



Call for Contributed Talk and Poster Abstracts

2010 Annual Conference

Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Ecological Society of America

University of Mary Washington

Fredericksburg, VA

April 17 - 18

Call Open: January 15 –March 8, 2010

We invite submission of abstracts for contributed oral and poster presentations (i.e. contributed papers) at the 2010 Annual Conference of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of ESA. This year's conference will be held April 17 - 18, 2010, at The University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

The conference theme is *“Transitions across Landscapes: the Ecology of Changes.”* Submissions may address any aspect of ecology and ecological applications; however, those reflecting concepts and issues of transitions and changes across landscapes 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 conducting. A contributed paper should focus on a single work or research project that would be of interest to our regional audience of ecological researchers including undergraduates, graduate students, faculty and ecology professionals. 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 moderator. Time limits will be strictly enforced by session moderators.

- 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 for gathering feedback on ongoing projects and promoting 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 (5:00-6:30 PM, Saturday, April 17).
- Posters should measure no more than 5 ft. wide x 4 ft. high (and can be smaller). We will supply materials for attaching posters to the wall.
- Poster presenters are encouraged to bring along handouts summarizing 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 (either .doc or .docx) and enter all information. Submit this form along with your Abstract.

Abstract Submission Information

Name of corresponding author:	
Affiliation:	
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.

<i>Oral Presentation:</i>		<i>Poster Presentation:</i>	
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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 fit 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
	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 after the Abstract Submission Form.

- 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 should be in bold and is limited to 255 characters (excluding 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 using all capital letters as shown in the example below. Do not add punctuation at the end of the list of 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 or .docx) file attachment to Jeffrey Simmons, Mid-Atlantic ESA Secretary (simmons@msmary.edu) **by 5:00 pm on March 8, 2010**. Type "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 by March 19, 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.