2016
FISHERIES, WILDLIFE AND CONSERVATION BIOLOGY
MAY FIELD SESSION
University of Minnesota
College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences

Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology Program 2
Registration 3
Health considerations 3
Tuition and fees 4
Required course supplies 4
Housing 6
Arrival and departure 6
Miscellaneous 7
Locations (maps) 8

http://fwcb.cfans.umn.edu/students/undergrads/cloquet

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THE FWCB MAY FIELD SESSION

The May Field Session is a unique opportunity for hands-on learning experiences. During the session, students are immersed in the study of plants and animals in forests and lakes at Itasca State Park, Whitewater State Park, and in Crookston. Students leave the confines of the classroom for the great outdoors. The Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology (FWCB) May Field Session is open only to FWCB majors. Students will participate in two courses during this session: FW3106, Vegetation Sampling for Habitat Assessments and FW3108, Field Methods in Research and Conservation of Vertebrate Populations. Students register for both courses in one session.

DATES: A mandatory meeting, including class logistics, group assignments, and equipment checkout will be held on Thursday, April 28, 5:30-6:30 pm in 100 Skok Hall.

Students arrive on Sunday, May 15 at Itasca State Park by 3:30 pm; classes begin with an orientation to the week and site Sunday evening, May 15. The last day of class is Saturday, June 4. There is a student free day on Saturday, May 28. Classes meet on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Audience</th>
<th>This program is a requirement in the Fisheries and Wildlife curriculum. Only students majoring in Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology may register for these courses.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prerequisites</td>
<td>Sophomore standing in an FWCB major or instructor consent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Courses</td>
<td>FW 3106: Vegetation Sampling for Habitat Assessments (1 cr)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Primary Instructor: Julia Bohnen</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Course Description: Students are introduced to common vegetation sampling methods used for habitat assessments. Students learn to identify approximately 75 vascular plant species typical of Minnesota’s terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems using taxonomic keys and readily observable traits. The importance of these plants for providing food, cover, and nesting is also covered.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FW 3108: Field Methods in Research and Conservation of Vertebrate Populations (3 cr)</td>
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<td>Primary Instructor: Dr. Dawn Tanner</td>
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<td>Course Description: Planning and implementation of research and management projects, collecting and analyzing data in groups, group and individual oral and written reports; each student keeps a field journal.</td>
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REGISTRATION FOR THE MAY FIELD SESSION

Registration is online. Registration for this session begins on **Tuesday, April 12th** for admitted students.

HEALTH CONSIDERATIONS

The May Summer Field Session involves sustained physical activity. A medical examination prior to the session is advised. Students who are required to complete the field session, but will not be able to do so due to medical reasons, should contact the FWCB Department Head, Dr. Susan Galatowitsch (612-624-3242).

Immunization clearance is not required for the session; however, students attending the session should have had a tetanus booster vaccination within the last five years.

We do not stock any medications as part of our equipment for the May session. If you are susceptible to allergic reactions to pollen, insect bites, stings, etc., **bring your own medication.** If you have any medical conditions that faculty should know about, please discuss with us in advance. All discussions will be treated as confidential.

Lyme disease, a tick-borne illness, is present in Minnesota. Students should take precautions to avoid contracting the disease as well as understand symptoms of infection. Most Lyme infections come from nymphal and adult deer ticks. Nymphs are about the size of a poppy seed. Students should dress appropriately to limit tick access to skin, use insect repellent in the field, and conduct regular ‘tick checks’ when changing clothes or bathing. Early symptoms may involve fever, headaches and fatigue. In addition, a circular rash often (but not always) develops at the site of the tick bite. Lyme disease is easily treated with antibiotics, but left untreated it can cause serious, long-term and irreversible health problems (joints, heart, central nervous system). More information can be found via links at the bottom of the FWCB Summer Experience webpage:

[http://fwcb.cfans.umn.edu/students/undergrads/cloquet](http://fwcb.cfans.umn.edu/students/undergrads/cloquet)
FEES INFORMATION (ESTIMATE)

Regular tuition rates are applied for these courses. You will be charged tuition for 4 credits for undergraduate students.

Session 1 = May, Session 2 = August

Anticipated fees with own health insurance
Session 1: $995
Session 2: $995

Anticipated fees without own health insurance
Session 1: $1527
Session 2: $1527

Students must purchase the Student Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) unless they already have their own insurance coverage. Proof of coverage when registering will exempt you from additional insurance charges. Students currently enrolled in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences during Spring semester and on the SHBP are also exempt from purchasing additional insurance. However, you must choose the ‘Purchase University Insurance’ when registering for summer courses. You will not be charged additional costs; this is a bookkeeping step. If you are not already insured, you will automatically be enrolled in the University-sponsored plan (SHBP) if you do not have your own insurance.

A billing statement for tuition and fees will be sent to your student account. These charges must be paid in full by the due date indicated on your billing statement. A late fee will be assessed if payment is not received by that time.

REQUIRED COURSE SUPPLIES

Personal items

- **Itasca and Whitewater State Parks**: Students bring pillow cases, bed linen and blankets or sleeping bag; pillows and mattresses are provided at the station. During the Whitewater week, also bring a personal set of dishes, utensils, and snacks. Linens are provided during the Crookston week.
- Field clothes adequate for protection against cold and rain
  - Waterproof hat, jacket, pants, and waterproof boots are an absolute necessity because field work is carried out regardless of the weather. Rubber knee boots are a good idea for early morning, dew-covered grasses, especially in Crookston. Fleet Farm offers an economical selection of field-quality boots.
- Other clothing deemed necessary for a 3-week field course
- Toiletries
- Any medications including kits for insect stings, bee stings, etc.
- Insect repellent and sunscreen
- Reusable travel mug and water bottle
The following supplies are not available for on-site purchase. Purchase them before you leave the Twin Cities. Most are available at the Books Underground Bookstore on the St. Paul Campus. You will use most expensive items in other courses and/or in your professional careers.

**FW 3106 – Vegetation Sampling for Habitat Assessments**

- A sturdy backpack to hold supplies
- Hand Lens – Doublet 10x (see image)
- Pocket knife or similar sharp tool
- 3x5 inch ruled index cards, 1-2 packages of 100 each (optional)
- Boots, water proofed to the ankle for bog and wet area walks; many students prefer rubber knee boots
- Clipboard
- Protractor
- Field notebooks (see FW 3108)
- Compass (see FW 3108)
- Digital camera or phone with camera (strongly recommended)


*See “Recommended Plant ID Guides & Resources” on the Course Moodle Site for more suggestions and tips for selecting a useful plant guide.*

**FW 3108 – Field Methods in Research and Conservation of Vertebrate Populations**

- Rain suit
- Chest waders (Must be non-breathable. Waders will be available for checkout during the mandatory meeting. If we don’t have an appropriate distribution of sizes to fit everybody, you will have an opportunity to share or a chance to purchase your own following this meeting.)
- 2 orange Elan E64-8x4 inch field notebooks or similar Rite-in-Rain books
- 1 Silva or Suunto mirror-sighting compass
- Binoculars (highly recommended)
- Digital camera (optional)
- Fish, mammal, and bird field guides (optional)
- GPS (If you have your own, you may bring it. You will also be able to check out a GPS for the duration of the class at the mandatory meeting.)
HOUSING

During the session, students and faculty are housed at the Itasca Biological Field Station (week 1), the Whitewater Modern Group Center (week 2), and in suites at the University of Minnesota-Crookston campus (week 3). Camping facilities are not available. Students are required to stay in provided housing because it simplifies schedules and group assignments, and provides a better learning experience.

Shared occupancy is required. Pillowcases, bed linen, and blankets must be furnished by students at Itasca and Whitewater; mattresses and pillows are provided at the state parks. Students are responsible for room clean-up prior to departure at the end of each week during the course.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Check-in
All students must arrive on Sunday, May 15, between 2:00 pm and 3:30 pm. An orientation to the session will be held from 4:30-6:00 pm. Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm. Upon arrival at the station, students should check-in with University staff. Students will be housed on a first-come, first-served basis. If you want a particular room arrangement, plan to arrive early. Follow signs inside Itasca State park for parking at the biological field station.

Logistics for each week
Classes begin on Sunday evening, May 15. All meals are provided at the station. We will be departing from Itasca State Park on Saturday morning following breakfast, May 21. Students meet on-site at the Group Center at Whitewater State Park on Sunday, May 22, between 2:00 pm and 3:30 pm. Supplies will be provided for breakfasts and lunches at the center. Students will prepare sack lunches in the morning to take into the field. Dinners will be catered at the center. Plan to bring your own dishes, utensils, and snacks. Class finishes following exams on Friday, May 27. There will be an optional fly fishing lesson on Friday afternoon after class if we have sufficient student interest. Saturday, May 28 is a free day. We meet at the University of Minnesota-Crookston on Sunday, May 29. Students will arrive on campus for check-in between 2:00-3:30 pm. An orientation to the week will take place 4:30-6:00 pm. Dinner will follow 6:00-7:00 pm. All meals are provided during the Crookston week. Classes will take place throughout the week, ending with group final presentations on Saturday morning, June 4. Breakfast and lunch will be provided on this final day. Checkout will occur following lunch on Saturday, June 4. In fairness to all students attending the session, requests for early releases to accommodate personal plans will not be approved.

Meals
The lodging and meals fee covers all meals served; there is no refund for meals missed. Let Dawn Tanner know as early as possible if you have dietary restrictions/preferences so we can accommodate your needs. You are welcome and encouraged to bring a reusable travel mug and water bottle.
MISCELLANEOUS

Computer

You may bring your own laptop or check one out from the UMN library. Library staff will assist you in checking out a computer for the duration of the course. Contact: Shannon Farrell, Natural Resources Librarian, 612-624-4799, sfarrell@umn.edu, to check out a computer. Computer access will be discussed during the mandatory meeting. Always bring a flash drive to save and back up personal files (e.g. reports, assignments, etc.).

Alcoholic Beverages

Absolutely no alcohol is permitted. Violators will be removed from University housing.

Pets

Pets are not permitted.
LOCATIONS

The May Field Session is held at 3 separate locations. Specific maps and a carpool scheduling opportunity will be provided as part of the mandatory meeting. Maps of Itasca State Park, Whitewater State Park, and UM-Crookston are provided here to allow you to estimate drive time to these locations.

Itasca State Park
Park Rapids, MN 56470
218-699-7251
http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/itasca/index.html
Whitewater State Park
19041 Highway 74
Altura, MN 55910
507-932-3007
http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/whitewater/index.html