Welcome Dr. Don Eaton!

I’m an aquatic ecologist and conservation biologist from the US, but I’ve been working in central-western Brazil’s Pantanal, Cerrado and Atlantic Forest biomes along with my wildlife biologist wife for the last 28 years. Despite a century of agricultural expansion, the 3 biomes remain valued internationally for their conservation importance: the Pantanal for its largely intact seasonal wetlands, the Cerrado for its biodiverse savanna-forests and the Atlantic Forest for its many endemic species.

My work along with colleagues to preserve native habitat, biodiversity and ecosystem services involves baseline monitoring of aquatic and wildlife communities, experimenting with innovative land use practices and collaborating with ranchers, farmers, and rural communities to apply results to conservation solutions. Our experimental rotational grazing system for native pastures in the Pantanal increased forage and cattle weights, while reducing impacts in aquatic and forest habitats. Connecting small-holder rural communities with ranchers needing to restore stream riparian vegetation, we set up a native seed collection network that is boosting family incomes for the collectors and helping to maintain stream flows and water quality for the region.

Discoveries from monitoring work include cattle-driven nutrient loading “tipping points” that cause abrupt shifts in the waterbird and aquatic communities of unique alkali soda lakes in the Pantanal, alterations of wildlife and fruiting tree communities due to cattle activity in forests and wetland plant importance for large herds of white-lipped peccaries during seasonal fruit-scarcity periods. I hope to share some of these findings with my Earth System Science students in the ENVS program.

Dr. Eaton is our adjunct professor teaching ENVS 150 this semester while Dr. Bradham is on leave.
Upcoming Events and Opportunities

September 28th
6:00pm
Online Event

Plan Spartanburg - Virtual Open House: "Plan Spartanburg" is the City of Spartanburg's Comprehensive Plan update process. The City has hired a multidisciplinary team of planning consultants led by Town Planning & Urban Design Collaborative, LLC (TPUDC) to engage the community in a public planning process that will culminate in the adoption of a new Comprehensive Plan with equity as its foundational principle. This site will provide information about the process and tools to provide input throughout the project, so we invite you to explore all that PlanSpartanburg.com has to offer! [Webinar registration]

October 7th
6:00pm MT (8:00pm ET)
Online Event

Author Talk Via Facebook Live: Terry Tempest Williams will engage in a discussion with the Director of the Brigham City Museum of Art and History on her book “Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place,” the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, and the role that water plays in Northern Utah’s delicate landscape. [Visit the Museum's Facebook page for updates and to RSVP here.]

Ongoing

Atlas Organics Hiring Intern: Seeking a junior or senior to support its finance and development departments. To apply, send your resume to duncan.williams@atlasorganics.net (cover letter is not needed). Include any questions about the position in the same email. Any other questions please call 864-278-2322 or email info@atlasorganics.net.

Ongoing

Job Opportunities at Teton Science School

Ongoing

Orion Grassroots Jobsource

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:
Auburn University – School of Forestry & Wildlife Sciences

Auburn University offers several graduate degrees in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences (SFWS) including forestry, natural resources, and wildlife sciences. Areas of research interest include forest biology, ecology forest management, wildlife ecology and management.

As a research facility, Auburn has several outdoor classrooms in addition to its SFWS building on the University’s main campus. Kreher Preserve and Nature Center is a 120-acre property that offers students opportunities to conduct research, lead hikes, help with educational programs, or learn different aspects of park management. The Mary Olive Thomas Demonstration Forest is a 400-acre property that is used to develop recreation or education management plans and conduct fire behavior plans. The Dixon Center is a 5300-acre outdoor classroom and program venue with options for overnight accommodations and is used for summer practicum. Weagle Woods is an 11-acre tract on campus that students have used in management projects.