ESF Outreach E-News
August 2013

A regular update on ESF’s outreach programs, projects, partnerships and people.

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Upcoming Programs - Register Now!

SUNY SPARE (Solar Power as Renewable Energy) Basic
September 23-26, 2013
Fall course dates announced! Courses will be in the Gateway Center on the ESF Campus. For more details, visit the SPARE website at: www.esf.edu/outreach/spare

10th International Phytotechnologies Conference
October 1 - 4, 2013 / Holiday Inn Liverpool, Syracuse, NY
Join us for the 10th International Phytotechnologies Conference 1-4 October 2013 and the Liverpool Holiday Inn. The conference will bring scientists, consultants, designers, engineers, builders, regulators, and site owners, together to explore how phytotechnologies can address current and emerging environmental challenges. Session topics include Phytoremediation Field Projects, Phytoremediation Research on Fate and Contaminants, Green Roof technology, Ecorestoration and Habitat Creation, Biofuels, and so much more. There will be a reception at SUNY-ESF’s new Gateway Center during the conference as well as a Practicing Phytotechnology workshop which can count towards Professional Development Hours (PDHs) for New York State licensed engineers. Visit the conference website.

Graduate Assistant Colloquium on Teaching and Learning
August 21 – 22, 2013 / SUNY-ESF Campus, Moon Library, Syracuse, NY
As part of SUNY-ESF’s commitment to excellence in teaching and learning, this colloquium gives SUNY-ESF graduate assistants (GAs) tools and skills to be more effective teachers and be well prepared for the challenges they will face as GAs. A past participant remarked that, ”the Colloquium was a great experience! It provided me with needed confidence, a place to air my concerns, and names of people to turn to for help. Thanks for all the effort!” For more information, please see the event website.

Save the Date

SUNY SPARE (Solar Power as Renewable Energy) Commercial
November 14, 2013
This one day photovoltaic training course covers issues common for large-scale commercial photovoltaic systems. Participants should have taken Basic SPARE or have similar knowledge of photovoltaic systems. SUNY SPARE website
ESF in the High School Teacher Professional Development Symposium
November 13, 2013 / ESF Campus, 110 Moon Library
The Teacher Professional Development Symposium provides an opportunity for high school teachers to broaden their knowledge base and share lesson plans and teaching outcomes with one another to ultimately better serve their students. Contact Rick Beal (rbeal@esf.edu) for more information about this program.

Reviving the American forest with the American Chestnut
Dr. William Powell, director of the Council on Biotechnology in Forestry at SUNY-ESF, delivered a TEDx talk as part of the March 15th DeExtinction colloquium in Washington, D.C. He shared his work in creating blight resistant chestnut trees with an audience of scientific professionals and environmental enthusiasts. The American chestnut has become “effectively extinct” due to a pathogenic fungus imported from Eastern Asia, according to The American Chestnut Foundation, and Dr. Powell’s research is an important part of a large effort to repopulate the United States with this species. Dr. Powell’s 15 minute talk covered a wide range of chestnut topics including the tree’s historical importance in deciduous forests as a keystone species, the molecular techniques he has used for creating disease resistant trees, and the future conservation efforts that will be required for restoring this species over the next 100 years. He even mentioned that chestnut trees have human-use value too, as they can be used to make products like gluten free beer and rot resistant decks. His lecture is now reaching many on YouTube (Link to Video) and a picture of Dr. Powell delivering his speech can be found through the TEDxDeExtinction page (Link to Picture).

If you are interested in learning more about American chestnut trees, consider attending the 23rd Annual Meeting of the New York State Chapter of the American Chestnut Foundation, taking place on October 11th and 12th at the Syracuse Doubletree hotel. Several parts of the event will occur on ESF’s campus. A link to this year's event page can be found here.

Items of Interest to our Outreach Friends and Colleagues

Spring & Summer Professional and Education Outreach
March – July 2013
This spring and summer has been very active at SUNY-ESF Outreach on account of its multitude of diverse outreach initiatives. These events served over 2,000 individuals ranging from middle school students to academic and industry professionals representing local, regional, national, and international venues. Among these initiatives were the 12th Environmental Challenge science fair, two SPARE (Solar Power As Renewable Energy) training events, the 11th annual Green Building Conference, three SURE (Sustainable Use of Renewable Energy) seminars, two ESF in the High School Teacher Professional Development Symposia, the 2013 Biotechnology Symposium, ESF in the High School Environmental Summit, SCIENCE (Summer Camps Investigating Ecology in Neighborhood and City Environments), and SUNY-ESF Summer Session. Thank you to all involved for their hard work in making this spring’s initiatives so successful!

Adirondack Interpretive Center
June 21st – 29th, 2013
The Adirondack Interpretive Center (AIC) will be offering several programs open for public participation. This month's theme is Adirondack Waters. Throughout the month, the AIC will host programming that highlights the beautiful and intriguing wildlife and recreation dependent on the water resources found in the Adirondacks. This will include authentic Adirondack guideboat trips every Friday, fly fishing workshops, and opportunities to learn about black bears, mushrooms, geology and more. Contact Kristin Pasquino, AIC Assistant Program Manager, at Phone: 518.582.2000 x 11 or Email: aic@esf.edu for registration should you wish to be a part of these events. Further information can be found at www.esf.edu/aic.

For a complete calendar of Outreach events visit: www.esf.edu/outreach/calendar.asp
Learn more about these and other ESF Outreach activities at: www.esf.edu/outreach/