



4th National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration

The Spirit of Cooperation



AUGUST 1-5, 2011 | BALTIMORE, MARYLAND • USA | BALTIMORE MARRIOTT WATERFRONT

Field Trip Opportunities – Wednesday, August 3, 2011

Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) *(Tour is limited to 20 people)*

Itinerary:

11:30am	Depart Baltimore Marriott Hotel
11:30am-12:15pm	Travel to SERC
12:30pm-2:00pm	Picnic Lunch and Presentation by Dr. Pat Megoñigal with a visit to the CO2 study site
2:15pm-3:15pm	Talk by Dr. John Parker
3:15pm-4:00pm	General SERC Talk by Karen McDonald
4:15pm-6:00pm	Bus returns to Hotel

Description:

Participants will be introduced to the research conducted at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center by meeting with two research scientists and then will be presented with a general overview of all the research conducted at the 18 different laboratories housed



onsite. The first speaker, Dr. Pat Megoñigal works in the Biogeochemistry lab and will discuss the impacts of global climate change on plants and intertidal zones, relating specifically to CO2 and sea level rise. During this talk participants will be shuttled to the world’s longest running CO2 study site to look at the chambers used for this research. Next Dr. John Parker will discuss the impacts of invasive species on ecosystem landscapes, and herbivory by large mammals. His research speaks directly to human impacts on native ecosystems. The last talk of the day will be an overview of the other 16 laboratories at SERC and their global and local research. Laboratories discussed will include the Fish and Invertebrate Lab, Plant Ecology Lab, Plant and Animal Interaction Lab (Mangroves), Nutrient Ecology Lab, Marine Invasive Species Lab and more!

The Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) is one of nine field research sites of the Smithsonian Institution. Established in 1964, SERC houses some of the longest continuous ecological studies in the world and has been creating new technology that expands the horizons of science for more than 40 years. The center lies along the western shores of the Chesapeake Bay, just 25 miles from the Nation’s Capital, and includes nearly 3,000 acres of wildlife conservation area, and 16 miles of undeveloped shoreline. It serves as a hub for research that extends around the globe. An active Internship and Fellowship program inspires the next generation of young scientists, and our Education and Outreach Department helps school children and members of the public to understand important environmental issues of the 21st Century.

Some highlights at SERC are:

- The world’s longest running field experiment on atmospheric increase in carbon dioxide (CO2) affecting the world’s plant communities.

- The National Ballast Water Information Clearinghouse and the national center for research on biological invasions in marine ecosystems.
- International leader in watershed research on the flow of nutrients through coastal landscapes.
- The world’s largest research team analyzing mangrove forests.
- National leader in the analysis of wetlands and riparian ecosystems inland use management.
- Longest record of acid rain and its chemical impacts in the mid-Atlantic regions.
- 28-year database on species composition and population dynamics of plants and animals in the Nation’s largest estuary and watershed, the Chesapeake Bay.
- 1,300+ Scientific Publications
- \$6,500,000 in current grants and contracts.

What to Wear & Bring: Dress for walking—long pants and lightweight long sleeved shirt (ticks, scratchy plants, and poison oak). Hats, sunscreen and sturdy walking shoes are a must.

Food Offered: Water and lunch are provided.

Driving Distance: Is approximately 30 miles east of D.C. www.smithsonian-map.notlong.com

Cost of Tour: \$95.00 per person
(Fees include lunch, transportation, and SERC fees)

For Questions about the Tour Site, Contact:

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