

SEPARC 2018 Annual Meeting: Call for Presentation and Poster Abstracts

We are now accepting presentation and poster abstracts for the **2018 SEPARC Annual Meeting** to be held at Unicoi State Park and Lodge in Helen, GA February 22-25. The meeting's theme is "**Resharpener the Tools for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation**" with the symposium "**Broadening the Network**". Topics can include conservation efforts, land management, species status reports, legislative or regulatory policy, outreach and education, invasive species, or other relevant reptile and amphibian conservation issues.

Abstracts should contain a title, complete list of authors, and abstract body of no more than 250 words. Please include affiliations for all authors and indicate the person presenting with an asterisk (*). See sample abstract below.

Abstracts should be submitted electronically to SEPARC@SEPARC.org. *The subject line of the email must contain the phrase **SEPARC ABSTRACT ORAL** or **SEPARC ABSTRACT POSTER** followed by the first and last name of the lead author.* If selecting an oral presentation, please indicate whether you would prefer a full or speed (5 min) presentation. Any oral presentations not selected for full presentation status (due to time constraints) may be offered the opportunity to change to a speed presentation or poster.

Deadline for oral presentation submission is December 15, 2017. Deadline for posters is January 20, 2018 (for agenda purposes but we do generally accept posters up to the event). Extended deadlines may be issued based on need. Accepted talks will be notified by Jan 1st, 2018. Registration is not required for abstract submission, but will be required for final acceptance. Registration and lodging options will be hosted on the SEPARC website soon.

See sample abstract below.

**SAMPLE ABSTRACT TO DEMONSTRATE FORMATTING FOR SEPARC
MEETING:**

Abstract body - MAX 250 words; Speaker bio - MAX 75 words.

**COMMUNITY OCCUPANCY OF HERPETOFAUNA IN ROADSIDE DITCHES IN
MANAGED FORESTS.** Jessica A. Homyack*, Weyerhaeuser Company, 1785 Weyerhaeuser Road, Vanceboro, NC, USA, 28586, Christopher J. O'Bryan and Robert F. Baldwin, School of Agriculture, Forest, and Environmental Sciences, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634. Jamie Thornton, Weyerhaeuser Company, 32901 Weyerhaeuser Way South, Federal Way, WA 98001.

Aquatic habitat types constructed by humans can provide suitable conditions for numerous species of herpetofauna despite environmental conditions departing from historical baselines. Although prevalent in the Atlantic Coastal Plain, roadside ditches, which are periodically maintained to facilitate hydrological conditions conducive to pine silviculture, have had few quantitative surveys of vertebrate diversity. We examined site occupancy of roadside ditches that were embedded in a landscape of managed forests and were maintained 3-17 years earlier. We investigated occupancy with call surveys of breeding anurans and Visual Encounter Surveys (VES) of all herpetofauna in eastern North Carolina, 2012-2013. We used community occupancy models to examine occupancy and species richness of roadside ditches while accounting for imperfect detection and examined effects of time since ditch maintenance, amount of nearby forest cover and metrics related to adjacent wetlands on occupancy. Estimated species richness of anurans from call surveys ranged from 5.5-11.5 species/site, of anurans from VES ranged from 0.9-7.4 species/site, snakes and lizards ranged from 0.8-9.0 species/site, and turtles ranged from 0.9-5.1 species/site. Contrary to our predictions, diversity of herpetofauna did not have a quadratic relationship with time since ditch maintenance and landscape metrics did not influence species richness in this forested system, but did influence occupancy of a subset of species. Our results indicate that reconfigured aquatic habitat types embedded in managed forests can support local and regional occupancy of anurans, but the current community of herpetofauna likely differs from what occurred historically.

Jessica A. Homyack Ph.D CWB® is a wildlife scientist with Weyerhaeuser Company, and leads the Southern Wildlife Research Program. She examines relationships of forest management with wildlife populations and their habitats across the southeastern U.S.