

What's New

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Keep up to date with new initiatives and activities in the Ecohealth field. Regular updates are available at the *Eco-Health* website: <http://www.ecohealth.net>.

APHA ANNUAL MEETING AND EXPOSITION

The American Public Health Association is holding its 137th annual conference November 7–11, 2009, in Philadelphia, Pa. The conference will explore a broad range of public health topics, with special focus on this year's theme, "Water and Public Health: The 21st Century Challenge."

The APHA Annual Meeting and Exposition attracts over 13,000 attendees annually, and is the oldest and largest gathering of public health professionals in the world. Physicians, nurses, administrators, educators, epidemiologists, and researchers from all over the world will be in attendance. Issues in current and emerging health science, policy, and practice will be addressed, with the general goal of health promotion and disease prevention in mind. More information can be found at the general conference website: <http://www.apha.org/meetings>.

INTRODUCTION TO MATHEMATICAL MODELS OF THE EPIDEMIOLOGY & CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

This short course for professionals will be held September 7–18, 2009, at Imperial College London. Their Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology is a world leader in mathematical modeling of the epidemiology and control of infectious disease in animals and humans. Since 1990, this 2-week course has helped public health professionals, policy makers, and infectious disease researchers learn more

about this exciting, growing field in both industrialized and developing countries.

Participants need no more than basic (i.e., high school level) mathematical skills. Previous participants have come from various countries, in fields such as health economics, public health, epidemiology, veterinary medicine, and clinical medicine. For more information, please e-mail InfectiousDiseaseModels@imperial.ac.uk.

INTECOL 2009: THE 10TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ECOLOGY

For the first time, the Officers and Board of INTECOL will hold their International Congress of Ecology in the southern hemisphere, in Brisbane, Australia. This year's congress, hosted by the Ecological Society of Australia and the New Zealand Ecological Society, will be held August 16–21, 2009. The theme is *Ecology in a Changing Climate, Two Hemispheres—One Globe*. More than 40 discussion topics will be featured, from marine conservation management to plant demography to historical ecology. In addition, a series of full- and half-day professional development workshops will be available to those who register. A full list of both program topics and workshops can be found on the website at www.intecol10.org. Anyone interested in the field of ecology is encouraged to attend.

HAWAII CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

The last week in July each year has been designated as "Conservation Week" by the state of Hawaii, and it is also when the Hawaii Conservation Conference takes place. This conference is the largest gathering of individuals involved and interested in the protection and management of Hawaii's

natural environment. This year, the conference will take place July 28–30, 2009, with the theme *Hawaii in a Changing Climate: Ecological, Cultural, Economic and Policy Challenges and Solutions*. It will be held at the Hawaii Convention Center in Honolulu. More information can be found at: <http://hawaiiconservation.org/conferenceproceedings.asp>.

CLEVELAND, OHIO GETS NEW CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND HUMAN ECOLOGY

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History and the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine have partnered to create a new Center for Environmental Health and Ecology. The Center will provide the public with education on environmental issues related to human health and disease. The director of the new Center creates a new faculty position; this individual will be responsible for teaching graduate level courses and participating in research projects. The alliance creates a tremendous advantage for both institutions, as it will draw upon the strengths of each to provide resources in research, education, and public outreach on local, regional, and global scales.

IAEH STUDENT SECTION LAUNCHES NETWORKING SITE

The Student Section of the International Association for Ecology and Health now has its own networking site (<http://ecohealthstudents.ning.com>). The site, which is independent of the IAEH Student Section informational webpage

(<http://www.ecohealth.net/students>), is a web-based community platform that allows students to directly interact with one another. Students can create a profile by sharing their name, university affiliation, country of residence, and research interests. Students with profiles communicate through an online discussion forum, post photographs of their research and field experiences, and share videos of interesting lectures or seminars. Highlights from the discussion forum include developing an EcoHealth book club, sharing an interesting web link on viruses and bush-meat hunters, and announcing the debut of an online documentary on aquatic pollution.

NEWS: ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT RENEWED

On Tuesday, March 3, 2009, President Barack Obama restored a requirement of the Endangered Species Act, which had been repealed by former President George Bush in his last month of office. The rule required that federal agencies consult with scientific experts on threatened habitats and species before proceeding with development projects that could affect their welfare. Under Bush's change, the requirement became an optional consultation for these industries and agencies. President Obama overrode the rule change, making such consultation once again mandatory, as it had been for the 30 years since the Act was first endorsed in the early 1970s.

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