



## **Call for Contributed Talk and Poster Abstracts**

2012 Annual Meeting  
Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Ecological Society of America  
Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA  
April 14<sup>th</sup> (presentations) & 15<sup>th</sup> (field trips)

***Deadline for submission: 5 pm on Friday February 24th***

*Questions? Contact [rbfranklin@vcu.edu](mailto:rbfranklin@vcu.edu) or [sdd@vt.edu](mailto:sdd@vt.edu)  
or visit the chapter website at [www.esa.org/midatlantic/](http://www.esa.org/midatlantic/)*

We invite submission of abstracts for contributed oral and poster presentations (i.e. contributed papers) at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of ESA. The conference theme is the “*Disturbed Environments: Ecological Impact and Management*”. Submissions may address any aspect of ecology and ecological applications; however, those reflecting the conference theme are particularly welcome. Please adhere to the following guidelines in preparing and submitting your abstract.

### **A. What are Contributed Papers?**

A contributed paper should focus on a single work or research project that would be of interest to our regional audience of ecologists including undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, and 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, who will strictly enforce time limits.
- Each presentation room will be equipped with a dedicated LCD projector and PC configured for a USB port for transfer of files from flash drives. Do not bring your own computer; bring your presentation on a flash drive.
- Microsoft PowerPoint for Windows and Adobe Acrobat 9.0 are the only acceptable formats for audiovisual support of oral presentations. Make sure your file is compatible with one of these programs.

## **C. Guidelines for Poster Presentations**

- 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 on Saturday.
- 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.

## **E. Awards for Students**

- This year, we will be judging both poster and oral presentations delivered by students.
- Graduate and undergraduate students may be judged separately.
- First place oral and poster presentations will receive \$150 each; second place presentations will receive \$100 each, and honorable mentions will receive \$50 each.
- Additionally, first place winners will be awarded \$500 to offset the cost of attending the 2012 national ESA meeting. Support is available only if the winner is presenting in Portland.

## F. Abstract Submission Instructions

- Abstract submission requires that you complete the attached form AND provide an abstract that mimics the format and spacing in attached example. Pay particular attention to the following specifications:
  - 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 and then 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.
  - After the contact information for the authors, skip a line and then enter the abstract text, which must be **no more than 250 words**.

## G. Topic Areas for Presentations

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. This year we would like to have a special track on urban ecology disturbance management that can include any work focused on disturbed urban ecosystems.

Animal ecology	Ecological restoration	Microbial ecology
Animal behavior	Ecosystem ecology	Plant ecology
Aquatic ecology	Ecotoxicology	Plant-animal interactions
Biogeochemistry	Food webs	Soil ecology
Community Ecology	Host-parasite interactions	Urban ecology
Disturbance Ecology	Invasive species	Urban ecology disturbance management (special track)
Ecology education	Management/applied ecology	Other (please suggest category)

## 2012 Abstract Submission Form

- *Copy this page into a new Microsoft Word document and enter all information.*
- *Submit both the form and the abstract as a single Word document via email to Rima Franklin, MA-ESA Secretary ([rbfranklin@vcu.edu](mailto:rbfranklin@vcu.edu))*
- *Type “ESA Abstract” in the subject line of the email.*
- *Deadline for receipt of abstracts is 5 pm on Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012.*
- *You will be notified of receipt of your abstract within 24 hours using the email address entered on the submission form. Notification of acceptance and presentation format will occur by March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012.*

Name of corresponding author: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Paper topic (see table below for options): (1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred presentation format: ORAL or POSTER

*If more oral presentations are requested than can be accommodated, you may be placed in a poster session.*

For students – do you want your presentation to be judged? YES or NO

For students – indicate one: GRADUATE or UNDERGRADUATE

**EXAMPLE ABSTRACT –  
FOLLOW THIS FORMAT FOR YOUR SUBMISSION BUT PLACE  
YOUR TITLE AS THE FIRST LINE ON THE PAGE**

**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.