

Upcoming Meetings and Workshops

International Conference on Mycorrhiza

The 8th International Conference on Mycorrhiza, hosted by the International Mycorrhiza Society, to be held 3–7 August 2015 at Northern Arizona University's High Country Conference Center, Flagstaff, Arizona.

The theme of the conference is: 'Mycorrhizal Integration across Continents and Scales'. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <http://nau.edu/Merriam-Powell/ICOM8/>.

Annual Symposium on the Conservation and Biology of Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles

The 13th Annual Symposium on the Conservation and Biology of Tortoises and Freshwater Turtles, hosted by the Turtle Survival Alliance and the International Union for Conservation of Nature Tortoise and Freshwater

Turtle Specialist Group, to be held 6–9 August 2015 at the Westin La Paloma Resort, Tuscon, Arizona. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <http://www.turtlesurvival.org/conference#.VVpOUC6YQeo>.

Annual Phycological Society of America Meeting

The Annual Phycological Society of America Meeting to be held 8–13 August 2015 at Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The theme of the meeting is: '50 for 50—Phycology in Philly', a celebration of the

Journal of Phycology's 50th year of publication. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <http://www.psaalgae.org/meetings/2015/8/8/2015-psa-annual-meeting>.

Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting

The 2015 Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting to be held 9–14 August 2015 at the Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, Maryland. The theme of the conference is: 'Ecological Science at the Frontier:

Celebrating ESA's Centennial', celebrating the Society's 100th year. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <http://esa.org/baltimore/>.

American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting

The 145th American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting, hosted by the Oregon Chapter and Western Division of the American Fisheries Society, to be held 16–20

August 2015 at the Oregon Convention Center, Portland, Oregon. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <http://2015.fisheries.org/>.

Northeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Meeting

The 2015 Northeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Meeting to be held 18–20 August 2015 at the Alton Jones Education Center of the Univer-

sity of Rhode Island, Greenwich, Rhode Island. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <http://northeastparc.org/next-meeting-info/>.

International Barcode of Life Conference

The 6th International Barcode of Life Conference, hosted by the International Barcode of Life project, to be held 18–21 August 2015 at the University of Guelph,

Guelph, Ontario. The theme of the conference is: 'Barcodes to Biomes'. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <http://dnabarcodes2015.org/>.

Annual General Meeting of the Entomological Society of Ontario

The 152nd Annual General Meeting of the Entomological Society of Ontario to be held 18–20 September 2015 at the Queen's University Biological Station,

Elgin, Ontario. More information is available at <http://www.entsocont.ca/agm-2015.html>.

International Conference on Ecology and Transportation

The 8th biennial International Conference on Ecology and Transportation, hosted by the North Carolina Department of Transportation with support from the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, to be held 20–24 September 2015 at Raleigh Convention Center, Raleigh, North Carolina.

The theme of the conference is: ‘Roads to Resilience: Strengthening Essential Transportation and Ecological Assets across Diverse Landscapes’. Registration is currently open. More information is available at http://www.icoet.net/ICOET_2015/index.asp.

Student Conference on Conservation Science – New York

The 6th annual Student Conference on Conservation Science – New York, hosted by the American Museum of Natural History’s Center for Biodiversity and Conservation and Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, to be held 7–9 October 2015

at the American Museum of Natural History, New York, New York. Registration is currently open. More information is available at <http://www.amnh.org/our-research/center-for-biodiversity-conservation/events-exhibitions/conferences-and-symposia/2015-sccs-ny>.

The Wildlife Society’s Annual Conference

The 22nd annual conference of the Wildlife Society to be held 17–21 October 2015 at the RBC Convention Center, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Registration is currently

open. More information is available at <http://www.twsconference.org/>.

Landmark decision halts Ostrander Wind Farm Project on the grounds of serious and irreversible harm to the Blanding’s Turtle

A decision by the Court of Appeal for Ontario on April 20, 2015 upholds the landmark decision to halt the Ostrander Wind Farm Project on the grounds that the project would cause serious and irreversible harm to a threatened wildlife species: the Blanding’s Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*). This decision was notable, because it was the first time that a renewable energy project, approved under the *Ontario Green Energy Act* and *Environmental Protection Act*, was overturned due to concerns for an at-risk species.

The Ostrander Wind Farm Project of the Ostrander Point Wind Energy LP was issued a Renewable Energy Approval by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment in December 2012. This project would involve construction of nine wind turbine generators, plus supporting infrastructure (including access roads), built on a 324-hectare area of crown land in Prince Edward County, Ontario.

Two local interest groups – the Prince Edward County Field Naturalists and the Alliance to Protect Prince Edward County – opposed this project, filing an appeal with the Environmental Review Tribunal. This appeal claimed that the Ostrander project should be stopped because it would cause serious harm to human health, and serious and irreversible harm to a variety of wildlife species and the natural environment, including birds, bats, butterflies, turtles, and alvar plants. In July 2013, the Renewable Energy Approval was revoked by the Environmental Review Tribunal. This landmark decision was nearly overturned; in February 2014 the Divi-

sional Court set aside the Tribunal’s decision, and reinstated the Renewable Energy Approval. This recent decision by the Court of Appeal for Ontario restores the Tribunal’s decision, and halts the Ostrander Wind Farm Project.

Interestingly, the decision to halt the Ostrander Wind Farm Project was based solely on the Blanding’s Turtle. The Tribunal rejected all claims of serious and irreversible harm to human health and wildlife, with the exception of the claim of serious and irreversible harm to the Blanding’s Turtle. This Great Lakes population of the Blanding’s Turtle is listed as threatened, both provincially (under the *Ontario Endangered Species Act*) and federally (under the *Species at Risk Act*). The Ostrander Wind Farm Project was determined to pose a serious and irreversible harm to this species because of the loss of habitat and road development, two of the major threats to this species. Blanding’s Turtle is a biologically significant species; this is one of the longest-lived freshwater turtle species, and is the only living representative of its genus. This decision provides precedent for future renewable energy projects, suggesting that companies must seriously consider the potential risks their projects pose for wildlife species.

For further information, see: **Court of Appeal for Ontario**. 2015. *Prince Edward County Field Naturalists v. Ostrander Point GP Inc.*, 2015 ONCA 269. Accessed 20 May 2015. www.ontariocourts.ca/decisions/2015/2015ONCA0269.htm.