

# COMMUNITY FORESTRY & ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH PARTNERSHIPS\*

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ANNUAL REPORT  
2007

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\* Formerly Community Forestry Research Fellowship Program

Cover photos (clockwise from top): Cache Creek Nature Preserve, CFERP 2006 workshop MT, CFERP; Kaibab Paiute Reservation, Thomas Alcoze; Land Between the Lakes, TN, CFERP; Thomas Parker, CFERP; Fellows, CFERP.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

- CARL WILMSEN

Balancing livelihoods, sense of place and stewardship of natural resources is a thread that runs through all the work of the Community Forestry and Environmental Research Partnerships (CFERP). Through our graduate level fellowships and our annual workshop, CFERP has supported research by graduate students and their community partners as they investigate this balance between a natural resource, a place and its inhabitants. During the past year we have also laid the groundwork for advancing the work of participatory research and community-based management of natural resources through securing a book contract, establishing a regionally focused fellowship program, and planning a research fair to be held next year.

The 2007 workshop, held at the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area in Tennessee, was instructive in the complex relationship between environmental stewardship and a sense of place. The stories we heard from the people who had been forcefully removed during the creation of the recreation area were a powerful reminder of the need to address nature conservation and cultural preservation together.

The book CFERP is compiling assesses the contributions of participatory research to the balancing of livelihoods and environmental stewardship in the United States through eight case studies and two essays. Written by teams of scholars and practitioners who were directly involved, the book looks at distinct recent experiences with collaborative research in urban, rural and Native American communities.

To expand our impacts in community capacity building for managing natural resources sustainably, we have embarked on two new endeavors. With support from the Christensen Fund, we have established a new regionally focused set of fellowships for partnering with southwestern Native American communities. We are also planning a research fair which will create opportunities for university and agency-based researchers to form such partnerships with California Native American tribes.

Using participatory research to facilitate healthy relationships between communities and the environment is what CFERP is all about, and we are excited to deepen our impacts through our upcoming projects in 2008.

# MESSAGE FROM THE STEERING CO-CHAIRS

- JACQUELYN ROSS & JONATHAN LONG

In 2006, the Community Forestry Research Fellowship Program celebrated its tenth anniversary. In addition to celebrating our many accomplishments, with the help of The Ford Foundation, we commissioned an independent evaluation of our activities and program areas. The evaluation results reaffirmed our core mission of nurturing new scholars who are committed to engaging constructively with communities to enhance the sustainable management of natural resources.

Through the evaluation process it became clear that our name does not accurately encompass the work that is done by the program, the fellows and the community partners. To reflect the work that we do, we decided to change the name of the program to Community Forestry and Environmental Research Partnerships (CFERP). Keeping ‘community forestry’ in our name maintains continuity with our past and adding ‘environmental’ indicates that building capacity for stewarding the environment is a major goal for us. Making the change from ‘fellowships’ to ‘partnerships’ better reflects our belief in the importance of participatory research as a collaborative process in which community members and university-based researchers work together as equal partners.

Our new name thus reflects our central concern for understanding the conditions that promote healthy relationships between people and the environment. Nurturing good environmental stewardship requires understanding the myriad cultural, political, economic, and environmental influences that shape the interaction between people and the environment. Yet, often protection of nature and protection of livelihoods are thought of as separate, even antithetical, spheres of endeavor. We focus on bringing these two together to create healthy environments and healthy communities. The goal is stewardship of natural resources in ways that sustain ecosystems while simultaneously improving the lives and livelihoods of community residents. During the coming year we will work to promote working relationships between universities and communities, increase participatory research skills and increase the impact of CFERP-supported research in communities as well as in academic settings.

# MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Community Forestry & Environmental Research Partnerships (CFERP) program is to nurture a new generation of scholars and university-community partnerships to build scholarly and community capacity for stewardship of natural resources in ways that are socially just, environmentally sound, and economically sustainable.

The goals of CFERP are:

- to develop good participatory research skills in practitioners such that research is scientifically rigorous and relevant to communities
- to nurture a new generation of scholars committed to engaging constructively with communities
- and to build community capacity to steward natural resources and have a voice in their own affairs

## **Why participatory research?**

Participatory research is founded on the principle that local people are knowledgeable about the environments in which they live and that the active engagement of community members in research can enhance analysis and build community capacity for effecting positive social change.

Community members are full partners who actively participate in designing and conducting the research. As an essential component of the CFERP fellowships, participatory research produces robust, policy-relevant information rooted in local environmental, social, and economic needs and realities.



*"As a returning dissertation fellow, I found this year's workshop extremely useful and the time between the first and second workshop made me realize that this group is my community cohort for research. It was wonderful to be back with a group of people exploring similar research methods instead of always being the "odd" research project. Coming to the workshop twice really made the fellowship for me!"*



"Then came the fatal day, when they called me into town  
And while I was away, they burnt me to the ground  
The concrete columns on the porch would be the first to fall.  
A dozer knocked them through the wall.  
Then what would burn was torched  
A hundred thirty years were torched.  
And there's one more thing you ought to know.  
I never meant no harm.  
I just loved mama and that farm.  
And I had no place to go.  
Where else could I go?"

*From "The Ballad of Babe Williams"  
by Christopher Lew Wallace, Jr.*

We clambered down from the bus and walked onto the neatly kept lawn of the cemetery. As we wandered through headstones bearing inscriptions from the nineteenth century we listened to stories from the former residents about life Between the Rivers, the removal of

the families living in the area, and their ongoing efforts to maintain a connection to their ancestral homes.

The site of the 2007 annual workshop was the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area operated by the United States Forest Service. This area is a narrow strip of land, 40 miles long, between the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers. The first European settlers on this inland peninsula were revolutionary war veterans who took land as payment for their military service. Isolated by the waters of the rivers bounding their peninsular home, the original settlers and their descendants developed a unique way of life involving an ineffable love of the land.

Life moved with the rhythms of the seasons for over 150 years until the Roosevelt administration created the Tennessee Valley Authority in the 1930s and charged it with building dams to control floods, improve river navigation, and bring electricity into the region. Construction of dams on the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers in the 1940s created huge reservoirs and required forceful removal of the people living on farmsteads in the floodplains. Families that reestablished farms on high ground between the new reservoirs were forcefully removed a second time in the 1960s when the Land Between the Lakes (LBL) National Recreation Area was created.



These families still think of LBL as home. They have created an informal organization which holds meetings, sponsors potluck dinners, coordinates care of the cemeteries and other cultural sites in the LBL, and publishes a magazine. It was members of this group who guided us to several culturally significant sites on our field trip.

*“As a community member, I am very grateful to the program for making it possible for me to participate in this year’s workshop. It was a very valuable and rewarding experience and the affirmation and support from conference faculty and participants was great.”*

They told us stories of loss, of rebuilding community through tending cultural sites in LBL, and ultimately of hope. In the late 1990s they collaborated with the Forest Service (which took over management of LBL in 1999) on restoring St. Stephen’s Catholic Church, the only church still standing in LBL. They hope to have more such collaborations with the Forest Service, as well as to have a greater say in the agency’s representation of their way of life and culture in historical exhibits. They feel that, as the bearers of that culture, they know it more intimately than anyone else and are thus in the best position to represent it to recreation area visitors. They are still negotiating this point with Forest Service officials.

With this position, they have touched on a key principle of participatory research: people who are bearers of a culture, engage in a particular livelihood, and practice some way of life have intimate knowledge of the things they are involved in on a daily basis, and that knowledge is integral to understanding the situation under study. CFERP fellow Damayanti Banerjee, who collaborated with the Between the Rivers people in the research for her doctoral dissertation, notes the importance of informing environmental management with such cultural knowledge. She argues that environmental policies are often intended to apply everywhere. That is to say they are global, and hence they neglect the unique ties between specific cultures and specific places. She suggests that there is a disconnect between environmental conservation and cultural preservation, and that “reconciling these two...will help us connect our cultural identities with our environmental selves, forging a better appreciation of our biophysical environments.”

## WORKSHOP STATISTICS

Number of Participants		Percentage of Total
Total	36	
Women	23	64%
Men	13	36%
<b>Ethnicity</b>		
Native American	5	14%
African American	2	6%
Other	1	2%
Asian	2	6%
Caucasian	26	72%

*“The diversity of students, affiliations and community members provided a robust test of the participatory model and forced the evaluation of the kinds and extent of community involvement. The impressive array of talented students was inspiring.”*





### WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Techniques for conducting rigorous research resonated at the 2007 annual workshop. CFERP steering committee members Jill Belsky and John Bliss coordinated a session on techniques and strategies for assuring that research is both scientifically rigorous and relevant to the community. Their session created a strong framework for fellows and community partners to shape their thinking about their own participatory research projects.

Perhaps this session was especially welcome because it followed on a lively, free-ranging discussion on the Questions that Won't Go Away (QTWGAs). The QTWGAs are questions that arise anew in every participatory research project. CFERP fellows and their community partners inevitably face such issues as “what/who is the community,” “what is the researcher’s role in the community,” and “how can researchers and community members collaborate in situations of conflict.” Heidi Ballard, Larry Fisher, and Jonathan Long distilled such questions into several issue areas a few years ago, and we have allotted a couple of hours to their discussion at each annual workshop since then. These sessions are consistently rated highly by workshop participants because they permit research collaborators to confront issues in their research together as well as to learn from their peers in other situations.

Learning together is what the annual workshops are all about, and the joint community partner-fellow presentations are opportunities to learn about community efforts to steward natural resources. This year we learned about:

- efforts in New England to create sustainable community forests,
- challenges in participatory county planning in North Carolina,
- non-timber forest products management in Minnesota and Alaska,
- possible uses of vegetation in controlling sand dune movement on the Navajo reservation,
- the role of community forestry in disaster recovery in New Orleans,
- and involvement of Apache youth in spring restoration and cultural revitalization in Arizona.

As always the presentations were thought provoking and inspiring. The energy and commitment bring community partners and fellows to tackling the seemingly intractable issues they are facing was infectious, and it renewed the passion, energy and hope of workshop participants.

# 2007 GRADUATE FELLOWS

## MASTERS STUDENTS

### **Leanna Begay**

Purdue University, Department of Biological Sciences

*Experimental Methods for Stabilizing Sand Dunes*

Research Site: Navajo Nation, Tuba City, AZ

Leanna's research documents the frequency and intensity of sand dune activity on Navajo Nation land. She is specifically studying the plant communities associated with the dunes and the impact of native vegetation, exotic plant species and their potential for vegetative stabilization of the dunes.

## PRE-DISSERTATION STUDENTS

### **Jesse Abrams**

Oregon State University, Department of Forest Resources

*The changing face of Oregon's timber towns: Migration and community in the new West*

Research Location: Wallowa, Linn and Lane Counties, Oregon

Jesse's research investigates the demographic and associated social changes occurring in rural Oregon communities that were historically timber-dependent, but are now facing an influx of seasonal residents and absentee landowners. He will study the effects of these migration patterns on land use and the implications for community-based resource management.

### **Matthew Hoffman**

Cornell University, Developmental Sociology

*Civic forestry in the Green Mountains*

Research Location: Vermont

Matthew's research focuses on the formal and informal arrangements private landowners create to allow them to manage their forests for watershed protection, habitat for biodiversity, recreational opportunities, and scenic beauty. The market does not reward landowners for this type of forest management so Matthew and his community partners seek to understand the factors that contribute to or impede the success of these types of community forestry projects.

### **Kimberley Maher**

University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Forest Science Department

*Assessing the role of non-timber forest products in interior Alaska communities*

Research Location: Tanana Valley, Alaska

The harvest of non-timber forest products is a prominent activity in the Tanana Valley, but little data has been collected. Kimberley is teaming up with members of the Alaska Birch Syrupmakers Association to examine factors affecting sap production in trees, motivations for participating in the birch syrup industry, and attaining a reliable access to the resource. Also covered in the project is an investigation into personal and subsistence harvesting practices by residents of the Tanana Valley.

# 2007 GRADUATE FELLOWS

## PRE-DISSERTATION STUDENTS

### **Blair McLaughlin**

UC Santa Cruz, Environmental Studies

*Linking science and traditional ecological knowledge in arctic social-ecological systems*

Research Location: Anaktuvak Pass, Alaska

Blair's research project will be an interdisciplinary, collaborative study between the NSF Arctic Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) site and the Nunamiut Native Alaskan Village at Anaktuvak Pass. She hopes to combine cross-disciplinary research on social-ecological systems and research on ways to connect traditional ecological knowledge with scientific ecological knowledge. Her research will focus specifically on the effect of climate change on local freshwater fisheries.

### **Keith Tidball**

Cornell University, Natural Resources

*Role of community forestry in NOLA 9th ward disaster recovery*

Research Location: New Orleans, Louisiana

The focus of Keith's research is on the survivors of Hurricane Katrina and their attitudes toward the trees that were lost in the storm and those that survived. He also seeks to contrast how the residents perceive the trees and urban green spaces with the perceptions of the policy makers and planners involved in the recovery projects. With that information he hopes to define the roles of trees and green space in the community's efforts to rebuild after the hurricane.

## DISSERTATION STUDENTS

### **Carla Norwood**

UNC Chapel Hill, Ecology

*Thinking like a landscape: participatory approaches to mapping changing rural landscapes*

Research Location: Macon County, North Carolina

Carla's research investigates how to better integrate local values about place with landscape change research, mapping, and modeling. She has conducted ethnographic interviews, focus groups, spatial analysis, public meetings, and a large sample survey to better understand the many perspectives on the changing, but highly valued landscape. By better integrating the power of stories with the power of maps, she hopes that this research can inform local conversations about shared values and be useful to local and regional policy makers.

## SPOTLIGHT: CARLA NORWOOD



The citizens of Macon County, North Carolina, are very concerned about the impacts of development on their way of life and the local environment. An influx of ex-urbanites who build homes on the previously undeveloped mountainsides and ridge tops is rapidly changing the character of the local landscape, introducing new values and tensions into community life, and increasing sediment loads in local streams.

Carla Norwood, who was awarded a CFERP dissertation fellowship this year, is collaborating with community members on research aimed at improving the public dialogue about these changes. Carla observes that there is a disconnect between existing studies and the concerns of local residents, both newcomers and old-timers alike. She notes that there are many maps of the local area that depict increases in population, numbers of subdivisions, and landslide risk areas, but that these maps are often incomprehensible to local residents or do not resonate with their concerns. Similarly, the extensive scientific literature on the impacts of increased development on local forest and water resources does not inform the public discourse about development in any meaningful way. In a parallel pattern of unmet potential, land use change modeling is remote from the practice of land use planning, and the gulf is even wider between modeling and the public.

Carla and her community partners are using participatory mapping as a means of bridging these gaps between scientific research and community aspirations for a healthy environment and community well being. The research “seeks to lessen the disconnect between the stories [local residents tell] about the changing landscape and the maps that represent those changes, both by making academic research more accessible to local communities and by exploring the ways in which community concerns can drive mapping and land use modeling. It also seeks to help facilitate meaningful opportunities for citizens to discuss the impact these changes are having on their community and sense of place.”

# 2007 UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWS

## ASSISTANTSHIPS

### **Judy DeHose**

Northern Arizona University

*Participatory Evaluation of the Cibecue Historical Ecology Project: Ndee bini bidailzaa*

Research Location: White Mountain Apache Indian Reservation, AZ

Professor: MaryLynn Quartaroli, Flagstaff, AZ

Judy's research focuses on the evaluation of an existing summer program for Native high school and college students. The Ecology Project involves documenting existing ecological conditions at critical sites on reservation land, developing and implementing strategies for restoration work, in collaboration with the community, the Tribal Council, and the local school district. In addition, the involvement of students in this work seeks to increase their scientific and cultural knowledge, skills, and attitudes.

### **Stephanie Jackson**

Northern Arizona University

*Tribal Lands Wildlife and Natural Resources Ecology*

Research Location: Kaibab Paiute Reservation, AZ

Professor: Thomas Alcoze, School of Forestry

In conjunction with Thomas Alcoze, Stephanie is assisting in a research project on the Kaibab Paiute Reservation to study the health and status (herd population, habitat selection and range patterns) of the East Zion Mule Deer Herd that over-winters on the reservation. Collection sites and procedures will be informed by interview, focus group, and questionnaire information provided by selected Tribal members, staff, and research partners. The tribe requested the study because the herd, is a significant cultural and economic resource that provides food for the community and revenue from trophy hunts. The study results will guide herd management decisions.



# 2007 UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWS

## INTERNSHIPS

### **Sarah M Rogers**

Ohio University, Environmental & Plant Biology

*Promoting sustainable carbon trading as a means of additional income for small landowners*

Internship Location: National Network of Forest Practitioners, Athens, OH

Sarah's internship focused on creating and launching a new website called Forestrycarbon.com. Through Forestrycarbon.com the NNFPP hopes to promote ecologically, socially and economically sustainable carbon trading through the Chicago Climate Exchange. The website provides landowners with information on carbon trading and allows them to register new tree plantings and obtain carbon credits.

### **Tabatha White**

University of Maine, Forestry

*Community Forestry Project*

Internship Location: The New Forest Institute, Brooks, ME

Through her internship, Tabatha has helped the New Forest Institute with their goal of restoring and creating a community forest on a previously logged area in the town of Brooks. The institute plans to make the forest publicly available as both a community forest model and teaching facility, as well as for broader academic research opportunities. They hope to apply agroforestry and permaculture practices to contribute to economic gain in the short-term while fostering the land's long-term silvicultural rehabilitation.



# 2007 FELLOWS - BY THE NUMBERS

## All Applicants - Graduate & Undergraduate

	Number of Applicants
<b>TOTAL</b>	32
Graduate	19
Undergraduate	13
<b>GENDER</b>	
Men	11
Women	21
<b>ETHNICITY</b>	
African American	2
Asian	2
Hispanic	4
Native American	3
White	11
Other	2
Not given	8



## Graduate Applicants & Fellows

	Number of Applicants	Accepted	% of total accepted
<b>TOTALS</b>	19	7	37%
<b>GENDER</b>			
Men	6	3	43%
Women	13	4	57%
<b>ETHNICITY</b>			
African American	0	0	
Asian	1	0	
Hispanic	1	0	
Native American	1	1	14%
White	8	2	29%
Other	2	2	29%
Not given	6	2	29%

## Undergraduate Applicants & Fellows

	Number of Applicants	Accepted	% of total accepted
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>GENDER</b>			
Men	5	0	
Women	8	4	100%
<b>ETHNICITY</b>			
African American	2	0	
Asian	1	0	
Hispanic	3	0	
Native American	2	2	50%
White	3	2	50%
Other	0	0	
Not given	2	0	

### Race/Ethnicity

Of the 32 total applicants (graduate and undergraduate combined):

- 13 (31 percent) were students of color
- 11 were white
- 8 did not reveal their race on the application form

For the graduate applications:

- 5 or 26% of the applicants were students of color
- Of the 7 accepted graduate applicants, 3 or 43% were students of color

### Gender

Gender diversity weighed in the favor of women. Of all the applicants, 11 were men and 21 were women.

Women continue to comprise the majority of fellows in 2007: 8 out of the 11 accepted students (graduate and undergraduate) or 72% were women.

### Graduate Institutions

In addition, 4 of the 19 applications for graduate fellowships we received this year were from universities new to the applicant pool. Of the 7 fellows selected, 2 of them are from new universities: UC Santa Cruz and University of Alaska, Fairbanks.



# PROGRAM STATISTICS 1997 - 2007

## Graduate Students

<b>Total Number of Fellows</b>	<b>84</b>	
Women	50	60%
Men	34	40%
<b>Total Number of Fellowships</b>	<b>98</b>	
Masters Fellowships	27	27%
Pre-Dissertation Fellowships	31	32%
Dissertation Fellowships	40	41%
<b>Number of fellows funded more than once</b>	<b>14</b>	
Masters to Pre-Dissertation	1	
Masters to Dissertation	2	
Pre-dissertation to Dissertation	11	
<b>Number of unique universities</b>	<b>34</b>	
<b>Number of unique research states</b>	<b>28</b>	

## Undergraduate Students

<b>Total Number of Fellows</b>	<b>12</b>	
Women	10	84%
Men	2	16%
<b>Total Number of Fellowships</b>	<b>14</b>	
Internships	8	57%
Assistantships	6	43%
<b>Number of Fellows funded more than once</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>Number of unique universities</b>	<b>9</b>	
<b>Number of unique research states</b>	<b>7</b>	

# STEERING COMMITTEE

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## **Professor Jill Belsky**

Professor of Rural and Environmental Sociology  
Director of the Bolle Center for People and Forests  
College of Forestry and Conservation  
University of Montana

## **Dr. Marla Emery**

Research Geographer  
USDA Forest Service  
Northeastern Research Station  
George D. Aiken Forestry Sciences Laboratory

## **Professor Louise Fortmann**

Rudy Grah Chair in Forestry and Sustainable Development  
Department of Environmental Science, Policy and Management  
University of California, Berkeley

## **Dr. Jonathan W. Long**

Pacific Southwest Research Station  
Tahoe Environmental Research Center

## **Jacquelyn Ross**

Director  
Community Futures Initiative (CFI)  
Office of the President  
University of California

## **Dr. Dreamal Worthen**

College of Engineering Sciences, Technology and Agriculture  
Florida A & M University

