

## I. Greetings from EREN's President

### In this issue:

#### I. Greetings from EREN's President

#### II. Upcoming EREN Events

#### III. EREN Events in 2018

#### IV. EREN Member Spotlight

Greetings EREN Members,

I hope you all have been keeping safe and warm during the days of the polar vortex! I know things have been a little quiet on electronic outreach for EREN lately and it's good to be back in touch. EREN activities within the Board of Directors have been focused planning EREN presentations and workshops at various professional meetings, brainstorming ideas for future workshop proposals, and writing EREN data into manuscripts. Hopefully you had chance to read recent EREN publications in *Conservation Biology* and *Forests* – see below for details! Also, there will be an exciting opportunity to reconnect with EREN colleagues in person soon: we hope EREN folks in the northeast U.S. will **look for EREN at the Northeast Natural History Conference in Springfield, MA in April** – see below for more details. We appreciate your continued engagement with EREN. Stay tuned for more EREN publications and chances to interact!

Laurie Anderson  
President of the Board of Directors of EREN  
Ohio Wesleyan University

## II. Upcoming EREN Events

### EREN at the NENHC in April 2019

EREN Board members Dr. Sara Scanga, Dr. Mary Beth Kolozsvary and Dr. Danielle Garneau are organizing an EREN session at the Northeast Natural History Conference titled: “EREN: A Collaborative Networked Approach to Research and Teaching with Undergraduates” that will feature presentations from a range of active EREN projects. Check it out to see how you can get involved! The NENHC will take place April 12-14, 2019 at the Sheraton Springfield Hotel in Springfield, MA.

## III. EREN Events in 2018

### Publication for the EREN TurtlePOP Project

Results from EREN’s TurtlePOP project were published by Bowne et al. in *Conservation Biology* (May 2018): “Effects of urbanization on the population structure of freshwater turtles across the United States.” Thanks to Dr. David Bowne for his great leadership on this collaborative research effort! <https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.13136>

### Publication for the Emerald Ash Borer Impact Project

Results from EREN’s EAB Impact Project were published by Dr. Ben Dolan and Dr. Jason Kilgore in *Forests* (June 2018): “Forest regeneration following emerald ash borer (*Agilus planipennis* Fairemaire) enhances mesophication in eastern hardwood forests.” <https://doi.org/10.3390/f9060353>

Continued on the next page...

## **EREN at ABLE**

Past and present EREN Board members Dr. Laurie Anderson, Dr. Erin Lindquist, Dr. Karen Kuers, Dr. Jerald Dosch and Dr. Jose-Luis Machado developed teaching exercises using data from the Permanent Forest Plot Project and presented the exercises, with the help of Board member Dr. Kristy Hopfensberger, at the 2018 meeting of the Association for Biology Laboratory Education (ABLE) in Columbus, Ohio as a Major Workshop. The details of these exercises will be published in the meeting proceedings under the title “Teaching quantitative skills and carbon sequestration concepts with the EREN Permanent Forest Plot Project”. Look for this to come out soon!

## **EREN Partners with Macrosystems PI and NEON**

EREN joined with Dr. Jessica Mitchell and the National Ecological Observatory Network for a joint workshop at Appalachian State University in July 2018. With support from the NSF Macrosystems Program, participants explored using NEON data to calculate plant biodiversity metrics. The group then developed a lesson plan for a lab exercise for undergraduate students focused on (1) measuring biodiversity across scales and (2) investigating interactions between ground-based biodiversity metrics and remote sensing data. The participants are continuing to work together to assess the effectiveness of this lab exercise and have been calling themselves the “JEN” project (for Jessica-EREN-NEON). A second workshop focused more extensively on remote sensing is planned for 2019.

## **EREN Inspires at ESA**

During the annual Ecological Society of America’s meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana in August 2018, EREN members gathered for an Inspire Session where information about EREN was presented in a series of five-minute lectures followed by a discussion of how the network can evolve in the future. Thank you to our speakers (pictured below) and all who attended!



Presenters in the EREN Inspire Session, ESA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, August 2018.

#### IV. EREN Member Spotlight

Mary Beth Kolozsvary is a broadly trained ecologist who specializes in conservation-related research involving pool-breeding amphibians, wetlands, and invasive species. She is an Associate Professor of Environmental Studies and Sciences at Siena College, where she teaches courses in Ecosystem Ecology, Environmental Science, Invasive Species, and Conservation Biology. She has been an active member of EREN since she made her initial connection through TurtlePop. She has incorporated several of the EREN projects into her classroom and has been actively involved in the spatial distribution of garlic mustard project and, most recently, the Distribution of Earthworms. This past summer Mary Beth had the opportunity to collaborate with several EREN members on the JEN project, which involved designing a hands-on activity to introduce students to macroscale ecology and assessing biodiversity across scales through working with National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) data.

Continued on the next page...

Mary Beth earned her B.S. in Forest Biology from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, her M.S. in Wildlife Science from Purdue University, and her Ph.D. in Ecology and Environmental Science from the University of Maine. After completing her doctorate, she served as a senior-level biodiversity scientist in a program administrative and leadership position at the New York State Biodiversity Research Institute at the New York State Museum. In that position, she promoted networks of collaborating scientists and managers through working groups initiating a number of partnerships with state agencies and non-governmental organizations. She joined the faculty at Siena College in 2011, and as she went through the tenure-track process she immersed herself in taking advantage of a variety of mentoring and pedagogical programs offered by the Office of Teaching Excellence and Faculty Innovation at Siena, and resources and other teaching and research opportunities through the EREN network. The EREN support system was invaluable to her as she re-shaped her research program into one that heavily involves undergraduates. During her time at Siena, Mary Beth has mentored undergraduates in over 25 independent research projects outside of the classroom and facilitated presentations of student research at several key regional and national scientific meetings. The EREN members have been excellent role models in demonstrating how research collaborations can be positive, supportive, and constructive, resulting in high-quality outcomes. She is indebted to the EREN network for helping her to make this transition. Mary Beth is a member of the scientific advisory committee of the Huyck Preserve and Biological Research Station, and steering committee for the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (NALCC) Vernal Pool Data Cooperative and Northeast Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (NEPARC). She is actively involved in the CapMo PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management) and is a founding member of CapSci, a local organization that aims to advance the public understanding of science in the region. In her personal life, she enjoys spending time in outdoor activities and is a long-time yoga practitioner and instructor.