

**BFS Summer Program Progress Report Meeting**

**Thursday, June 26, 2014**

**10 am to 12:20 pm**

10:00 am Welcome & Introductions

Review of Day’s Agenda

Dr. Sara Syswerda, PCCI Education and Field Station Director

**Undergraduate Research Grants for the Environment**

Central Michigan University

* 10:10am Anthony Wing and Katy Isles, along with faculty advisor Peter Kourtev, will be studying the relationship between ecosystem diversity and function using the northern pitcher plant (*S. purpurea)* leaves as a model system.
* 10:20am Dylan Sterling and Cameron Poyner, mentored by Brad Swanson, will document the ability of invasive plant *Phragmites* to hybridize with its native relative*.*
* 10:30am Stephanie Ellison and faculty advisor Brad Swanson will estimate raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) density with track-plate foot-printing.

Grand Rapids Community College

* 10:40am Jim Jenson, mentored by Pam Laureto, will work on the classification of mesic hardwood forests at PCCI.
* 10:50am Lindsey Cnossen and faculty advisor Matthew Douglas will examine the biodiversity of aquatic, semi-aquatic, and near-shore bugs at the Pierce Cedar Creek Institute and a compare their grooming and cleaning behavior.
* 11:00am Melena Grady, advised by faculty member Matthew Douglas, will investigate the sexual size dimorphism and biodiversity of spiders at the Pierce Cedar Creek Institute.

Grand Valley State University

* 11:10am Heather Taylor and Sophie Bennett, along with faculty advisors Alexandra Locher and Todd Aschenbach, will be relating the presence of exotic shrubs to soil properties and overstory forest characteristics at PCCI.
* 11: 20am Jeff Bartman and Nate Kudla, advised by faculty member Jennifer Moore, are investigating the effects of prey abundance on habitat use by eastern massasauga rattlesnakes.

Kalamazoo College

* 11:30am Brian Cunningham-Rhoads and Will Gribbin, mentored by faculty member Binney Girdler, will examine the effects of propagule pressure and disturbance on the invasive species *Centaurea maculosa*.
* 11:40am Jack Kemper and Abraham Bayha, along with faculty advisor Ann Fraser, will assess the impacts of European honey bees on native bee pollinators in natural ecosystems.

**Gordon Art Fellowship**

11:50am Gordon Art Fellow Cassondra Ruso and faculty advisor Paul Krieger from Grand Rapids Community College will be working on a project entitled, “The Beauty Beneath.” The proposed art project will be an investigation of the single celled protists that inhabit the various ecosystems at the Pierce Cedar Creek Institute.

**Nature in Words Fellowship**

12:00pm Nature in Words Fellow Marie Hallinen and faculty advisor Diane Seuss from Kalamazoo College will be working on a writing project entitled, “Subjectivity in Science.”

12:10pm Nature in Words Fellow Patricia Schlutt and faculty advisor Pamela Dail Whiting from Aquinas College will be working on a poetry project entitled, “Communion in the Wilderness: What Poetry Has to Teach Us about the Natural World.”

**Resident Advisor and Teacher In Residence/American Bellflower Project**

12:20pm Marty Buehler (science teacher, Hastings High School), Marty’s class at Hastings High School, and Daniel Buehler (student, Western Michigan University) will be working with Holly Prendeville (Researcher, University of Virginia) on a research project at PCCI looking at the American Bellflower. Daniel will be serving as the resident advisor in Meadow Lodge this summer.

12:30 pm Adjourn (approximate time)

Note: Lunch will be served at 12:30 pm (Please RSVP)