

Call for Contributed Talk and Poster Abstracts

2009 Joint Annual Conference
Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration
Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Ecological Society of America
The College of New Jersey
Ewing, NJ
March 13 – 14

Call Open: January 20 – February 20, 2009

We invite submission of abstracts for contributed oral and poster presentations (i.e. contributed papers) at the 2008 Joint Annual Conference of the Mid-Atlantic Chapters of SER and ESA. The conference will be held March 13-14, 2009, at The College of New Jersey in Ewing, New Jersey.

The conference theme is “*Bridging the Gap: Connecting Ecological Research and Restoration Practice.*” Submissions may address any aspect of ecology, ecological applications, restoration ecology or restoration practice. Those reflecting the many relationships between restoration research and practice are particularly welcome. Please adhere to the following guidelines in preparing and submitting your abstract.

A. What are contributed papers?

Contributed papers are reports of the work and research that presenters have been doing. A contributed paper should focus on a single work or research project that would be of interest to our audience of ecological researchers and/or restoration practitioners. The purpose of a report might be to inform colleagues of the development, implementation, or monitoring of a project, share new or revised techniques for research or practice, elicit comments/suggestions from peers on work in development or progress, or present project or research results in advance of publication for peer reviewed journals.

These reports will be in the form of a short oral presentation or a large format poster. The guidelines for oral presentations and posters are given below.

B. Guidelines for oral presentations

- Speakers for contributed oral presentations are allowed 15 minutes for presentations.
- An additional 5 minute period between talks allows for questions, discussion, and introduction of the next speaker. This 5 minute period belongs to the audience and will be managed by the session presider. Time limits will be strictly enforced by session presiders.
- Each presentation room will be equipped with a dedicated LCD projector and PC configured with DVD/CDRW combo drives and a USB port for transfer of files from CDs or flash drives. Do not bring your own computer; bring your presentation on a CD or flash drive.

- Microsoft PowerPoint and Adobe Acrobat Reader 7.0 are the only acceptable formats for audiovisual support of oral presentations. Each PC will be running Windows XP with Microsoft Office 2007 and Adobe Acrobat 7.0. Make sure your file is compatible with one of these programs (these versions or earlier).

C. Guidelines for poster presentations

Posters are an alternative to oral presentations for presenting information at meetings. The "Poster Pub" will be the venue where authors can present their work and research in a poster format.

- Posters are a great format to gather feedback on ongoing projects and advocate for almost finished projects. Posters will be displayed for a full day, and interested persons can view the poster even when the author is not in attendance. The late-afternoon "Poster Pub" will provide an opportunity for discussion in a relaxed setting after completion of oral presentations. Presenting authors are required to be present for this scheduled poster viewing time (5:10-6:30 PM, Friday March 13).
- Posters should measure no more than 5 ft. wide x 4 ft. high (and can be smaller) and will be thumb tacked to walls. Pushpins will be supplied, and are the only method for attaching the poster to the wall.
- Poster presenters are encouraged to bring along handouts associated with their presentation.

D. Evaluation and Acceptance of Abstracts

- Accuracy of the abstract is the responsibility of the author(s). Abstracts will be rejected if they do not comply precisely with the guidelines on content and format listed below.
- Abstracts may be submitted before all work, analyses and/or conclusions are in their final form, but authors **MUST** report at least preliminary results.
- Abstracts must use standard English, and follow English syntax, grammar, and punctuation rules. Poorly written abstracts will be rejected.

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E. Abstract Submission

Copy this page into a new Microsoft Word document (.doc NOT .docx) and enter all information.

Abstract Submission Information

Name of corresponding author: _____

Email address: _____

Indicate your preference for an oral presentation or a poster. If more oral presentations are requested than can be accommodated, you may be placed into a poster session.

Oral Presentation _____ *Poster Presentation* _____

Indicate Paper Topic:

Contributed oral or poster presentations will be grouped with others to form sessions. We attempt to make sessions thematically coherent, and we invite you to indicate your preferences among likely session themes. Mark your top three choices of topic that best fits your proposed presentation, with a 1, 2, or 3.

- Animal ecology
- Plant ecology
- Plant-animal (incl. insect) interactions
- Host-parasite interactions
- Animal behavior
- Aquatic ecology
- Biogeochemistry
- Urban ecology
- Invasive species
- Disturbance Ecology
- Management/applied ecology
- Ecology education
- Ecological restoration within urban areas
- Ecological restoration of endangered/threatened species
- Ecological restoration of ecosystems
- Ecological restoration at the landscape scale
- Ecological restoration monitoring
- Economics and legislation of ecological restoration
- Other (please suggest category)

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Abstract and Author Information:

Follow these instructions carefully and enter this information and the abstract on A NEW PAGE of your document.

- Use Times New Roman, 12 pt font.
- When entering your title, only capitalize the first word, proper nouns, and the first word following a colon. The title is limited to 255 characters (without spaces; about 15 words). Place a comma before the word "and" in a series. End your title with the appropriate punctuation : **Example:**
Pre-construction monitoring of plant abundances on a dam removal project: Does presence of invasive species suggest future problems?
- Skip a line.
- Enter the authors' names as shown in the example below. Do not add punctuation after the names. Each author's name must include a number in parentheses to correspond with the number for her/his mailing address. An asterisk (*) must immediately follow the name of the speaker or poster presenter. Place a number in parentheses after the corresponding author and enter "email of corresponding author:" as shown in the example below.
- Skip a line, then enter the abstract text, which must be no more than 250 words.
- Send the Abstract Submission Information and the Abstract page together as a 2-page Word (.doc) file attachment to Janet Morrison, Mid-Atlantic ESA Chair (morrjsja@tcnj.edu) **by 5:00 pm on February 20, 2009**. Write "SER/ESA Abstract" in the subject line of the email. You will be notified of receipt right away, using the e-mail address entered on the submission form.
- Notification of acceptance will occur on February 25, using the e-mail address entered on the submission form.

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EXAMPLE:

Ecological and vegetation responses from two dam removals in a tidal wetland system.

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As dam removals have increased in frequency due to dam deterioration and interest in ecosystem restoration, there is a growing need to determine the ecological effects of dam removal. Few studies have been conducted on dam removals and pre-dam removal data is particularly limited. Our interdisciplinary study aims to measure impacts of dam removal on stream physical characteristics, vegetation, aquatic invertebrates, and fish along Holts Creek, a tributary to the Pamunkey River in New Kent County, VA. This research reports pre-dam removal plant distribution and abundances. To assess distribution and abundance of vegetation, ten transects were constructed along the entire drainage between the two dams. The presence of tree, sapling, vine, and herbaceous species were systematically sampled at each transect. Among all transects there were 18 tree species, 23 sapling species, 5 vine species, and 71 herbaceous species. Out of the 71 herbaceous species, the most abundant was *Murdannia keisak*, which is an invasive species. It was present at 6 of the 8 transects sampled, and had an average percent cover of 20%. Several other invasive herbaceous species were also present in high abundances. High relative abundance of *M. keisak* and other invasive species pose a potential problem when dam removal occurs, due to their ability to effectively disperse and quickly colonize newly barren sediments. As dam removal proceeds, it will be essential to monitor the establishment of these species and to determine their effects on other plant species.