

October 19, 2006

The Goodwin-Niering Center for Conservation Biology and
Environmental Studies at Connecticut College
Presents

The 2007 Elizabeth Babbott Conant Interdisciplinary Conference on the Environment

**Saving Biological Diversity: Weighing the Protection of Endangered Species
Versus Entire Ecosystems**

**April 6 and 7, 2007
Evans Hall, Connecticut College**

Co-sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, CT Chapter; National Audubon Society, CT Chapter; Beaver Brook Foundation; CT Forest and Park Association; Marjorie Dilley Lecture Fund; Connecticut Sea Grant Program

The conservation movement in North America emerged out of the shock of the extinction of the passenger pigeon and the near extinction of the American bison, species that had once been considered too numerous to be depleted. By the 1960s a broad consensus emerged in the United States that species should not be driven to extinction by human activities. Since then, however, the Endangered Species Act and major programs to restore endangered and threatened species have become controversial. Property rights advocates claim that endangered species protection hampers economic activity and land development to an unreasonable extent. At the same time, some conservationists are concerned that too much money and effort are devoted to endangered species, diverting attention from protection of entire ecosystems that support numerous species. They argue that preventing common species from becoming rare is the most effective long-term strategy given the limited resources available. Defenders of endangered species programs claim that protecting endangered species usually entails protecting entire ecosystems, and that endangered species can serve as effective symbols to rally popular support for ecosystem protection. Another controversial issue is how funds should be allocated for conservation between wealthy temperate-zone countries and less wealthy tropical countries that support most of the world's species diversity.

During this two-day conference we will learn about conservation and endangered species from a wide range of perspectives. Like all of the conferences sponsored by the Goodwin-Niering Center, this conference will be broadly interdisciplinary, with presentations by economists, political scientists, and conservation biologists. We will begin by examining the effectiveness and economics of endangered species protection. The second session will focus on efforts to sustain biological diversity in entire ecosystems or across regional landscapes. The third session will emphasize the best methods for protecting biological diversity on a global scale. An overview of these issues will be provided by two keynote addresses, and during a panel discussion that will end the conference.

This conference will provide a broad overview of our current understanding of how to prevent extinction and sustain biological diversity. The mix of speakers and topics should appeal to a wide audience of concerned citizens, college students and faculty, NGO representatives and policy makers.

October 19, 2006

Preliminary Program
Friday April 6

12:00 Registration (Cummings Salon)

12:30 Welcome and Introductions (Evans Hall)

Keynote Address (Evans Hall)

Evaluation of Species Preservation

Bryan Norton, Professor of Philosophy, Georgia Institute of Technology

1:30 Session I– Protecting Populations of Particular Species (Evans Hall)

National and International Endangered Species Legislation

Karin Sheldon, Director Environmental Law Center, Vermont Law School

Economics of the Endangered Species Act

Gardner Brown, Professor of Economics, University of Washington

Saving Imperiled Plants: A National Network to Preserve America's Vanishing Native Species

Kathryn Kennedy, President, Center for Plant Conservation

Break

Piping Plover Conservation

Scott Hecker, Director of Coastal Bird Conservation, National Audubon Society

Conserving Migratory Fish (Salmon, Sturgeon)

Steve Gephard, CT DEP

5:00 Adjourn

5:15 Reception (Cummings Gallery)

6:00 Dinner (Hood Dining Room)

7:30 Keynote Address (Ernst Common Room)

Saving an Ecosystem Through Endangered Species Recovery: Conservation of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

Kenneth Rosenberg, Director, Conservation Science Program, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

October 19, 2006

Saturday, April 7

8:00 Registration and Continental Breakfast (Cummings Salon)

9:00 Session II– Protecting Regional Ecosystems (Evans Hall)

Marine Conservation

Felicia Coleman, Professor of Biological Sciences, Florida State University

Adirondacks Resources

David A. Evans, Research Associate at Resources for the Future

Break

Minimum Dynamic Areas for Matrix Forests

Mark Anderson, Director of Conservation Science, Eastern US Conservation Region
The Nature Conservancy

Everglades Ecosystem Project

April Gromnicki, Public Policy Division, National Audubon

12:00 Lunch (Hood)

Student Research Poster Session (Cummings Gallery)

1:30 Session III – The Need for Global Efforts to Save Biological Diversity (Evans Hall)

Implications of Local Forest Protection on Global Ecosystems

David Foster, Director, Harvard Forest, Harvard University

The following two speakers are sponsored by the Marjorie Dilley Lecture Fund.

Creative Approaches to Preserving Biodiversity in Brazil and the Amazon

Kathryn Hochstetler, Professor of Political Science, U. New Mexico

Break

International Treaties and Laws on Biodiversity Protection

William Burns, Senior Fellow, International Environmental Law, Santa Clara University Law
School

Global Habitat Assessments

Jonathan Hoekstra, Senior Scientist, Global Conservation Approach Team, The Nature
Conservancy

Panel Discussion – Should our highest priority be to save endangered species, restore regional ecosystems, or prevent environmental degradation on a global scale? Can we achieve a balanced strategy that incorporates all of these approaches?

5:00 Adjourn