CHEMICAL CONCERN

Research Links Pesticide Use and Frog Declines

Through the California red-legged frog recently earned sweeping federal protection from habitat destruction, a CSUS researcher has found new evidence that their decline may also be pesticide-related.

“It’s the first time scientists have been able to link a known declining frog species with pesticides,” says environmental studies professor Carlos Davidson. “We found there is a very strong association between declines of red-legged frogs and the amount of agricultural land use upwind from the site. It strongly suggests that windborne agrochemicals may be contributing to the decline.”

In a study that encompassed almost all of California, Davidson and co-author H. Bradley Shaffer, a professor at the Center for Population Biology at UC Davis, mapped out the disappearance of red-legged frog populations. Using those geographic patterns they analyzed possible causes for the declines. Mark Jennings of the U.S. Geological Survey also contributed to the study. Their findings were published in the April issue of the journal Ecological Applications.

The red-legged frog has disappeared from more than 70 percent of its historic range in California. It was added to the threatened species list by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1996.

To identify historic concentrations of red-legged frogs, Davidson and Shaffer compared museum records of their habitats, dating back to the mid-1800s, with recent survey data.

“From the museum specimens we know where the frogs used to be. Recent survey data tells where they are now,” Davidson says. Of the 237 sites they looked at that once had frog populations, 48 percent no longer do. The researchers looked at several possible causes of the declines – including global warming, ultraviolet radiation, pesticide use and habitat destruction due to urbanization and agriculture – and concluded that both urbanization and pesticides may be important factors in the declines. At each site they calculated the predominant wind direction and the amount of agricultural land use upwind. The percentage of upwind land use in agriculture for sites where the red-legged frog has disappeared was six and a half times greater than for sites where they still exist, suggesting that windborne agrochemicals may be an important factor in frog declines.

“The results were consistent,” Davidson says. “We found areas with a lot of agricultural land use upwind from them are more likely to have declines than sites with less upwind agriculture.”

“It’s an issue that has impact far beyond California,” Davidson adds. “There have been amphibian declines in many locations around the world and pesticides are definitely a possibility. In both Central America and Australia, declines have been found close to major agricultural areas.”

Campus Hosts Earth Day Celebration

Every day may be Earth Day, but Sunday, April 22 at CSUS will be no ordinary celebration of the planet. The third annual Earth Day celebration – featuring various environmental festivities and music – will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the CSUS main quad.

An estimated 10,000 people are expected to attend the free, daylong event that will offer a plethora of environmental games, activities, food and entertainment. Mumbo Gumbo, a seven-piece band known for their inventive rhythm, will perform a blend of blues, zydeco, reggae and rock music at 2 p.m. Akimbo, Out of Kilter and Congo Bye Area will also perform throughout the afternoon.

More than 100 educational booths and displays will promote environmental education, energy awareness and conservation. Other booths will include environmentally oriented crafts that use lead-free items made from recycled materials.

A wildlife education stage will feature live animals and storytelling. Children’s activities include face painting and sock puppet shows. Throughout the afternoon, an ongoing panel discussion about environmental concerns will feature nine speakers and demonstrations that include live bats and eco-travel issues.

MINDSCAPE – Graduate art student Suzanne Smith spent a good part of spring break working on her exhibit in the Witt Gallery, an intentionally disturbing set of sculptures depicting mental illness. The organic-looking pieces are made of plastic piping and a polyurethane expanding foam, all painted vivid colors. The exhibit will be open April 23 through May 4, with a reception from 5 to 8 p.m., Saturday, April 28.

— Photo by Frank Whitlatch
The CSUS Bulletin welcomes submissions to the Professional Activities section from faculty, administration and staff. Items are run on a space available basis. They should be no longer than 75 words and may be submitted to bulletin@csus.edu or faxed to 278-5290.

Recognition

Ken Barnett, University Police, has been given the Distinguished Service Award by the Sacramento City Police for his work in preparing for the 2000 U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials. It is the first time that one of the department’s medals has been awarded to anyone outside the department.

Jerald Johnson, anthropology, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society for California Archaeology at their annual meeting in March. The award recognized the many contributions he has made to California archaeology through teaching, research and service to the public and the archaeological community.

The Department of Kinesiology and Health Science was given an Outstanding Program Award at the annual dinner of the Sacramento City Police Department’s work with district students with special needs who attend the University and participate in a number of the department’s activity classes.

David VanSickle, emeritus biological sciences, received the Distinguished Professional Achievement Award from the California-Nevada Chapter of the American Fishery Society at the annual conference in Santa Rosa in March. The annual award recognizes professional excellence in research, management, education, publication or other outstanding contributions to the profession of fisheries conservation. VanSickle was recognized for his teaching, his supervision of graduate students, his involvement of students in projects and other fieldwork and his active participation in chapter affairs.

Robert Heilman, emeritus social work, and Mildred Alexander will represent the CSUS Renaissance Society at the 12th regional biennial western meeting of the Association of Learning in Retirement Organizations, April 27-29 at CSU Fullerton.

Claire Lewis, physical therapy, has been named a fellow of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapists.

Oren A. Brown, criminal justice, will have his name placed on the Wall of Tolerance, which honors those who are leading the way toward a more tolerant and just America, and will be a founding member of the National Campaign for Tolerance. The campaign’s co-chairs are Morris Dees and Rosa Parks.

Scott Morell, kinesiology and health science, was named field editor for the special education journal Palaestra Journal in the area of active aging.

Monica Freeman, global education, has been appointed as the study abroad representative for the Association for International Educators Region XII Team for 2001-02. Region XII covers California, Nevada, Hawaii and the Pacific Islands.

In the News

Duane Campbell, bilingual/multicultural education, appeared on the cable news program “Latin Perspectives” March 30. He talked about Cesar Chavez.

Robert Mossell, management information science, was interviewed about his research projects in the Los Angeles region for stories on Capital Public Radio and National Public Radio in December. State Treasurer Phil Angelides has requested copies of the studies. Mossell also had a letter to the editor about President Bush’s tax cut proposal published in the Jan. 13 issue of the Sacramento Bee.

Grants

Johanne Marrow, Helene Burgess and Oriel Strickland, psychology, have been awarded a $400,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety to study the distracted drivers and freeway congestion in the Sacramento region. They will work closely with the California Highway Patrol, community based organizations and local government entities to develop interventions to address traffic congestion.

Scholarship


S. K. Ram, electrical and electronic engineering, presented “Physical Versus Virtual Laboratories: Current Status and Future Directions” at the National Electrical Engineering Department Heads Association annual meeting in San Diego in March. He is also chairing a session entitled “ECE Online: Courses, Labs and Programs” at the American Society for Engineering Education annual conference in June in Albuquerque, N.M.

Ken Debow and John Stev, both government, have contracted with Addison-Wesley Longman Publishing for publication of the seventh edition of their book Power and Politics in California.

Celeste Roseberry-Mckinrid, speech pathology and audiology, presented a language Intervention Strategies for Monolingual Clinicians Serving Bilingual Children: “The Therapeutic Redundance Approach” at the Sacramento Area Speech and Hearing Association. She also made a presentation on assessing multicultural children with language disorders at Georgia State University in February.

Robyn Nelson, nursing, presented “An Educational Collaboration for Professional Role Socialization” at the annual conference of the Association of California Nurse Leaders in Costa Mesa in February. That month she also presented to the Northern and Central California Hospital Council on education’s response to the nursing shortage.

Scott Morell, kinesiology and health science, presented two papers, “Fitness Programming for Older Adults with Neuromuscular Dysfunction” and “Planning Physical Activity Programs for Children with Neuromuscular Dysfunction,” at the international World Congress on Disability conference in Atlanta.

Annual Event Honors Education Supporters

The CSUS College of Education’s 12th annual awards banquet – featuring more scholarships for future teachers than ever and honoring education supporters – is set for 6:30 p.m., Friday, April 20 in the University Ballroom.

The College will present 52 scholarships worth $41,000. Among them will be the first Wilson Rules Education Scholarship, which was created by the Education Chapter of the CSUS Alumni Association and is funded by the chapter and other individuals. The College will also honor outstanding individuals and organizations nominated by educators throughout the Capital Region.

Receiving a special tribute will be William R. Murchison, superintendent of the Rio Linda Union Elementary School District.

Receiving the Education Partnership Service Awards will be: Larry M. Buchanan, superintendent of Grant Joint Union High School District; Douglas R. McCauley, executive vice president of the Coalition for Construction in the Classroom; Allstate Insurance Company; American Sportswear; California Dental Association; Roy Herburger, publisher of the Elk Grove Citizen; the American River Women’s Club; and Sutter Terrace Dental Group.

Receiving Special Recognition Awards will be: Ruth Elizabeth Ballard, professor of biological sciences at CSUS; Teri Burns, a school board member of the Nutanis Unified School District; Guillermina Campos, a teacher at Woodland’s Beamer Elementary School; CharlesCurran, Carmen Cruzado, Joan Fredo and Tom Gardner, who are teachers in the CSUS/Erik Grove Teacher Educational Collaborative; Jan Jett, program specialist with Elk Grove Unified School District; Frank Meder, coordinator of the Sacramento City Unified School District/CSUS Intern Program; Alice Parente, coordinator of Leonardo da Vinci Elementary School’s Very Special Arts Program; Gigg Powers, superintendent of the Loonius Union School District; and Barbie Ross, coordinator of the Sacramento County Office of Education’s California Technology Assistance Project.

Tickets to the event are $35 each and $350 per table. Sponsorships are available. Contributions help support scholarships within the CSUS College of Education.

Details: 278-4695.
Dale Scholl Dance-Art Caps Off Performance Season

Dale Scholl Dance-Art wraps up its 19th season at CSUS with the popular Rep & More program April 18-21.

Rep & More, an annual production, features signature works from the dance troupe’s eclectic repertoire. This year’s edition will include “Latin Groove,” “Funeral for a Friend” and “Americana” choreographed by CSUS dance professor Dale Scholl as well as “Hearts Aflame” choreographed by Eric Vianelle.

“Latin Groove,” which premiered in 1997, is a humorous take on the early 1960s lounge scene and is set to the music of Yma Sumac, Desi Arnez and Tito Puente.

“Funeral for a Friend,” from the company’s 1999 Moddan Across the Water, is an interpretation of Elton John’s music.

Sacramento Bee reporter William Glackin called the piece “a striking example of Scholl’s choreographic inventiveness.”

“Americana,” premiered in 2000 as part of the CSUS Dance Faculty Recital. The piece features music by local singer-songwriters Scott Long and Frank Marenzino.

Finally, 1999’s “Hearts Aflame” is a lighthearted look at the pitfalls of love set to the music of Mariachi del Sol and Lhasa.

Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championships on Saturday, April 28. Admission is free. On-site parking is available for $6.

The 2001 Pacific Coast Rowing Championships will be from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, May 12-13. The event is one of the largest of its kind and is the final regatta of the West Coast collegiate racing season. The winners will move on to the national championships in June. Admission is $6. On-site parking is also $6. Both events are sponsored and hosted by CSUS, ASI and the University Union.

Details: 985-7239.

Peace Awards Fund-raiser

The 10th annual Africa Peace Awards Dinner and Dance Fund-raiser will be Saturday, May 5 at the Masonic Temple, 1123 J Street. The event will begin with a VIP reception at 6 p.m., dinner at 7:30 p.m. and dancing.

The keynote speaker will be Ambassador Jibril Aminu of the Nigerian Embassy in Washington, D.C. This year’s honorees will be Daniel Yamshon, Thelma Johnson and Patricia Malberg, along with the CSUS Youth Mentors and African Peace Organizations. The event will feature African food, a cultural/fashion show, entertainment and dancing.

Advance tickets are $30 for dinner, program and dancing and $45 with the addition of the VIP reception and are available at the CSUS Ticket Office at 278-4325 or tickets.com, and other area locations. Tickets at the door are an additional $5.

The event is sponsored by the CSUS Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution and proceeds benefit the U.S.-Africa Youth, Peace and Cultural Education Program. For more information, including ticket locations, contact Ernest Uwazie at 278-6282.

— Heather Robinson

USA Picnic is June 8

The annual end of the year picnic sponsored by the University Staff Assembly will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Friday, June 8 on the lawn near Riverfront Center. The event will feature entertainment and barbecue lunch prepared by campus administrators. Tickets are $4 and are available from USA representatives across campus.

For more, visit www.csus.edu/usa, or contact Elizabeth O’Brien at 278-5430 or ejbrien@csus.edu.

Digital Media Artist Lecture

Artist Natalie Bookchin, who is responsible for creating some of the Internet’s most provocative art and entertainment according to Interactive Weekly magazine, will talk about the evolution of digital media at 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 18 at University Union Hinde Auditorium.

Bookchin, a professor at California Institute of the Arts, works with the Internet, computer games and other media to create interactive artworks. Her pieces combine modern culture with ancient ideas to sneak art into places where people do not expect it to be. Her recent project, a game called The Intruder, is a translation of a story by Jorge Luis Borges about a love triangle between two men and a woman.

Bookchin regularly exhibits her work and lectures throughout Europe and the United States. Her work is frequently covered in national and international journals including the New York Times, ArtForum, Interactive Weekly and El Pais.

Details: 278-6166.

Sexual Assault Prevention

The Women’s Resource Center has a new Sexual Assault Education and Advocacy Program. It offers educational presentations and workshops on issues related to sexual assault. It also provides referrals to community programs as well as other assistance and advocacy to survivors of sexual assault.

The program is coordinated by Jessica Higgins, who may be reached at the Women’s Health Center at 278-7388, or by calling 278-9535.

Aquatic Center to Host Rowing Championships

The CSUS Aquatic Center at Lake Natoma will be the site for two premier rowing events this spring.

More than 25 teams of men and women will compete in the Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championships on Saturday, April 28. Admission is free. On-site parking is available for $6.

The 2001 Pacific Coast Rowing Championships will be from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, May 12-13. The event is one of the largest of its kind and is the final regatta of the West Coast collegiate racing season. The winners will move on to the national championships in June. Admission is $6. On-site parking is also $6. Both events are sponsored and hosted by CSUS, ASI and the University Union.

Details: 985-7239.

Outstanding Teachers

CSUS has named its seven Outstanding Teaching Award recipients for the 2000-01 school year.

The award affirms the University’s ongoing commitment to quality teaching. It is given each year to one professor from each of the University’s seven Colleges. The recipients are as follows:

• College of Arts and Letters — Lawrence Chase, communications studies
• College of Business Administration — Manfred W. “Bob” Hopke, management information science
• College of Education — Cid Gunston-Parks, teacher education
• College of Engineering and Computer Science — Estelle M. Eke, mechanical engineering
• College of Health and Human Services — Candace Goldsworthy, speech pathology and audiology
• College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics — Robert Metcalf, biological sciences
• College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies — Diana Tumminia, sociology

Recipients will be recognized at a reception and at spring commencement ceremonies. They will also be presented a plaque and be acknowledged on the perpetual plaques displayed in the office of the dean of each College.

Look for feature articles on each of the recipients in the 2001-02 CSUS Bulletin.
Frogs

"If it turns out pesticides are the cause, we’ll have to do more to set aside habitats to protect the species. We’ll have to decide about the types and amounts of pesticides that are used and how they are applied."

— Laurie Hall