Seek and Ye Shall Find
by Dr. Peter Brewitt

Last week, as Environmental Studies 101 hiked across Lake Conestee Nature Preserve, I suddenly heard my students all a-twitter with excitement. Look! Look! Up there! We all stopped and after a little scanning around I saw a big hawk perched in a tree just above our heads.

I have always been terrible at identifying raptors, and I couldn’t be sure of this one, so what did I do? I got out my phone, opened the Seek application, and aimed it at the bird. A few seconds later the word came through – red-shouldered hawk. Awesome. We looked for a few more minutes and went on with our hike.

Most of us, I think, enjoy being outside but barely know what we’re seeing. We may know some of the common trees, or tree types, or songbirds, but not much else. If we want to know what we’re seeing, we have to bring and page through a guidebook. Now we can just point our phones at it. Inspired, I had my Humanities 101 class download it (it’s free) and take it out to Glendale a few days later. We assembled a formidable list of trees and shrubs, and got to talk about biodiversity, invasive species, and future management armed with information we’d gathered ourselves on the spot. Going forward, we could link such activities with iNaturalist, which Seek come from, and be part of a massive effort to record and share the natural world.

Now, Seek is not perfect – it doesn’t work as well in the shade or the wind, sometimes only identifying family or genus, and occasionally it gets answers wrong. But one thing about apps like this – they are only likely to get smarter as more people use them more. Try it out!
Upcoming Events and Opportunities

**November 9th**
6:00pm
Olin 101

**Film Screening & Debate**: Please join us in the screening of "In the Name of Lithium" (Argentina, 2021) followed by a debate between director Tian Cartier and panelists Dr. Laura Barbas Rhoden, Dr. Cissy Fowler, Dr. Esther Godfrey, and Dr. Julie Sexeny from Wofford and USC Upstate. [Watch trailer](#).

**November 13th**
10:00am-2:00pm
Goodall Center, Glendale 29346

**Family Day at Glendale Shoals**: ENVS Outreach Interns will be coordinating and leading several activities for children. Volunteers needed before and during the event. Contact Mia Girardi, girardiml@email.wofford.edu.

**Waste and Recycling Intern at Wofford**: Do you have a passion for zero waste and interested in learning more about the waste and recycling industries? Do you want experience helping to coordinate a waste and recycling program here at Wofford? This intern will help to manage waste and recycling-related programs, including but not limited to recycling communications, checking on and servicing select specialty recycling streams such as, Commingled, Cardboard and Composting. Contact Rick Shehan, shehanrd@wofford.edu, for more information.

**Campus Plant Records Intern at Wofford**: Working with the horticulturist to document, organize, map, tag, and share information about the Wofford campus plant material. Using a web-based mobile-friendly program we will create a unique web page for each of the plants that include our plants story. The goal is to connect the beautiful Wofford campus plants to campus visitors. Contact Stewart Winslow, winslowsp@wofford.edu, for more information.

**Ongoing**

**Ongoing Job Opportunities at Teton Science School**

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**PROFILE OF THE WEEK:**

**Columbia University – MS in Sustainability Science**

The Earth Institute at Columbia University is a global leader in the study of sustainability. One of the many degree programs offered is a Master of Science in Sustainability Science and can be completed as a full-time or part-time student. The program teaches cutting edge scientific methods and is a pioneer in the use of technology that collects real-time data worldwide. The program is best suited to students with undergraduate degrees in engineering, math, and science, who want to pursue technical sustainability careers. Students must take a capstone workshop in sustainability science instead of submitting a thesis. Graduates will be technical practitioners, who know environmental science, modeling, and engineering, but who are not research experts. Their job and the goal is to bring these disciplines together to address sustainability problems. Future careers could involve management positions in environmental technologies, monitoring, engineering, and compliance.

[Columbia University - MS in Sustainability Science](#)