

# Mountain Lake Echoes '98







## MOUNTAIN LAKE BIOLOGICAL STATION

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UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA  
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14 October 1998

Dear Mountain Laker,

The summer of 1998 was memorable for many reasons. As the year of the salamander, cycle II, it had special meaning. First and foremost this was the summer that Wayne and Mary Ann did what they had been threatening me with doing almost since the day I arrived seven years ago; they announced their retirement. Mary Ann tried to keep it a secret, but the frequent tears and outbursts of nostalgia gave me hints throughout the summer. We will all miss Wayne's lectures on the history of Salt Pond Mountain and his helpful presence in the office. Mary Ann has been the rock upon which the station has survived for more than a decade of uncertainty with different directors (I think she survived service under six, but the hard time was having five in ten years). Her wonderful smile, helpful attitude, knowledge of natural history, and apparently limitless knowledge of how to get things done in Giles County will never be replaced. A few of you are old enough to remember her "doing the Charleston" at the end of square dances or young enough to recall watching her up on the platform holding the rope and trying to decide if she really was young enough to plunge into the New River.

This was also another summer of a highly successful REU program. We had a great group of researchers who worked hard and formed a very cohesive unit. Classes went very well - we just needed larger enrollments. Dan Cristol showed us what a great teacher, exciting researcher, and all-around welcome addition to MLBS he could be. Michelle Marvier was also new to the station, received fantastic reviews, and was easy for me to ask back to teach the course herself next summer. PK did his usual wonderful job of teaching students about life and math in an unintimidating, entertaining way. We will miss him greatly next summer. Andy Taylor was back after many years away, but I knew we needed him around to keep the other Andy under control. The McCollum family - now with two girls - was another wonderful addition to the community. The fish course was a return performance, but since Rich was able to stay the whole five weeks, I am sure that he will be back again for the new millennium in tandem we trust. Finally, Charlie Werth, who now takes the mantle from Mary Anne as the greybeard, taught a course about plants, life, and driving mountain roads. He will be back.

Our line-up for next year will soon be on the web page, but here is the privileged first look. We are moving to having one preseason course, a four-week session, then a two-week inter-session, then another four-week session. We hope that this will boost enrollments, widen our offerings, and provide more opportunity for innovations.

**Field Entomology** - Gard Otis and Steve Marshall, University of Guelph



This will be a two-week intensive field course during the preseason offered jointly through the University of Guelph and the University of Virginia. Those of you who have been at the station during the last two Mays know that this will be a real winner. I will be joining them on the faculty faking it as a bug guy.

**Southern Appalachian Ferns** - Charlie Werth, Texas Tech.

Charlie will teach this two week course in the middle of the summer during an experimental inter-session. We hope to offer other courses in the future in this slot. Please send me your suggestions.

**Advanced Field Ornithology** - Dan Cristol, College of William and Mary

Dan will be back with a new course designed for students who have had a bird course at their home institution. The emphasis will be on studying birds in the field. I am very excited about the possibilities.

**Ecology of Mammals** - Jack Cranford, VPI&SU.

Jack comes back after several years to teach what is always a popular course.

**Statistics for Field Biology** - Andy Taylor, University of Hawaii

We are bringing Andy back to teach a course that he and I did together about 12 years ago. This is your chance to get that knowledge you wished you had last summer.

**Conservation Biology** - Michelle Marvier, University of Washington. This successful course will be moved to the second four-weeks.

**Plant Diseases in Natural Systems** - Janis Antonovics and Michael Hood, UVa

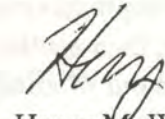
This is a new offering by two old-time Mountain Lakers. Janis and I hope that this is the first in a series of teaching and research initiatives on the biology of diseases in natural systems at the station.

**DNA Techniques for Field Biologists** - Douglas Taylor, UVa and Rytas Vilgalys, Duke

This is a return of one of our more successful courses in the last 15 years. Many of you know that there are many hidden benefits to having Rytas and Doug at the station.

Don't forget to tell your friends, students and colleagues about MLBS. I hope that you agree it is a great place to meet interesting people, learn about field biology, have fun, buy tasteful mugs, really cool hats, a few goofy hats, and another outstanding tee shirt for your collection. Keep checking our web page for breaking news. I wish all of you a happy and productive winter.

Sincerely,

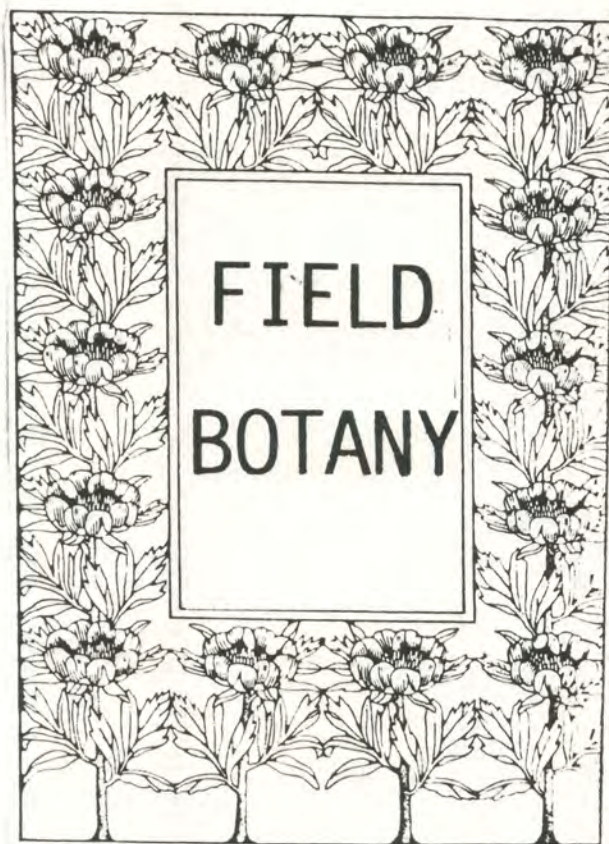


Henry M. Wilbur  
Director



## TOP 70 REASONS TO BOTANIZE

1. Bog slogging
2. Top 15 families
3. Deer pollination
4. Facilities
5. Outdoor air-conditioning
6. Keying out Poison Ivy
7. Flora of West Virginia
8. *Dioscorea quaternata*
9. Sound of Music at Bob's Field
10. Sunset at wind rock
11. Modern Synthesis
12. Antithetic theory
13. Gravel roads
14. Hiking with stitches
15. *Dryopteris confusiana*
16. Charlie's singing
17. "Country Roads... Take me Home..."
18. Rice Crispy Treats
19. Bag lunches with onions
20. Through the shadow of the tunnel of death to the Land of Milk and Honey
21. Frogs
22. Opposite vs. alternate
23. The Dew of Doom
24. Butt Mountain
25. Compacted filing space (herbarium)
26. Scribes
27. Late nights in the lab
28. Skin testing *LaPortea*
29. Hand lenses
30. What family is it in?
31. Son of a birch!
32. Son of a beech!
33. Hall of the Mountain Spleenwort
34. Wall of the Mountain Spleenwort
35. *Scroph-U-lareaceae*
36. Ornithology is for the birds!
37. Brakes?
38. Do you sedum brakes?
39. Marco....Polo!
40. "To know a flower you must destroy it."
41. Cookies and veggies
42. Zygotic meiosis
43. Site #8 at Tea Creek
44. Plants are people too
45. Darwin award
46. The Wounds of Hop-along
47. Don't pick the Buckleya
48. Too many yams give you Dioscorea
49. Hey, isn't this tent waterproof?
50. Rain is a natural dishwasher
51. Hairy armpits (armpit pubescens)
52. The view from Bald Knob (in the fog)
53. I left my tent in the car at the station
54. With fronds like these, who needs anemones?
55. You gotta love great big herbs!
56. Fawn Forest
57. Dead Raccoon Stop
58. Ostrich Fern Farm
59. Sermon on Mount Rogers
60. Ghetto Reggie
61. What the rangers don't know can't hurt them
62. Where's the big tent?
63. "sketti!"
64. We need to have a mounting session
65. Like, uh, podium or something to stand on
66. Hikers are coming! Hurry!
67. What the hell?
68. Rhododendron Hell ☺
69. Hey, No Problem!
70. Team Fern







a botanizing  
we will go!

Before we knew what we were getting into...  
(Tom Wiebolt joined us in the field)

Kristen, Mischa & Rachael  
at Black Mountain



The only break on an 8 mile hike to Mt. Rogers!



Justin & Canada lily





# NAME THE ROAD CONTEST

SILENE STREET <sup>Dead end Rd</sup>

USTILAZO MONVU

Giles County is now assigning 911 addresses. We get to name the road coming into the station. Please list your suggestions below. There are some restrictions and the name must be approved.

- |                                 |                           |                         |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>Cinereus road</u>            | <u>Hunters' Branch Rd</u> | <u>Gravel Rd</u>        |
| ★ <u>Salt Pond Rd.</u>          | <u>Mud Branch Rd</u>      | Blood Dr.               |
| <u>Pahlavi Road</u>             | <u>Circle of Life</u>     | Hemlock Highway         |
| <u>Osmunda Ave.</u>             | <u>Biology Blvd.</u>      | Fernwood Circle         |
| H-M <u>NOTTA HOTEL Place</u>    | <u>Felix Femina St.</u>   | Emmet St.               |
| <u>GOA WAY</u>                  | <u>Columbine Rd.</u>      | Spit Fork Way           |
| <u>HOBBS HILL</u>               | <u>Chestnut drive</u>     | Infection connection    |
| <u>Kepa WAY</u>                 | <u>Red Oak drive</u>      | Bed Bug Blvd.           |
| 2 <u>Rattlesnake Ridge Road</u> | <u>SMUT Place</u>         | Help US LANE            |
| 3 <u>Darwin Drive</u>           | <u>Reynolds Way</u>       | Research Rd.            |
| <u>ANOVA ALLEY</u>              | <u>Ample Langer Id.</u>   | Wagner Way              |
| <u>Allozyme Alley</u>           | <u>Bio. Sta. Road.</u>    | Experimental Expressway |
| <u>Selection Way</u>            | <u>Salamander Street</u>  | Biology Blvd.           |
| <u>Drift Dr.</u>                | <u>Wittour Way</u>        | Research Place          |
| <u>Junco Way</u>                | H-M <u>Mander Meander</u> | Gravel Dinty            |
| <u>Pot Hole Rd.</u>             | <u>Earwig Way</u>         | Right Fork Rd           |
| <u>Hugh Way</u>                 | and dr. per run           |                         |
| Road to Good Food Dr.           |                           |                         |



## CRAYFISH PROTOCOL



In groups of two, we will sample 100 paces of Craig Creek in four distinct areas. One partner will work and play on the bank of the creek. Every five paces, the earthbound partner will stop and record the data shouted out from her water-scramblin' partner. This is probably the best time to record whether the area of the creek is under a closed or an open canopy. While the earthbound partner keeps time, the waterbound partner will have 60 seconds to look for crayfish, first just lookin' around and then picking up rocks and gettin' gritty. In riffle areas or deep pools, rocks will have to be turned over and/or picked up first. (Remember the technique for riffle sampling...D-net down stream while kickin' lightly through the rocks.) Record the number of individual species found. If you cannot determine a positive ID for the crayfish, record it as unknown. For those unidentified crayfish, try to at least distinguish between Native, (N), or Introduced, (I) species. Be sure to characterize the sampling area <sup>in which the crayfish were found</sup> in which the crayfish were found. This sampling area is defined as the shoulder stance radius around the spot where the crayfish was found...not necessarily collected. (The agreed technique here was to draw a circle around the area with one foot in the center...) This process may be approximated, for we are only trying to characterize the immediate habitat of each individual and a few inches here and there shouldn't create much error. Finally, using a meter stick, measure the depth of the water in which you found your lil' crayfish buddies. Move up stream and repeat until you have completed 20 sample areas and covered 100 paces of the creek.



NOTE \*Do not feel obligated to identify the species within the 60 seconds. Take time after collecting the crayfish in that particular sample spot to identify the species.

### DEFINITIONS:

Riffle: White, fast moving water

Run: Fast moving water, but no white. More shallow than a pool

Pool: Relatively slow water, deeper than a run.

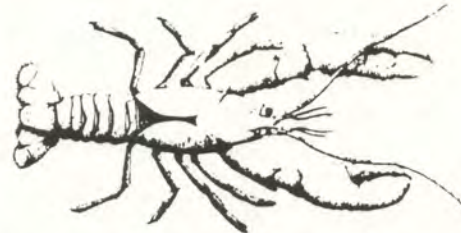


### THIS IS A VERY VERY IMPORTANT POINT:

!!!HAVE FUN!!! ----- YOU'RE IN A CREEK IN THE HILLS  
ON A BEAUTIFUL JUNE AFTERNOON!!

\* IN FACT: The LAST June afternoon of 1998! \*

!ENJOY!



"I love Craig Creek in June, how about you?" ♪





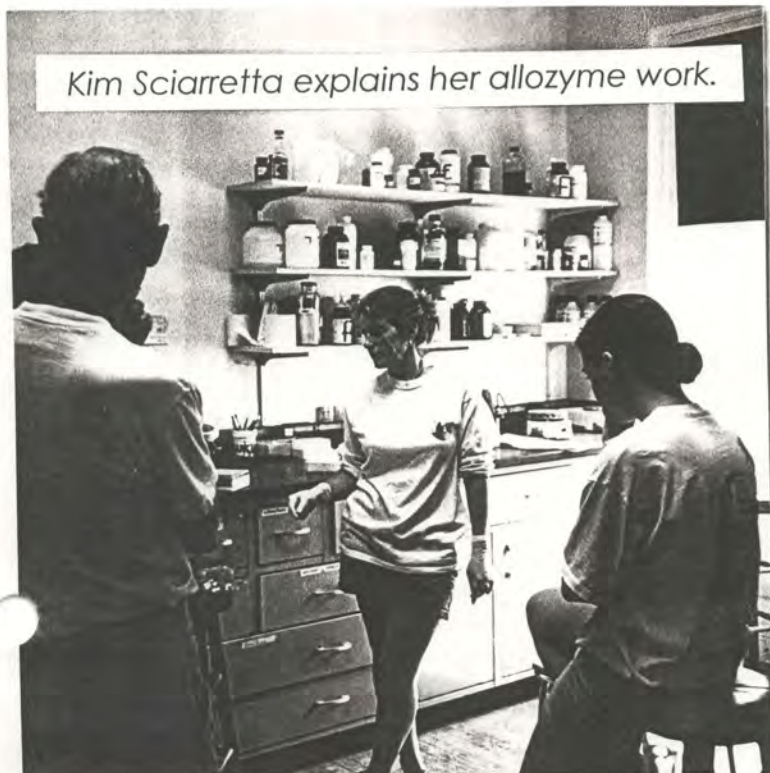
# Open House 1998



*Lots of people showed up!*



*Alice explains her Silene project to visitor*



*Kim Sciarretta explains her allozyme work.*



*John Dodge talks about plants on display*

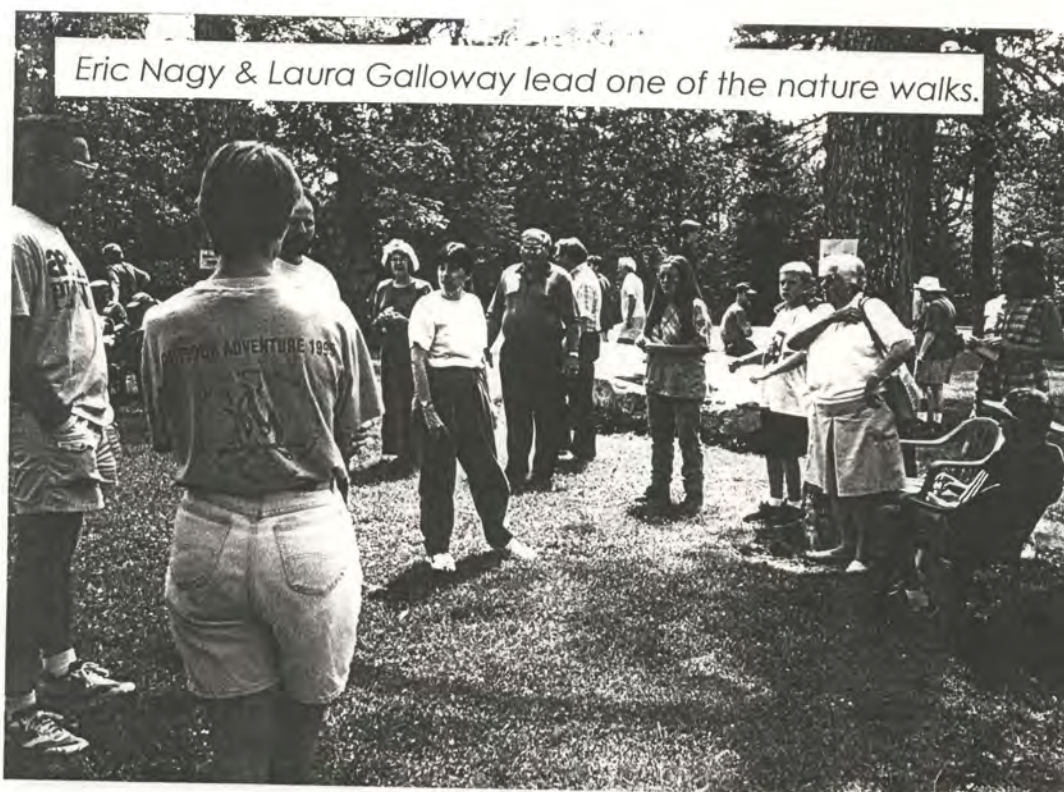




Conservation Class provided games for kids.



--even some parents got involved.



Eric Nagy & Laura Galloway lead one of the nature walks.



Davey Z & friend



We won!  
Michelle Marvier, Wendy Palen, Becky Wilbur  
Scott freeman, Carol Aron, Michelle Hill  
Eric Snajdr, Elise Donnelly, Ben Koch

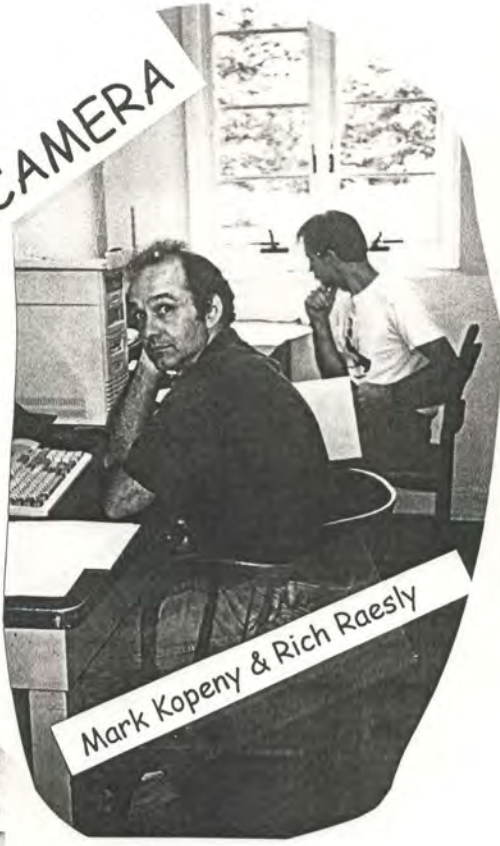


Michelle Hill & Carol Aron getting ready for the race!





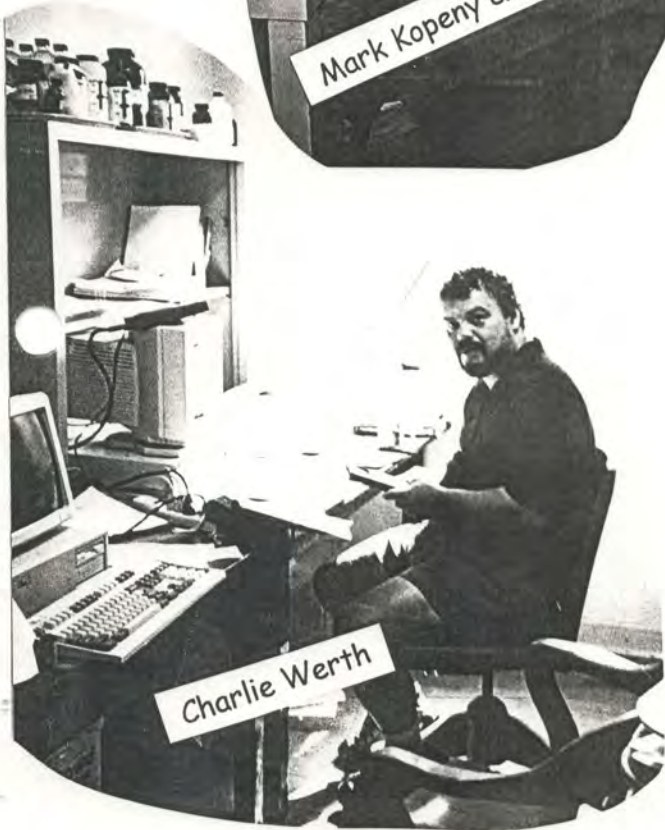
# CANDID CAMERA



Mark Kopeny & Rich Raesly



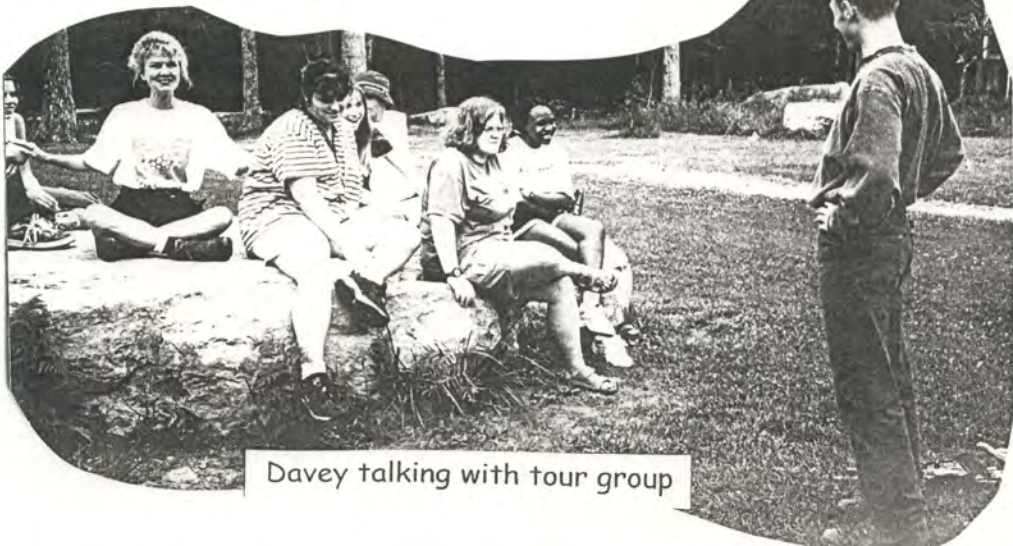
2 unidentified students cleaning out Charlie's lab while he was gone—their heads have been removed in the photo to protect them from being recognized



Charlie Werth



???  
try Conservation biology!



Davey talking with tour group





A rainy July 4<sup>th</sup> forced us inside...

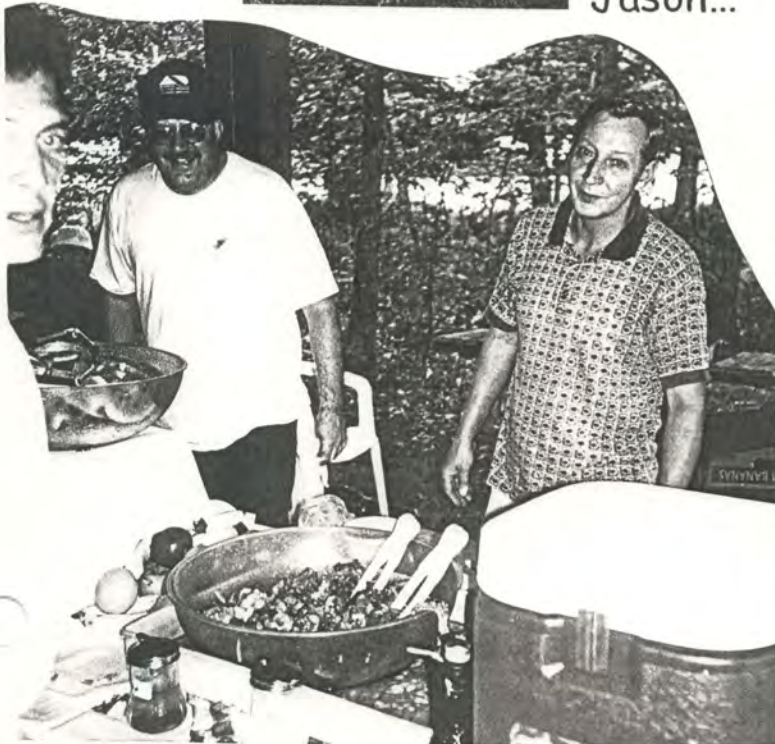
...well, almost all of us!



Jason...



Ben, why are you sitting in the rain?



Dennis, Steve & Bobby set up the meal.

...and Tim unload the van







## Conservation Biology

Amy Smith, Rachel Massey, Azzie Matinpour,  
Jen Lechuga, & Peter Kareiva  
Alyssa Novak, Kristen Sabo, Michelle Marvier,  
Mary Lucey, Maria Tucker, & Meg Shea



## Vireonidae

Elise & Brandi



## Junco Bunch

Ellen Ketterson, Jennifer Kleffner, Jennifer Grinstaff,  
Michelle Hill, Davey Ziolkowski & Val Nolen  
Elise Donnelly, Brandi Van Roo, Carol Aron,  
Eric Snajdr, Diane Neudorf



Lorne Wolfe, Laura Galloway & Aditi Pai



### Ornithology

Anna George  
Tim Reid  
Dan Cristol/faculty

### Field Botany

John Dodge  
Kristen Novotny  
Rachael Perrott  
Justin Runyon  
Mischa Schuler  
Kevin Stilwell  
Charlie Werth/faculty

### Conservation Biology

Jen Lechuga  
Mary Lucey  
Rachel Massey  
Azzie Matinpour  
Kristen Sabo  
Meg Shea  
Amy Smith  
Maria Tucker  
Peter Kareiva/faculty  
Michelle Marvier/faculty

### Biology of Fishes

Mark Dugo  
David Gayeski  
Jebb Kelly  
Gina Pisoni  
Beth Romeo  
Steven Smith  
Mark Kopeny/faculty  
Rich Raesly/faculty

### Population Ecology

Scott Freeman  
Kevin Stilwell  
Andy Taylor/faculty  
Andy McCollum/faculty

### Junco Chicanery

Chip, chip, chip, the Junco pretends to advertise  
My nest is here right before your eyes  
But as my search becomes futile, I then realize  
Once again I was fooled by the sing-song lies  
Trickery and subterfuge a small dark-eyed fellow can bestow  
But oh what delight when I discover the grass entwined hollow  
In the banks, under logs, or among the roots of a tree  
As the season progresses high in a hemlock no longer an anomaly  
The speckled eggs and punk-rock nestlings always a pleasure to see  
A full day's adventure, binoculars in hand, trekking through the trees  
The search continues, never a routine but always something new  
Goodbye to the Juncos...I wish them a fond adieu

Michelle Lilani '98

### THE SALAMANDER SONG

by Miriam Pinsker

If I were a salamander  
I'll tell you what I do  
I'd hide under all of the rocks  
And stay away from you

If I were a salamander  
I'd squirm through all the streams  
And all that you would see of me  
Would occur in your dreams

But I'm not a salamander  
And one I'll never be  
So meanwhile I'll hope that they're kind  
And want to play with me

So now all the salamanders  
We beg you desperately  
We need you for our project  
So let us measure thee

Thanks MLBS!  
The TIPsters



EVERYONE!!  
THANK2 FOR BEING SO NICE  
7

TO ME!!

From INDIGO

Thanks for catching  
"baby-yahs" for me!



ORNITHOLOGY 98:  
Tim Reid, Dan Cristol & Indigo, Anna George



THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM & MARY DELEGATION  
Dana Hawley, Tim Reid, Elise Donnelly, Stephanie Kane,  
Terri Rafiq, Dan Cristol & Erin Potter



# MT. LAKE MEMORIES



new friends



birthday parties



The McKenzies



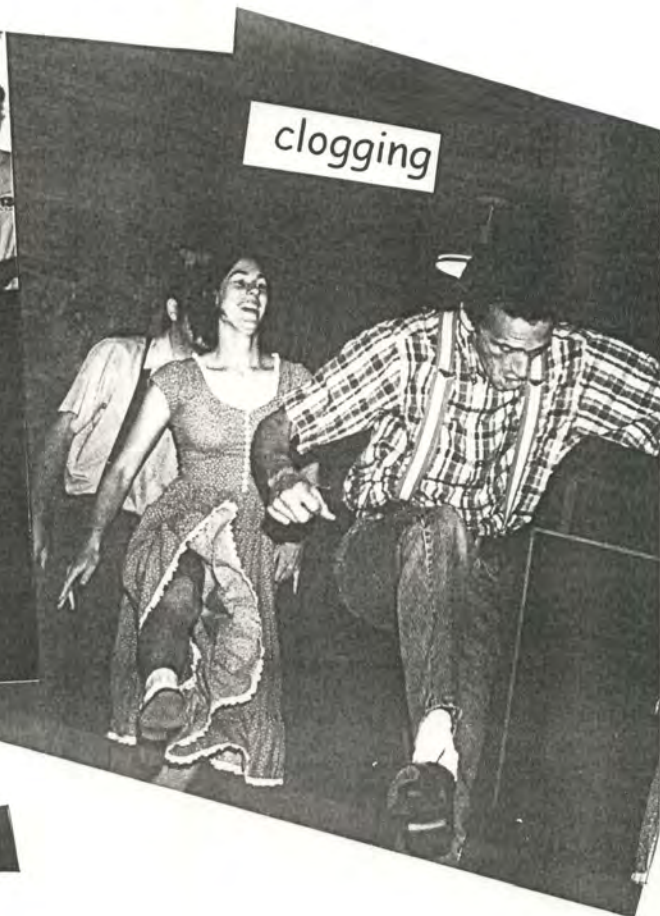
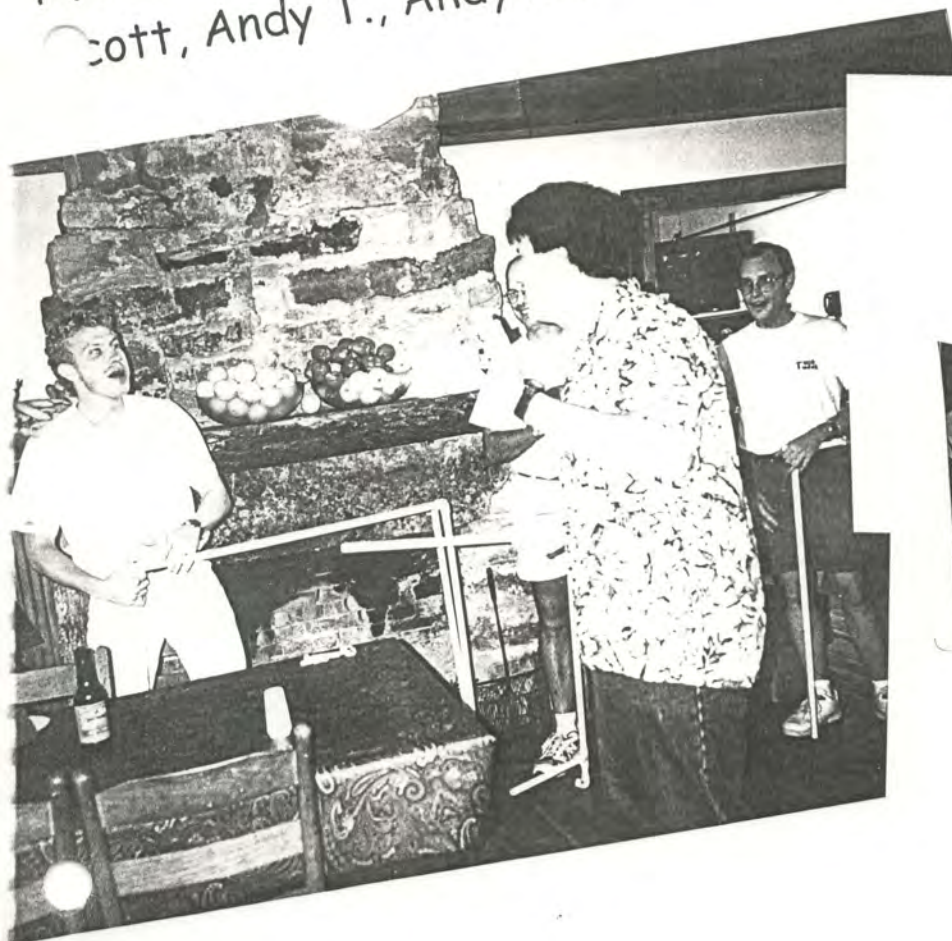
more friends!



# That good ole Mt. Music!



PVC Band  
Scott, Andy T., Andy Mc & Kevin





# Cast of Characters!



Mike

Laura & Erica



Elise



Linda & Lindsay



Dana, Hazel, Lindsay, Helen  
& Mike



Helen & Mike



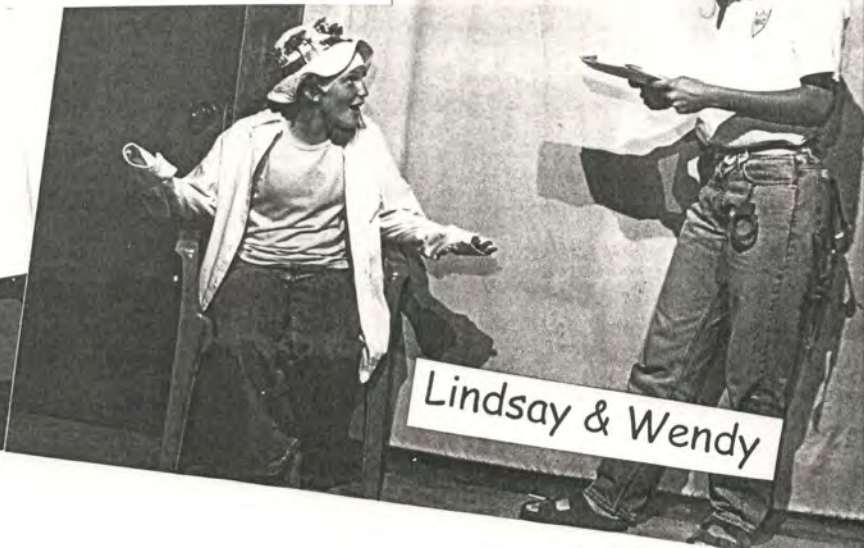
From the book by Jean Merrill

adapted for the Mountain Lake stage by  
Becky, Helen, and Lindsay Wilbur

Ben



Lindsay & Wendy







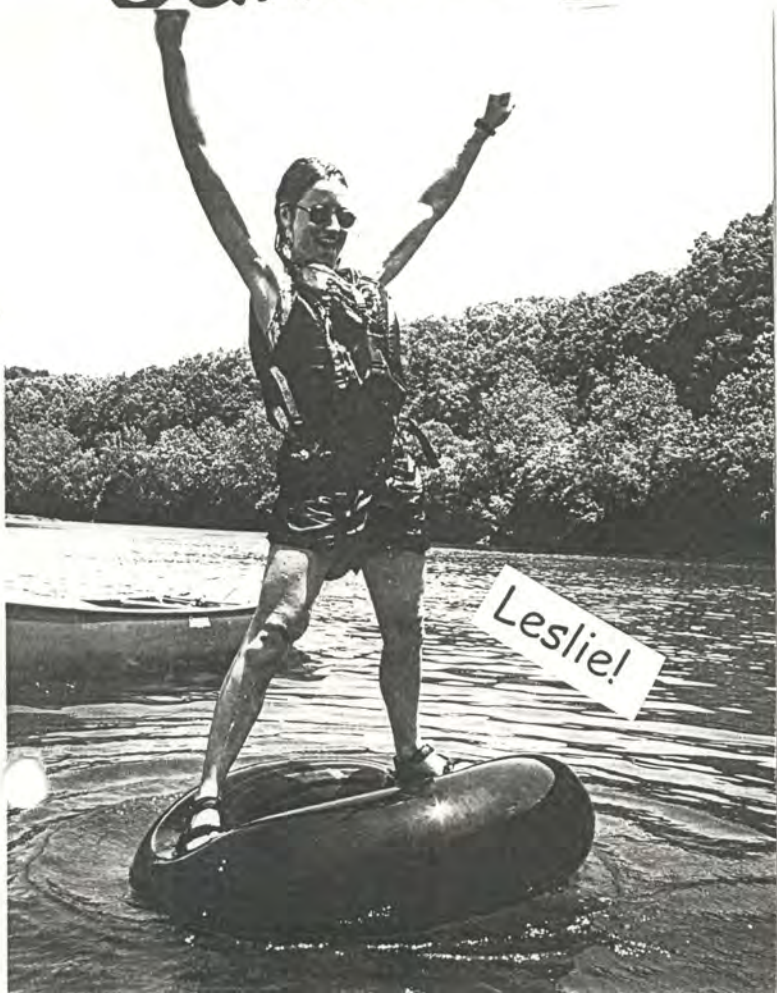
Becky(www)



Helen & Lindsay



# Canoeing the

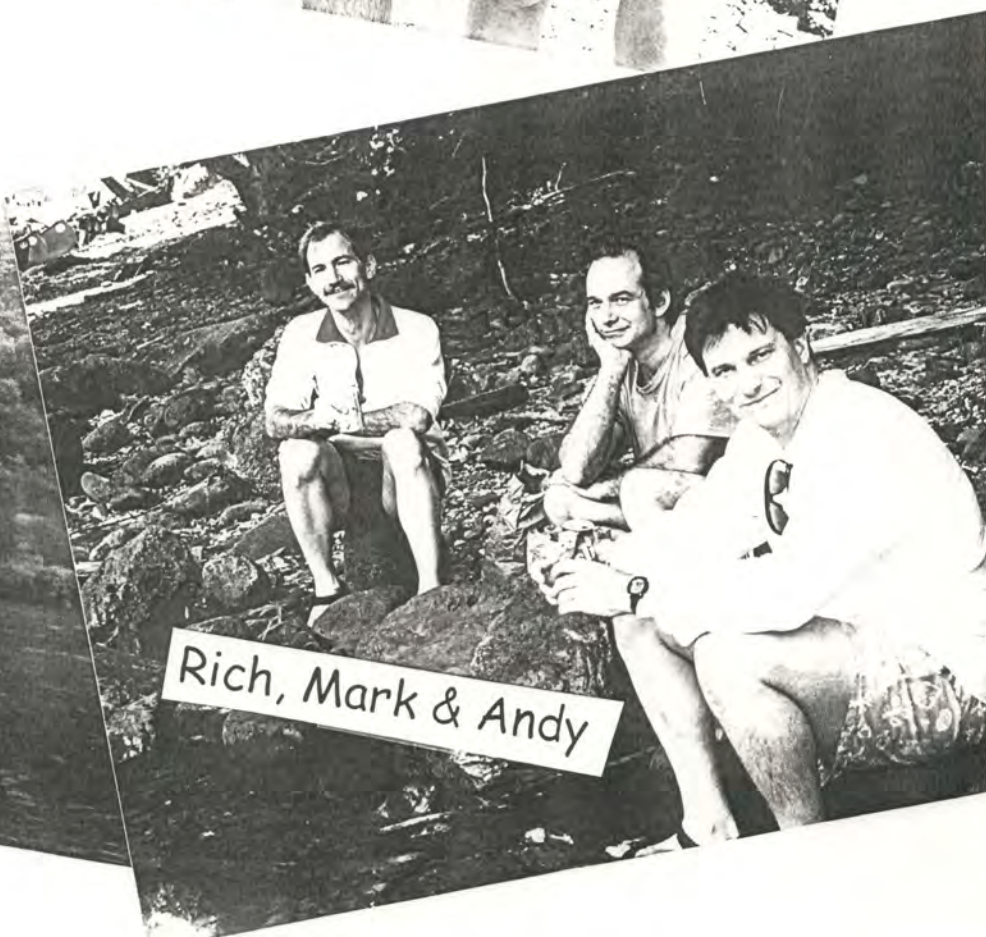


Leslie!

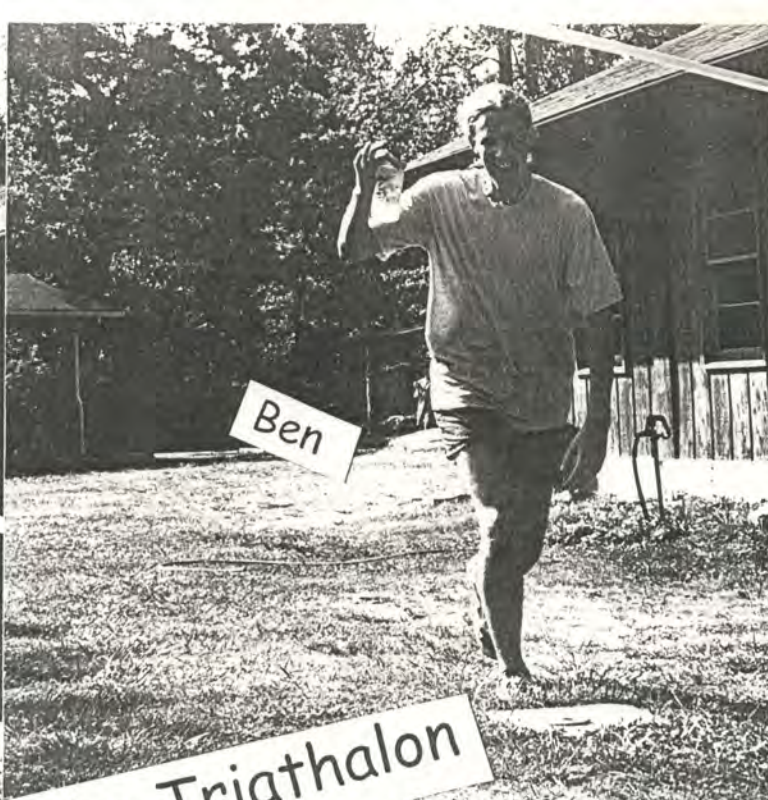


Laura, Erica, Danielle, Leslie, Scott, Gwenne & Elizabeth









Annual Mt. Lake Triathalon



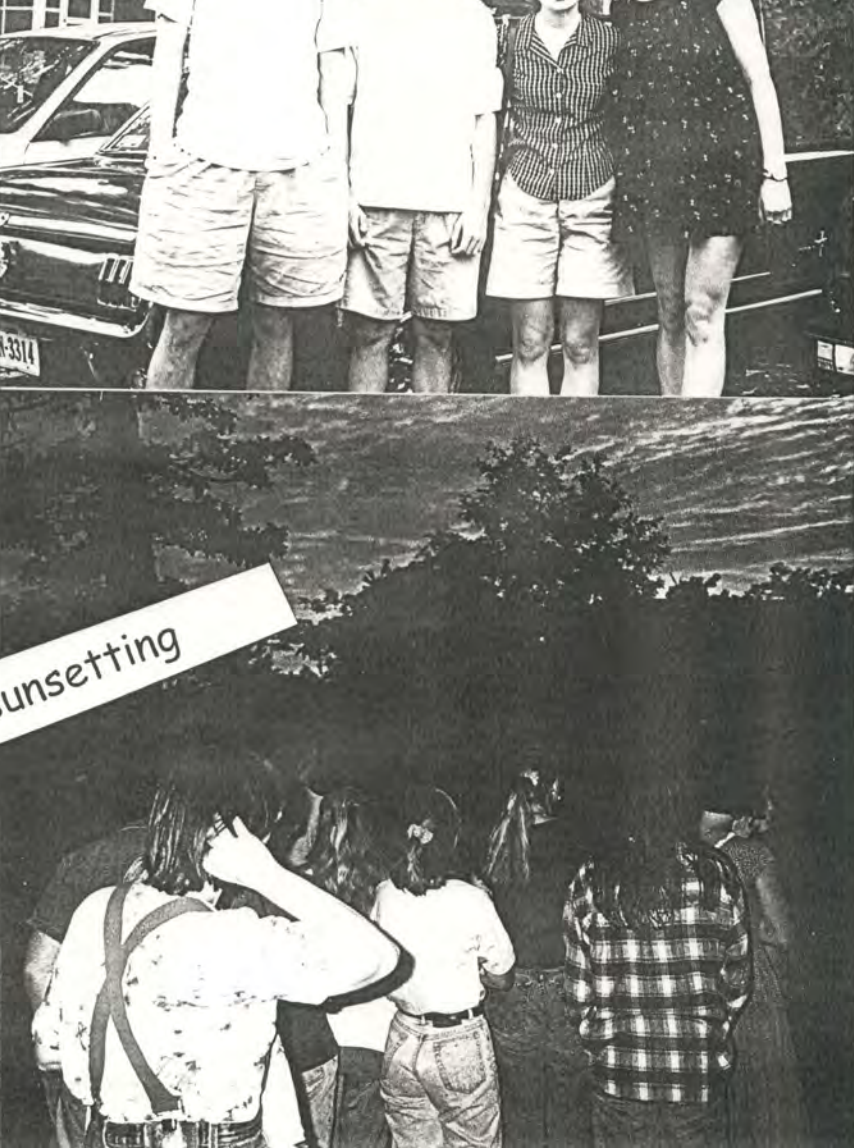




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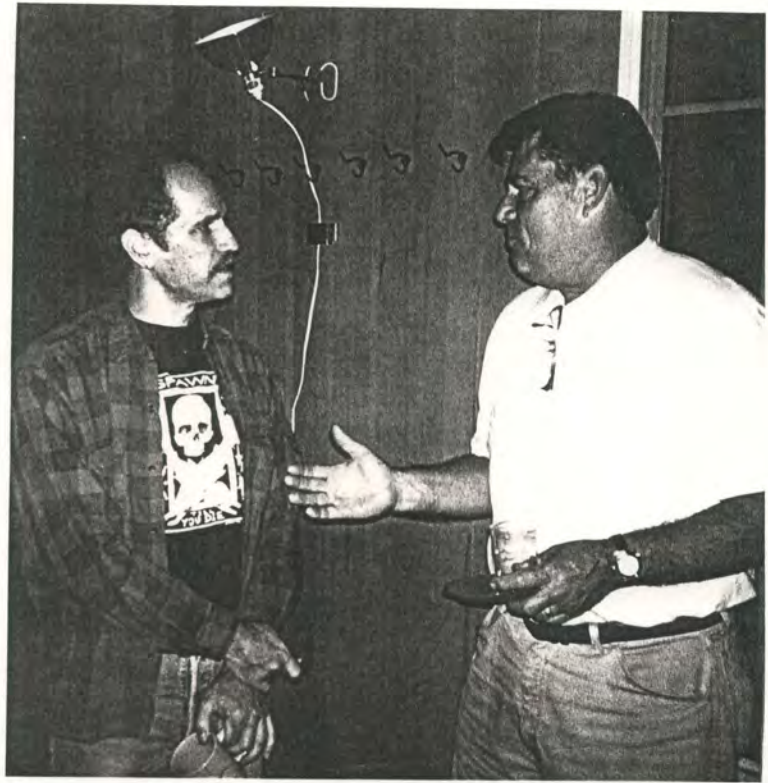


# Walton Lecture

Life history evolution in  
guppies: empirical studies of  
adaptation in natural  
populations

David N. Reznick  
UCRiverside

Walton Lecture  
Thursday, July 30, 1998  
8:00 pm  
Mt. Lake Biological Station Auditorium



David Reznick & Jack Cranford



Dennis, Steve & Bobby setting up for  
the gala reception





# Population Ecology



now wait a minute, let me get that straight!

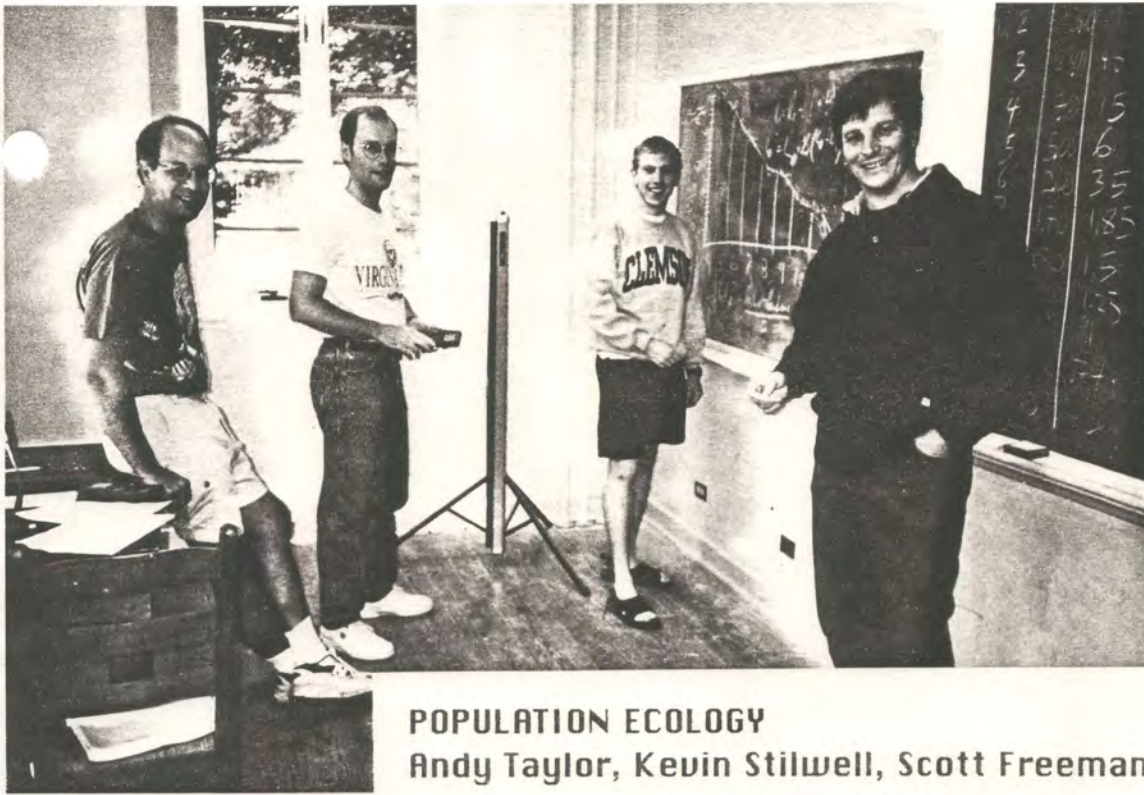


Scott & Kevin huffing & puffing  
to catch those little critters!



Andy McCollum mixing  
a savory protozoan stew





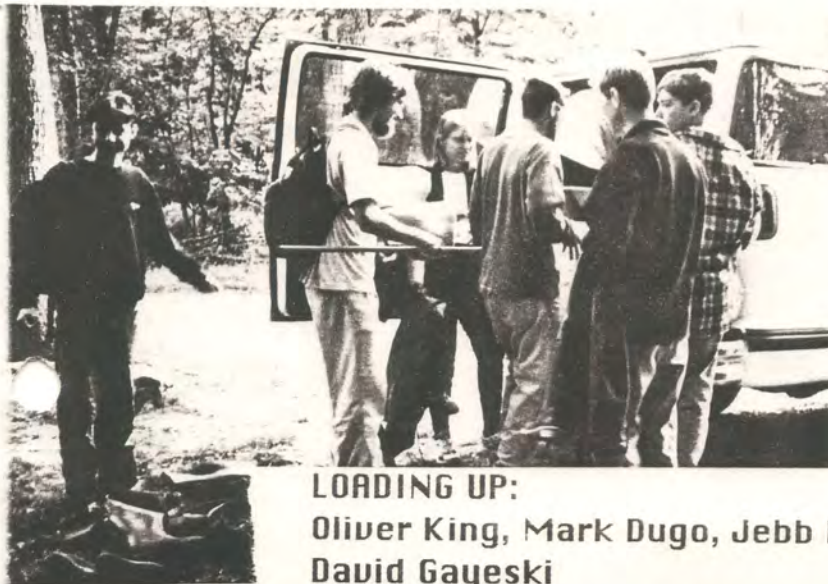
### POPULATION ECOLOGY

Andy Taylor, Kevin Stilwell, Scott Freeman, Andy McCollum



### BIOLOGY OF FISHES

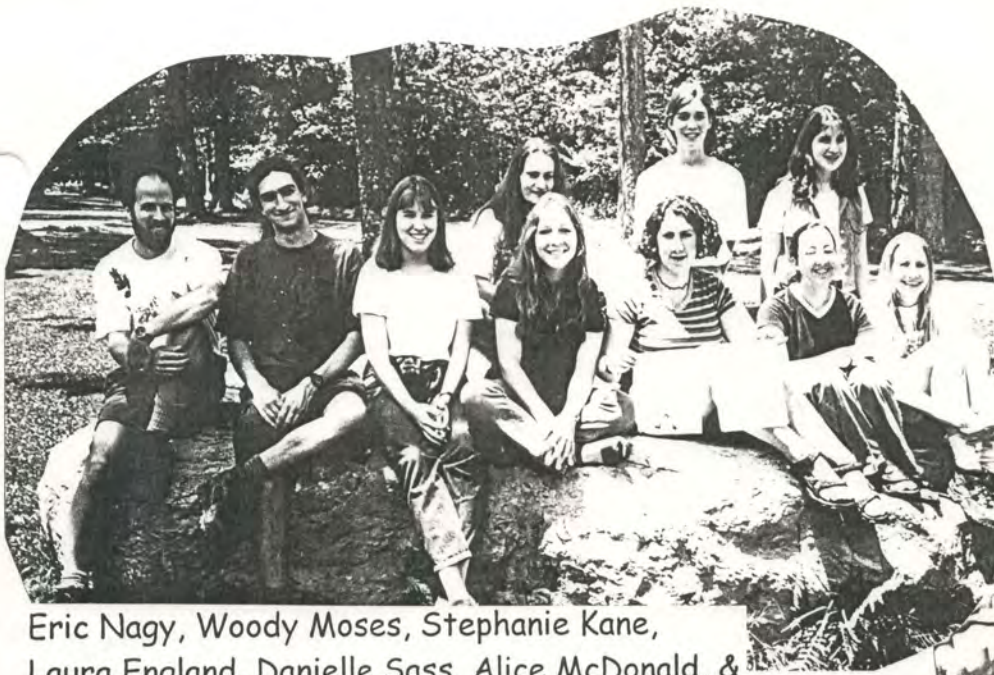
Mark Dugo, Jebb Kelly, Gina Pisoni, Steve Smith, David Gayeski, Rich Raesly, Beth Romeo, Mark Kopeng



### LOADING UP:

Oliver King, Mark Dugo, Jebb Kelly, Steve Smith, Rich Raesley, David Gayeski





Eric Nagy, Woody Moses, Stephanie Kane,  
 Laura England, Danielle Sass, Alice McDonald, &  
 Gwenne Wisinski  
 Danielle Bilyeu, Elise Donnelly, & Dana Hawley

REU



Alice



Kim Scarietta & Erin Potter [Team Fern]



Stephanie & Eric



REU Final Presentation Schedule  
Mountain Lake Biological Station  
1998

Thursday, August 6, 1998  
8:00 - 8:15 p.m.  
Auditorium

8:00 - 8:15 **Danielle Sass** - Cypsis abilities and response to cues in two larval populations of Southern Two-lined Salamanders (*Eurycea cirrigera*).

Thursday, August 13, 1998  
1:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Auditorium

1:00 - 1:15 **Dana Hawley** - The effects of age, sympatry, and signal device on the behavioral response of *Desmognathus monticola* to *D. quadramaculatus*.

1:15 - 1:30 **Alice McDonald** - Competition among isolates of the anther-smut fungus, *Ustilago violacea*.

1:30 - 1:45 **Woody Moses** - Pollinator mediated seed production in a density dependent system.

1:45 - 2:00 **Kim Sciarretta** - Genetic variances and clonal tendencies of *Athyrium filix-femina* var. *asplenoides* (Southern Lady Fern) in the Southern Appalachian region.

2:00 - 2:15 **Erin Potter** - Genetic divergence and gene flow among populations of *Athyrium filix-femina* var. *asplenoides*.

2:15 - 2:30 **Laura England** - Do interactions occur between lichen and chestnut blight fungus?

BREAK

3:00 - 3:15 **Gwenne Wisinski** - Prolactin and parental care in *Plethodon cinereus*.

3:15 - 3:30 **Stephanie Kane** - There goes the neighborhood! Testing for introgression in *Monarda* populations.

3:30 - 3:45 **Danielle Bilyeu** - Comparison of fitnesses of *Monarda clinopodia*, *M. fistulosa*, and their hybrids in three light environments.

3:45 - 4:00 **Elise Donnelly** - Comparison of nest defense between male and female Blue-headed Vireos.





# Mt. Lake Biological Station Directory

## Summer 1998

**Alford, Ross**  
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Debbie Roach, Christopher & Colin

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**Bigger, David**  
**Michele Marvier**  
w/Kareiva  
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MOUNTAIN LAKE  
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TO T OR NOT TO T

T = Testosterone  
C = Control



Phenotypic Variation Doesn't Have To  
Be Random!