public and political disputes. Those who revere wolves as incarnate symbols of Nature Itself have squared off against self-serving politicians eager to benefit from inflammatory rhetoric about the usurpation of basic freedoms by the Federal Government (Mech 1995). In its most concentrated form this debate has pitted the statistics showing extremely low levels of wolf-livestock depredations against the apparently unsubstantiated claims of the stockmen themselves to be suffering substantial losses as a result of wolves. Predictably the resulting public discourse is routed into the two warring camps of those who oppose every effort to lethally control wolves and those who would classify wolves as vermin, subject to uncontrolled year-round extermination. Rather than an example of political polarization I argue in this paper that the hyperbolic debate is actually designed to prevent any careful examination of the underlying political and economic interests favoring extractive exploitation of natural resources on public lands. Citing two recent studies (Laporte 2010, Lehmkuhler 2007) I propose shifting the discussion from the number of animals killed to the stressing effects and subsequent reduced weight gain of stock grazing on public lands. While the

effect of the paper is to shift the discussion away from moral and ethical disputes and to refocus attention on the underlying political-economic realities, the objective of the paper is to question the ethical vocabulary employed by environmentalists and by academic environmentalists in particular.

**Session topic:** *Cultural Preservation and the Commodification of Landscapes*

**Time:** 2:30 – 3:45pm

**Location:** Conference Room 2

**Discussant:** Steve Signell (*SUNY ESF*)

**“A Room with a View: Challenges to Traditional Maritime Land Use on the Portland Maine Waterfront”**

Jane Benson (*Independent Scholar*)

The preservation of maritime businesses along Portland Maine’s historic waterfront has been a long time social, political, financial, and emotional issue. One of the largest law firms in Maine has just achieved the seemingly impossible task, at least in recent years, of toppling the existing zoning and climbing to its perch atop the Cumberland Cold Storage building on Merrill’s Wharf directly overlooking the working waterfront. It is tempting to conclude that money and power have prevailed over tradition, that the lawyers ran roughshod over the fisherman. Closer examination reveals a more nuanced story.

How did this happen? If the law firm is a huge winner, does that make the “traditional waterfront” a loser? What values underlie our first reaction to this

outcome, and what individual and social values have been at work?

This paper begins by describing the historical context of the waterfront, identifies the constituents involved in the current redevelopment project, presents the timeline of the negotiations, and explores the implications of the final outcome. Along the way, the values, motives, and goals, some clearer than others, of both the public and private interests involved are discussed.

Of particular relevance to the issue of community sustainability is the question of what/who might have successfully derailed the project. It is also important to speculate about whether the outcome represents a long or short view and what the ethical implications of that choice may be in the contexts of the values held by the various constituents. Interviews with several of the constituents are ongoing; most will be scheduled in the spring-----when the seagulls return in earnest and the 2012 groundfishing season officially opens.

**“Imaginary Wilderness – Production and Accumulation of Nature in the New York City Bioregion”**

Hildegard Dina Link (*City University of New York*)

In her 2005 paper on rural gentrification in Adirondack Park Eliza Darling concludes that people living in Adirondack Park are poor not because of the rural geography of their homes, but because they live in a park. In his 2010 paper on the NYC Watershed Leland Glenna concludes that the primary drivers in the Catskill Delaware watershed conflict are ethics

and local sovereignty. In their treatment of these two highly contested landscapes, both Glenna and Darling raise the question “Whose nature for whose benefit?”

In this paper, I examine production of nature and uneven ecosystem management in the Hudson River corridor. I will compare NYC watersheds and the Adirondack region as a means of understanding how land use management decisions lead to uneven access to water and uneven community self determination

It is useful to approach the question from several different perspectives. I will use the Ecosystem Services paradigm to understand the value; goods and services, transferred across the urban/rural divide. I will use theories of Individual rights to illuminate similarities between citizens of the Adirondacks and the Catskill Delaware watershed region. Finally, the Production of nature epistemology will bind the services to the users and propose answers to the question.

***BREAK***

**Session topic:** *Ethical Workforce and Economic Development in the Context of Environmental Conservation*

**Time:** 4 –5:15pm

**Location:** Conference Room 1

**Discussant:** James Connolly (*Adirondack Park Agency*)

**Presenters:**

- Ed Murphy (*Executive Director Workforce Development Institute*)
- Brian Houseal (*Executive Director Adirondack Council*)
- Cecil Corbin-Mark (*Deputy Director WEACTION, Harlem*)
- Venetia Lannon (*Regional Director NYS DEC, NYC*)

We live in a time of significant transformation related to climate change, environmental conservation and demography. At the generational, ethnic, cultural and political profile of decision makers is changing. In 2012, America will determine national direction through a Presidential election; choose all members of the House of Representatives and one third of the US Senate, while the international debate over a climate change agreement continues. At the same time New York State will elect all state Senators and Assembly Members. In 2010, the United States completed its census and redistricting for federal and state legislator's seats is being completed.

For more than 100 years the Adirondack Park has been protected by the "Forever Wild" clause in the New York State constitution. The population resident within the park and its visitors is predominantly of European descent. In the Great Migration, between 1915 and 1960 approximately 6,000,000 African Americans moved from the southern part of America to Northern cities. In the late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> century, America's immigrant population has shifted to mostly "non-white". The increasing inclusion of and electoral participation of "minorities" portends

that in 25 years the majority of elected leaders in New York State will be “people of color”.

Environmental organizations have traditionally been led by and represented white Americans. That is changing and the language of environmental justice represents the cry of inner city residents that they do not want their land and neighborhoods to be dumping grounds for hazardous waste, factories, pollution, transportation garages bringing increased asthmas, the degradation of urban air and water. Emerging elected leaders represent urban areas; alternative energy advocates and Smart Growth advocates advise us all to make better use of mass transportation and our cities.

Adirondack advocate want to protect New York’s crown jewel of conservation. Urban residents want their environment protected. Everyone wants jobs and economic development. The forces of public policy and fiscal restraints positioned. Current conflicts are but the tip of the iceberg. The balance of voters is shifting. This panel proposes a dialogue between those who protect the Adirondacks and the inner city, between those who focus on economic development and jobs and those who primary concern is the environment. The intent is to take the conversation in a new direction and establish criteria for a longer conversation. These debates are happening now. Our intent is to make them public and facilitate the development of consensus strategies. Two major questions stand out. The first is what are the land use ethical issues faced now and how might we need to reinterpret the issues in light of demographic trends and shifting power relationships. It is clear that those who protect the



interests of the Adirondacks now will not be in power in New York State government in decades to come and the concerns of our new immigrants and American born people of color will become a more prominent in the allocation of legal, financial and human resources.

**Session topic:** *Collateral Costs of Agricultural Practices in Lagos Lagoon, Nigeria*

**Time:** 4 – 5:15pm

**Location:** Conference Room 2

**Discussant:** Colin Beier (*SUNY ESF*)

**“Assessment of the Economic and Health Implication of Agrochemical Use in Rice Production Around Lagos Lagoon in Nigeria”**

Odine Agatha Itohan (*Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta, Ogun State*)

The use of agrochemicals no doubt has led to an increase in crop yield and production but there are other corresponding costs brought about by a higher degree of dependence on pesticides, herbicides, insecticides and other chemicals (Dung and Dung 2003). According to them, the increased dependence on agrochemicals has posed numerous threats on the environment such as health effects on farmers and consumers, pollution of drinking water and decrease in aquaculture. Kuponiyi and Adewale, (2008) also confirmed that most farmers apply agrochemicals extensively thereby exposing them to health threatening doses.

In 2006, Wilcox reported human fatalities occurrence due to prolonged exposure to large doses of very toxic pesticides and herbicides as well as death of

livestock from grazing on contaminated fields. Recent research has shown that agricultural workers have higher risk of dying on the job than workers elsewhere (Sanar, 2002). International Labour Organization (ILO, 2004) reported that tens of thousands agricultural workers die each year, and millions suffer injuries or poisoning from agrochemicals. The case is not different in Nigeria, as about 112 people in Bekwarra LGA of Cross River state suffered from food poisoning while another 120 people were hospitalized in Doma Gombe state all as a result of poisoning from the consumption of food preserved by the use of agrochemicals. Also, agrochemical related poisoning deaths are often caused by using their packages or containers after they are emptied of toxicants. (Inalegwu 2008).

In spite of the important contributions of agrochemicals to improved crop yield, there are still some issues concerning their deleterious effects on human, health and environment. Hence there is a need to examine the implication of agrochemical utilization and the hazards associated with it so as to come up with strategies to balance its utilization and effects in order to reduce the number of farming households that loss their lives or are unable to continue with their farm activities.

## **“Public Attitudes, Perceived Benefits and Willingness to Pay for Sustainable Wetland Utilisation in Communities Around Lagos Lagoon Wetland, Nigeria”**

- AM Shittu (*University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria*)
- OO Olubanjo (*Olabisi Onabanjo University, Yewa Campus, Ayetoro, Ogun State, Nigeria*)
- OO Oduntan (*University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria*)

Wetlands – generally referring to marshes, swamps, floodplains, mudflats, estuarine and the littoral areas of large bodies of water - are among the Earth’s most productive ecosystems (Barbier *et al.*, 1997). They have been described both as “*the kidneys of the landscape*”, because of the functions they perform in the hydrological and chemical cycles, and as “*biological supermarkets*” because of the extensive food webs and rich biodiversity they support (Mitsch & Gosselink, 1993). There is also growing evidence that sustainable wetland management may be a key instrument in climate change mitigation, given its numerous environmental functions, including climate moderation, flood control, ground water recharge, shore line stabilization and storm protection (Federal Ministry of Environment (FME), 2009; Bikangaga, 2007).

Unfortunately, however, massive destruction of Wetland ecosystems is taking place all over the world, with as much as about 50% of the World Wetlands already lost (O’Connell 2003, RAMSAR, 2009). Most of these losses are due to human activities, including large scale diversion of water for

irrigation, burning and exploitation of peat land, extensive drainage of marshes and pollution of lakes and rivers (RAMSAR, 2009). In Nigeria, uncontrolled grazing / farming, oil spillage and pollution as well as massive wetland reclamation for housing and industrial purposes have been the main causes of wetland degradation and losses (NEST, 1991). A study by Adenekan (2009) put wetland losses in four coastal local government areas of Lagos state at between 38% and 100%. As noted in RAMSAR (2008) however, it is the low level of understanding and poor appreciation of Wetlands in climate change and other policy discussions that pose the most serious threat to Wetland ecosystems, and a missed opportunity for Wetlands to contribute to addressing the impacts of climate change in the world at large.

It is against the above background that a cross-section survey was conducted during the third quarter of 2010 to appraise public attitudes / recognition of wetland benefits as well as willingness to participate (through direct payment and/or physical involvement) in sustainable wetland management activities in selected communities around Lagos Lagoon Wetland, in the southwest rainforest zone of Nigeria. The study also examined various livelihood activities around the wetlands, the associated costs and net benefits, and estimated the economic cost of wetland conversion, via the shadow price of wetland use for farming activities in the area. This paper will provide evidence in these respects and policy implications of the uncontrolled wetland conversion for housing and industrial purposes in Lagos State, Nigeria.

***Saturday evening, June 2***

**Time:** 6 – 7pm

**Activity:** Dinner

**Location:** RLDC

**Time:** 7 – 8pm

**Activity:** Group Meeting (*Proceedings*)

**Location:** AIC

**Time:** 8 – 9:30pm

**Activity:** Bonfire and music by Steve Signell

**Location:** AIC

***Sunday morning, June 3***

**Time:** 6 – 8am

**Activity:** Trails open, limited canoes available

**Time:** 8am – 8:45am

**Activity:** Breakfast

**Location:** RLDC

**Session topic:** *The Large-Scale Impact of Small-Scale Conservation Initiatives*

**Time:** 9 – 10:15am

**Location:** Conference Room 1

**Discussant:** Eric Holmlund (*Paul Smith's College*)

**“Local Knowledge: Toward an Ecologically-motivated Dissensus”**

Ian Werkheiser (*Michigan State University*)

As climate change destabilizes broad weather patterns that have existed throughout human history,

affecting flora, fauna, sea levels, and a host of other variables we are only slowly coming to understand, we are increasingly moving toward a period of disparate micro-climes. Further, the effects of our civilization on the environment is very irregular; the damage generated by our global culture is not spread equally over the face of the Earth. This further fragments our world into often very small environmental regions, each with its own unique problems and opportunities.

I argue in this paper that the correct response to this is for those local land-based communities to become the loci of understanding, caring for, and responding to the environment, part of which would include doing local science. I will show that communities can and should be able to do “good science” in addition to working with professionals to do studies that are important to the community. This widely-distributed, location and interest-specific knowledge would not only be a benefit for the local community that created it, but would also lead to a fruitful epistemological dissensus. Other groups would be able to enter into dialogue with the knowledge produced by different communities, and negotiate a translation of the parts they find useful into their own contexts. This rich diversity, much like biological diversity, would accelerate the pace of discoveries and increase local adaptability, both important goals in an unstable future.

## **“Energy Positive, Climate Positive Buildings: The Ethical, Environmental and Economic Choice for the Adirondacks and USA”**

David N. Borton (*Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute*)

Buildings are a significant land use in the Adirondack Park. Energy use and greenhouse gas production from park buildings affects both the local Adirondack and the global environment. Home building examples in Troy, New York and Oberlin, Ohio show that energy positive, climate positive buildings can be built and rehabilitated at conventional building costs. Physical monitoring of the existing buildings quantified energy use, and therefore carbon savings estimates, of the building’s actual energy performance.

The monetary savings provided by energy positive buildings are likely to provide local economic multiplier benefits inside the Park. The carbon positive aspects of such buildings are the ethically the right thing to do. The architecture 2030 Challenge seeks to have buildings carbon neutral by 2030. The authors believe the goal can be raised to energy positive, carbon positive buildings based on at least 2 years of measured performance of the buildings in normal use patterns of new and rehabilitated condition across the northeast and the country. Adirondack climates are somewhat harsher than the existing building locations. Ongoing studies comparing passive solar and active solar photovoltaic performance of the existing buildings to Adirondack climates and will determine modifications needed to build and rehabilitate standard-cost energy positive, climate positive buildings in the Adirondack Park.

**Session topic:** *The relationship between modern Science and a Postmodern World*

**Time:** 9 – 10:15am

**Location:** Conference Room 2

**Discussant:** Marianne Patinelli-Dubay (*SUNY ESF*)

**“Environmental and Professional Ethics in a Post Modern World: Good Faith, Bad Faith and Integrated Problem Solving”**

Swiatoslav Kaczmar (*O'Brien & Gere Engineers, Inc., Syracuse University, SUNY ESF, Upstate Medical*)

The past 300 years of "modern" history was a period of rapid and significant advances in science and technology. Much of this progress can be attributed to the separation of science from the influence of religious and political institutions of the time. The separation supported the professional practice of science and engineering as an independent, objective undertaking.

The advancement of science and technology was instrumental to the industrial revolution. New technology provided valuable goods and services, in a mostly unregulated manner. However, many current environmental problems can be attributed to the inability of science and government to work together to identify potential cultural, environmental and health impacts of new products and processes.

Social scientists, philosophers and others suggest that the world has now entered a "post-modern" period, heavily influenced by popular culture, where the separation between science and social, religious and governmental institutions is less pronounced.



Reducing the separation provides for representation of a range of interests and promotes collaborative problem solving. However, it also introduces the potential for institutions to define science, for scientists to direct public opinion and policy, and risk perception to drive risk management.

A major challenge facing stakeholders, environmental scientists and regulators charged with improving and sustaining environmental quality is the application of an integrated "holistic" approach to assessing and communicating site conditions, establishing priorities and committing resources. This presentation examines roles and relationships between science, culture, institutions and individuals involved in environmental restoration. A set of principles to be considered by practitioners for the development of a professional and environmental ethic is identified and proposed.

**CLOSING REMARKS**

11am SUNY ESF President Dr. Neil Murphy  
(Conference Room 1)

**LUNCH & DEPARTURE**

12pm Shuttle from Huntington Wildlife Forest to  
Albany Airport

State University of New York College of  
Environmental Science and Forestry  
Newcomb Campus  
Newcomb, NY 12855  
<http://www.esf.edu/nfi/symposium/>