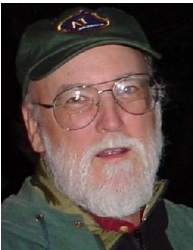




"Wetlands Function and Response to Extreme Events"

October 5, 2010

Speaker Biographies



"An Introduction to Wetlands in the Mississippi River Delta"

Dr. John W. Day, Jr.

Coastal Ecology Institute at Louisiana State University

Dr. Day is the Distinguished Professor of Environmental Sciences in the Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences and the Coastal Ecology Institute, School of the Coast & Environment at Louisiana State University, where he has taught since 1971. He has published extensively on the ecology and management of coastal systems and has over 100 peer-reviewed publications. Professor Day received his PhD in marine sciences and environmental sciences from the University of North Carolina in 1971. Since then, he has conducted extensive research on the ecology and management of the Mississippi Delta region and he has studied coastal ecosystems in Mexico. He was a visiting professor in the Institute of Marine Sciences of the National University of Mexico in 1978-1979, at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands during 1986, at the Laboratoire d'Ecologie, Université Claude Bernard in Arles France during 1992-93, and in the Department of Geography at Cambridge University in 2000-2001. He has also worked with the University of Campeche and the Institute of Ecology in Mexico. Since 1992, Professor Day has worked in the Mediterranean studying the impacts of climate change on wetlands in Venice Lagoon and in the Po, Rhone, and Ebro deltas.



“Influence of Extreme Events on Biogeochemical Functions in Wetlands”

Dr. K. Ramesh Reddy

Soil and Water Science Department at University of Florida

Dr. Reddy is the Graduate Research Professor of Biogeochemistry and Chair of the Soil and Water Science Department at the University of Florida. His research investigates coupled biogeochemical cycles in natural ecosystems, e.g. wetlands, shallow lakes, estuaries, springs, and constructed wetlands, as related to water quality, carbon sequestration, and climate change. Dr. Reddy has carried out research for 30 years on the biogeochemical cycling of nutrients in natural and managed ecosystems related to water quality. Introducing Wetland Science as a major thrust of graduate programs in the Soil and Water Science Department at UF, Dr. Reddy’s efforts were critical in developing an interdisciplinary program on biogeochemistry of wetlands and aquatic systems through the establishment of the Wetlands Biogeochemistry Laboratory. Dr. Reddy’s career is also marked by a strong commitment to education through courses taught, involvement in the Soil and Water Science Department at UF, and serving on over 130 graduate committees, including as major advisor of 30 Ph. D students at UF.



“NRDA and Ecosystem Service Valuation Research”

Dr. Daniel R. Petrolia

Department of Agricultural Economics at Mississippi State University

Daniel Petrolia is an assistant professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Mississippi State University, where he holds a research and teaching appointment focusing on environmental and natural-resource economics. He received his Ph.D. in agricultural and applied economics from the University of Minnesota in 2005, and received his M.S. (2001), B.A. and B.S. (1999) degrees from Louisiana State University. His research on the economics of nitrogen abatement on artificially-drained farmland earned him the 2007 Ph.D. Dissertation Award in Water Policy and Socioeconomics from the Universities Council on Water Resources. His research spans the areas of non-market valuation of wetland and barrier-island restoration; hurricane evacuation behavior; flood insurance demand; bioenergy demand; and bioenergy crop feasibility. Dan teaches environmental economics at the graduate level and principles of microeconomics at the undergraduate level. Dan also serves as a faculty member in the MSU Honors College. Dan and his wife, Angie, are Louisiana natives; they have three little girls, Maria, Anna Katherine, and Elizabeth.



Moderator

Dr. Steven Kraft

Professor and Director of Advanced Energy and Fuels Management PSM Program -Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Steven Kraft is a Visiting Professor and Director of Advanced Energy and Fuels Management PSM Program, and the Retired Co-director of the Environmental Resources and Policy PhD program. He also provides mediation services to all USDA cooperators in Illinois through the Illinois Agricultural Mediation Project. These services are provided in cooperation with the SIUC School of Law. His specialty areas are soil and water conservation policy, watershed planning, ecosystem services, and natural resources economics and policy. Since coming to SIUC, he has obtained over \$3.5 million in research grants from sources such as NSF, USDA, the Joyce Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and the Illinois Council on Food and Agricultural Research among others. Recent publications include *The Law and Policy of Ecosystem Services* (Island Press, 2007) with JB Ruhl and Chris Lant. He teaches farm management, natural and environmental economics and policy, and social perspectives on environmental issues. He earned his doctorate degree from Cornell University in 1980. Dr. Kraft was named a fellow of the Soil and Water Conservation Society in recognition of his contributions to soil and water conservation policy through his research.



Question and Answer Manager

Dr. Patrick Megonigal

Deputy Director, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, MD

Dr. J. Patrick Megonigal is a senior scientist at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, MD, where currently serves as Deputy Director. His research focuses on carbon biogeochemistry, specifically belowground processes in wetlands and his areas of expertise include ecosystem ecology, biogeochemical cycling, microbial ecology, soil ecology and global change science. Previous to his work with the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Dr. Megonigal was an Assistant Professor of Biology at George Mason University and a Research Associate at Savannah River Ecology Laboratory in Aiken, SC. Presently, he is a member of the National Blue Ribbon Panel on Wetland Carbon Offsets, U.S. National Committee for Soil Science of the US National Academies, and the Ecosystems Interactions Working Group of the US Global Change Research Program.