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9-13-2019

The Fierce Green Fire: Vol. 10 Issue 2

Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

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Recommended Citation

Wofford College Environmental Studies Program, "The Fierce Green Fire: Vol. 10 Issue 2" (2019). *The Fierce Green Fire*. 238.

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The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program

Dr. Brewitt's view of Lady Slippers growing in the Vermont woods during his summer hikes ~ finding the extraordinary in the ordinary.



Volume 10, Issue 2

Ordinary Places by Dr. Peter Brewitt

My family and I spent this summer in Craftsbury Common, Vermont. I've spent a lot of time there over the years – it's the house where my wife grew up – but only recently did I notice a little trail sneaking its way into the woods across the dirt road from our house. This summer, while baby Lupin napped, I decided to check it out. The trail was badly overgrown – it seems like it was cut for snowshoeing, which most people in ski-crazy Craftsbury don't do – but it was easy enough to follow the trail as it wound along the crest of a little rise and then around a pond. The water was high in the brook and the mosquitoes were thick, but spring flowers were everywhere – including some ghostly little Lady Slipper sprouts that were a week or two away from blooming. I got a good look at ovenbirds and found some nesting woodpeckers. It was a great hour – the whole loop only covered about two miles. I resolved to hike this loop as

many days as I could this summer, so I watched as the flowers cycled away, the Lady Slippers turned pink and then faded away, the birds migrated on, and the water level fell. By mid-August, the first autumn leaves (we were 30 miles from Canada) turned yellow and the raspberries were out.

This was an ordinary place. That's what I want you to take from this – the little loop in the woods was an ordinary place. Northern Vermont is pretty, to be sure, but so is the South Carolina piedmont, or the low country, or, oh, the piney woods of East Texas, or the beaches of Delaware. This year, as everyone begins their fall semester, I hope you manage to take the time to interact with your local nature, wherever you are. Get to know it as seasons change, at different times of day, at different times of year, when it's windy, when it's raining, when it's cold. You will surely be glad you did.



Dr. Brewitt and his girls, Lupin and Penny, in the Vermont woods this summer.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

**These count toward your two required extracurricular events for the semester.*

September 17th
4:00-5:30pm
121 College Street

Thirsty Thursday (on a Tuesday) at College Street Building: OMC and ENVS welcome the fall semester with an open house at the new College Street offices. There will be a brief recognition at 5:00pm for Bill Barnet and others who helped make this location possible for the college.

September 17th – 19th
7:00-8:30pm
McMillan Theater

Imagine Science Film Festival*: 10-short films explore the theme of transhumanism. Panel discussions to follow. In addition to the three evening screenings there will be an afternoon screening on Wednesday the 18th, 3:30-5:00pm.

September 20th – 21st
8:00am-3:00pm
199 Gowan Road,
Spartanburg, 29306

Community Clean-Up Event hosted by Recycle Spartanburg: Bring out your junk; appliances, metal, tires, furniture and mattresses, brush and limbs, and even decent quality things for Goodwill in an amazing partnership to help your trash become someone else's treasure! Free for Spartanburg County residents. No business waste, no liquids, paints, hazardous materials, and no household garbage.

September 25th
Application Deadline

Urban Farmers Needed: The Wofford Sustainability Committee seeks to hire two student farmers to grow food at the Hub City Farmers' Market Urban Farm. They will be under the direct supervision of Farmer Meg Whiteley and will also work under Dr. Amy Telligman. See the job description and application process attached to this email.

October 3rd
Late afternoon-evening
Glendale Shoals

Spartanburg Area Conservancy (SPACE) to host annual Shucking Good Time*: Volunteers are needed before, during, and after this event that is a big fundraiser for SPACE.

Ongoing

Job Opportunities in Conservation and Restoration: [The Great Basin Institute](#) is a nonprofit organization that specializes in conservation and restoration all throughout the West. They are currently hiring for over 60 paid positions ranging from ecological monitoring, wildlife monitoring, trail maintenance, range land management, and fuels reduction.

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

American University – Washington College of Law – Environmental Law Program

American University's Washington College of Law (WCL) offers Juris Doctor and graduate admissions. Various JD degrees, domestic and international, are offered in international affairs, business, public administration, and public policy, along with their Master of Law degree (LLM) or Doctor of Juridical Science degree (SJD). *US New & World Report* includes Washington College of Law as one of the top ten international law programs in the country.

Their [Environmental & Energy Law Program](#) was

established in 1990 and continues to grow. In the Program on International and Comparative Environmental Law, WCL students are integrated with lawyers and practitioners in the field to focus on learning opportunities in client-based research and expanded support for student research projects. Students also benefit from the program's internships and externships since there are many participating environmental institutions and agencies in the Washington, DC area.