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The Fierce Green Fire

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# The Fierce Green Fire: Vol. 6 Issue 23

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# The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program



*Our inaugural Milliken Lecture speakers (l to r): Dr. Erin Lipp, Dr. Andrew Monaghan, and Dr. Greg Valainis*

Volume 6, Issue 23



***Dr. Ferguson's ENVS 151 students observe old buried soils along the banks of the Lawson's Fork. Above: Campbell Jackson and Grant McClure in the stream, Shannon McAndrews above. Below: measuring the section.***



## *Inaugural Milliken Lecture*

This Tuesday, we held the first in a series of annual lectures focused on relationships between sustainability and public health. Recognizing that humans and Earth's systems are entwined is essential to promoting sustainability -- "the flourishing and resilience of people and the planet, in all ways, into the foreseeable future." This first event addressed how climate change and variability may affect the spread of pathogens and infectious disease.

Our first speaker was Dr. Andrew Monaghan, a meteorologist and scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research. Dr. Monaghan explained that the life cycle of the mosquito species that carries zika, dengue, and yellow fever viruses is affected by variability in moisture and temperature. He was careful to note that many other factors, including human behavior, are also key drivers of virus transmission, and that direct links between climate and disease are difficult to pinpoint.

This point was expanded on by Dr. Erin Lipp, environmental microbiologist and Professor of Environmental Health Science at the University of Georgia.

She focused on water-borne pathogens, with the theme "warmer, wetter, riskier," noting that while some disease outbreaks are linked with large rainfall events, lack of public sanitation remains the largest impact across the globe. She explained that the bacteria *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* are particularly good indicators of climate impacts because of their temperature sensitivity.

The final speaker, Dr. Greg Valainis, is a physician specializing in infectious disease. He highlighted travel and tourism as other important factors in transmission of infectious diseases. Since there is no vaccine or antiviral treatment for the viruses previously mentioned, he stressed prevention measures – repellent, clothing coverage, netting, and eliminating opportunities for mosquitoes to breed in standing water, such as in containers and old tires.

Our annual events will continue to highlight the many ways in which improvements in public health can be aligned with efforts toward more sustainable systems, such as energy, food, contaminants, and air quality.

## Upcoming Events and Opportunities

- April 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
10:00am-3:00pm  
***Discover Your Watershed at Lyman Lake Lodge:*** Paddle, play and learn about the Tyger River Watershed. This family event is designed to raise awareness about the importance of safeguarding our water resources for future generations. Registration and lunch are free if you sign up at <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/discover-your-watershed-tickets-18707263930>
- April 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
10:00am-4:00pm  
***Spartanburg Earth Day:*** A collaborative community effort celebrating stewardship, sustainability, and our amazing planet Earth to be held at The Unitarian Universalist Church of Spartanburg, 210 Henry Place, 29302. For more information visit: <http://www.spartanburgearthday.org/>
- April 28<sup>th</sup>**  
7:30pm  
***Audubon Society Talk:*** Dr. Kim Brewitt, biology professor at USC Upstate (*Dr. Brewitt's wife*) will speak on *Plight of the Pacific Salmon* at St. Francis Anglican Church, 601 Webber Road, 29302.
- April 29<sup>th</sup>**  
9:00am-10:00am  
***Hub City Co-op Grand Opening:*** Ribbon cutting ceremony will officially open the first community-owned, consumer retail food cooperative in South Carolina. Visit their website for more information and how to become an owner: <http://hubcity.coop/>
- April 30<sup>th</sup>**  
10:00am-2:00pm  
***Spartanburg Water's RXcycle Event:*** This drug take-back event provides a way to safely dispose of unused and expired pills, liquids, creams, inhalers, and syringes. See their website for information and five convenient locations in Spartanburg County: <http://www.spartanburgwater.org/rxcyclespartanburg>
- April 30<sup>th</sup>**  
8:00am-12:00pm  
***Spartanburg Park's Pacolet River Sweep:*** Help clean up the Pacolet River – lunch and t-shirt provided. Rain date will be May 7<sup>th</sup>. Email [McKenna.sprouse@spartanburgparks.org](mailto:McKenna.sprouse@spartanburgparks.org) for more information and to register for this event.
- May 7<sup>th</sup>**  
8:00am-12:00pm  
***Glendale Shoals River Sweep:*** Join us in Glendale for a clean up day on the Lawson's Fork. Group will meet at the Glendale Fire Department. For more information and to sign up contact Dee Dee Mitchell: [deedeemitchell@att.net](mailto:deedeemitchell@att.net).

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## PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

### *Goddard College – MA in Social Innovation and Sustainability*

Goddard College in Plainfield, Vermont offers a MA in Social Innovation and Sustainability that is a self-designed, interdisciplinary degree focusing on innovation and sustainability at the community level. The 48-credit Master of Arts program gives students a choice to focus on social innovation or sustainability or a combination of the two “to explore innovations that specifically contribute to promoting and advancing more sustainable and viable ways of living.”

The campus is committed to sustainable practices

and in 2007 signed the *American Colleges and University Presidents' Climate Commitment* to be carbon neutral by 2020. Their efforts include reducing campus energy costs with solar energy, using food grown in the campus garden and locally, reducing waste by composting and recycling, and creating ride-share programs and providing campus bikes for student and employees.

For more information about this program, visit: <http://www.goddard.edu/academics/ma/master-arts-social-innovation-sustainability/>