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Wofford College. Department of Environmental Studies

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The Fierce Green Fire

A Newsletter of the Wofford College Environmental Studies Program



Volume 13, Issue 9

Giving Thanks by Dr. Peter Brewitt



A field trip to Atlas Organics in Dr. Telligman's ENVS 160 lab is always a learning experience even on a cold, rainy day.



Next week, America will find itself conscientiously digesting, wondering whether putting green beans in a turkey sandwich is genius or Too Much, and debating with family members about whether to head into Black Friday. More, I would argue, than the Fourth of July (lots of countries have independence days), Thanksgiving is the most American of holidays.

It is also, of course, an environmental day. Leaving aside the enormous carbon emissions from all those people going home for the holidays (family seems like a good justification for this though), let us consider the meal that so many of us will all be eating. The American diet most days is built around the foods Europeans brought across the Atlantic Ocean – beef, pork, chicken, wheat. But Thanksgiving dinner is in many ways a New World meal. Turkeys were domesticated in

Mexico and the Southwest, but initially for cultural purposes – more like pets than protein. Potatoes, sweet and ordinary, are from the Andes. Corn was grown across much of Native America. The pumpkins in your pie grew amongst native corn fields. The natives of New England were using cranberries when the pilgrims arrived. And the green beans that you should probably leave out of your sandwich? They're American too. When you eat a traditional Thanksgiving dinner (obviously everyone does it a little differently), you're more connected to native agriculture than, probably, at any other meal all year.

Writing this has made me hungry, so I'll end here. But I wish all of you a happy Thanksgiving! Rest up, enjoy the meal, and give thanks for the good things in life.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Happy Thanksgiving!

December 2nd
Application Deadline

[Conservation Voters of South Carolina Internship Spring 2023](#): This internship will assist Government Relations staff and contractors with legislative tracking and monitoring, policy-related research, vote-tracking for our scorecard, and lobby days. Internship is based in Columbia with the option to work remotely or in the office.

December 10th
9:00-11:00am
Goodall Center, 351
Broadway St, Glendale, SC
29346

Second Saturdays Volunteer Day in Glendale: Join us on the second Saturday of the month to help beautify the garden and surrounding areas at the Goodall Center. [Register here to let us know you're coming.](#)

PROFILE OF THE WEEK:

University of Florida – Master of Sustainable Development Practice

The University of Florida's Master of Sustainable Development Practice (MDP) degree focuses on training students to address development challenges in poor countries. It uses the natural, social and health sciences to bridge these challenges and is part of the larger Global MDP Association, which consists of 36 MDP programs in 25 countries around the world.

Classes consist of four academic semesters and one 10-12-week summer field practicum, in which students focus on addressing specific development

challenges in different parts of the world. Their research is then presented as part of earning their MDP degree.

The UF MDP program is part of the [Academic Common Market](#) that provides students from across the southeast an opportunity to enroll at in-state tuition rates. The program also has a wide range of grants and fellowships for graduate students.

[UF – Master of Sustainable Development Practice](#)
