

3-13-2014

The Fierce Green Fire: Vol. 4 Issue 16

Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

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Recommended Citation

Wofford College Environmental Studies Program, "The Fierce Green Fire: Vol. 4 Issue 16" (2014). *The Fierce Green Fire*. 120.
<https://digitalcommons.wofford.edu/fiercegreenfire/120>

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The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

Volume 4, Issue 16



Stowe Visits for 2nd Annual Tyson Lecture by John Lane

In October of 2010 I got off a plane in Hare, Zimbabwe and stepped onto the runway in the dark. I could smell fire all around me. The whole country was burning. A few hours later I'd driven east to Africa University and the smell of fire was with me the entire way.

As I drove I thought about how this smell—of a landscape burning is probably older than our species itself.

SC Department of Natural Resources biologist, outdoorsman, land manager, Johnny Stowe visited last week. He'd made it onto our short list for the Annual Tyson Family Lecture on Restoring and Preserving Southern Ecosystems early on.

Then, as if as a precursor to this last week's lecture one of my neighbors burned his lawn, as if the landscape was saying to me, Johnny

Stowe is on his way.

Johnny talks about fire, but he's a true fire man—a scientist with the burning soul of a poet who quotes Aldo Leopold.

His time with us last week—at lunch, in class—proved that to be true.

On Thursday night he talked to us about the human and natural history of burning, something he's experienced, studied, and managed in the south for many years now.

He gave me insight into Zimbabwe and all of us insight into the long experience of human beings and fire—going back 80,000 generations—and he got me to look at my neighbor in a different light.

In any case I left his talk with new insight—into fire, into land, into what Faulkner said was worth considering, the human heart in conflict with itself.



Stowe spent time talking to ENVS Senior Seminar students on Thursday afternoon.



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Upcoming Events and Opportunities

- March 16th** *River Legends*: Meet us at Goodall at 2:00pm to learn about the mythology of rivers from around the world, and then write your own! **Child appropriate**
- March 17th** *Fierce Green Fire Meeting*: Next meeting tonight in BSA 1 at 8:30pm.
- March 18th** *Eco-poetry & Environmental Studies Discussion*: Terry Gifford, British eco-critic and poet will speak on campus. 4:00pm, Daniel 107.
- March 21st** *The Natural Sciences & Engineering Seminar Series 2014*: Dr. Andrew Clark, Assistant Professor of Biology, College of Charleston, will speak on *Biomechanics of Hagfishes: Sausages with Sharp Teeth and Loose Skin*. 4:30pm – refreshments, 5:00pm – seminar; in Health Education Complex 2039 on USC Upstate campus.
- March 22nd** *Spartanburg Area Conservancy*: Workday at the Cottonwood Trail/Griffin Preserve property from 9:00am-noon. Volunteers will meet at the Woodburn Road parking area. Please bring wheelbarrows, rakes, shovels, and pitchforks. Work gloves and shoes that can get wet/dirty are also advised. Please call 948-0000 or email Andrew, andrew@spartanburgconservancy.org if you would like to help.
- March 26th** *FRESH*: A documentary about the healthy and sustainable food movement will be showing in McMillan Theater, Student Life Building at 7:00pm.
- April 6th** *Locavore Workshop*: Goodall Outreach Coordinator and locavore, Haley Briel will give an interactive lecture about eating locally, complete with some fresh food! Join us at 2:00pm in Glendale!
- May 9th** *Deadline to apply to be a Bartram Fellow with Fall Line South Field Institute*: Visit <http://www.falllinesouth.org/> to learn more about this summer opportunity. Camp dates are June 6-15. College-aged leaders need to interact with high school-aged students and assist camp instructors in an outdoor environment.

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

Ohio State University – Environmental Sciences Graduate Program

The Environmental Sciences Graduate Program (*ESGP*) at Ohio State University emphasizes research and applied teaching that will contribute to solving the world's environmental problems.

Research opportunities include 16 areas, such as agro-ecology, environmental chemistry, environmental policy & law, landscape ecology, and urban ecosystems, just to name a few.

ESGP is comprised of many departments within

the OSU community providing an interdisciplinary education that deals with environmental issues.

Upon admission to the *ESGP*, students can pursue and obtain either a Master's of Science degree and/or a Ph.D. degree.

Visit the schools website for more information on their program and how to apply:

<http://esgp.osu.edu/>