

Conservation Innovation UPDATE

The Program on Conservation Innovation at the Harvard Forest



Join us online Wednesday, December 10, for an expert chat on Ecosystem Services with two distinguished pioneers in the field -- Bill Moomaw and Don Hey

Dear Colleagues in Conservation:

At 10 am (EST) on Wednesday, December 10, 2008, two men working at the frontier of conservation finance -- **Bill Moomaw** and **Don Hey** -- will join us online for an expert chat. Each is pioneering a new approach to ecosystems services and conservation finance.

Dr. Donald Hey is the President and Co-founder of The Wetlands Initiative based in Chicago, Illinois. The Wetlands Initiative, with critical financing from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, is in the process of developing a remarkable nutrient farming pilot project. The water quality restoration effort, to be built on a 1,326 acre site near Hennepin, Illinois, will cost an estimated \$44 million. In spearheading this project and leading The Wetlands Initiative, Don Hey has been a key advocate for market-based solutions to the problem of wetland loss, contending that only a solution that will pay for itself over time can be widely adopted across expansive watersheds such as the Mississippi Valley. Additional information on The Wetlands Initiative at its Goose Pond nutrient farming project can be found at www.wetlands-initiative.org.

Dr. William Moomaw is Professor of International Environmental Policy at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, where he currently serves as Director for Tufts Climate Initiative (TCI). He was a coordinating lead author of the Year 2001 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change chapter on greenhouse gas emissions reduction, and was a lead author of three IPCC reports (1995 and 2007). As a leader in the IPCC process, Moomaw shares the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with IPCC colleagues around the globe. In the past year, with colleagues at Tufts and other universities, Moomaw has worked closely with the Dutch Government, the United Nations and the World Bank to devise a new international Forest Financing Mechanism that will contribute to the conservation of tropical forests. Bill will share his insights into the creation of the innovative financing package, as well as his thoughts on changing U.S. approaches to climate change, during our discussion. For additional

information on the concepts behind the Forest Financing Mechanism, please see:
<http://environment.tufts.edu/downloads/DesigningaForestFinancingMechanism.pdf>.

You can sign up to listen and submit live questions during the course of this expert chat with Donald Hey and William Moomaw by logging onto the [event page \(click here\)](#) on the Government Innovators Network.

Please join us on Wednesday, December 10, 2008 at 10 am EST for this discussion of ecosystem services. We look forward to interacting with you in the [live](#) forum.

Best regards,

Jim Levitt, Editor and Director of the Program on Conservation Innovation

Elizabeth Reardon, Assistant Editor and Research Assistant

14 North American Students Win Scholarships to Travel to Chile

They will participate in the upcoming conference in Valdivia, Chile focusing on Conservation Capital in the Americas

Just before Thanksgiving, a panel including Katherine Birnie (Maine Coast Heritage Trust), Story Clark (Conservation Consultant), Brian Shillinglaw (New Forests), Matt Zieper (Trust for Public Land) and Jim Levitt (Harvard Forest) completed their review of essays submitted by more than 40 students from 17 colleges and universities in the United States and Canada. The essays were submitted by young people competing for the 14 North American student scholarships to the upcoming conference on Conservation Capital in the Americas, which will be held this coming January in Valdivia, Chile. In a parallel process, colleagues in Chile are in the process of evaluating another batch of entries from students competing for a second set of scholarships designated to bring Central and South American students to the meeting.

The North American review panel was quite impressed by the quality of the essays submitted. One reviewer noted that as she reviewed the papers she was "drowning in great ideas," but assured us that she would be able to swim to shore to make difficult final choices. The results are an excellent indication of the potential interest in the field of conservation finance at universities across the country -- and across the Western Hemisphere.

The students who have been invited to attend the *Conservation Capital in the America* Conference are:

- Patrick Behrer, Harvard College
- Catherine Gordon, Harvard University Extension School
- David Lewis, Harvard School of Design
- Manuel Rincon-Cruz, Harvard College
- Blair Braverman, Colby College
- Emily Guerin, Bowdoin College
- Chris Morrel, Bates College
- Laura Wurst, University of Southern Maine
- Michael Fiebig, University of Montana
- Clare Fieseler, Nicholas School at Duke University
- Chris Larson, Yale SOM/F&ES Joint Degree Program
- Anne Shudy Palmer, University of Wisconsin
- Paul Spraycar, Bren School, University of California - Santa Barbara
- Jude Wu, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies

Among the 14 winning essays, one was judged as outstanding. The author of that paper, Jude Wu, will be given an opportunity to present her paper to the Conservation Capital in the Americas conference in Valdivia this coming January.

One of the most gratifying aspects of the competition was the passion invested in the process by the competing students. One of the winning essayists wrote a blog entry describing the competition process. That blog entry follows below.

CHILE, BABY

Blair Braverman, Colby College Class of 2011
(*This blog entry was featured on the home page of www.colby.edu on November 22, 2008.*)

A few weeks ago, the Environmental Studies and Bio departments sent out an announcement about an essay contest. The winner of the contest would receive an all-expenses-paid trip to attend the Conservation Capital in the Americas conference this January in Valdivia, Chile, and I decided immediately that I wanted to enter. All I had to do was write a six-page paper describing an innovative example of conservation finance- how hard it could it be?

Pretty darn hard, it turned out. To start out with, I couldn't for the life of me figure out a working definition of conservation finance. I had never heard the term before, Google and Wikipedia were not living up to my expectations, and even my professors gave me somewhat conflicting explanations. At last I decided to assume that conservation finance meant the same thing as financing conservation, and took my research from there.

Finding a topic proved no easier than understanding the assignment itself, and I waded through stacks of journals, skimming article after article that proved about as inspiring as John McCain's performance in the presidential debates. After a while I started looking specifically for information about the arctic--I was hoping to discover some fabulous example of conservation in Lapland or Svalbard--but despite my best efforts, none of the examples I found seemed, well, innovative. Or interesting, even.

I was beginning to despair of ever finding a topic, and the deadline was fast approaching. Finally I admitted to myself that I was at a loss, and besides, what were the odds I'd actually win? Most of the other entrants from Colby were upperclassmen who were doing theses on their topics, so it was a good bet they knew what conservation finance was. I felt completely out of my league.

...unless...

Well, I know about dog sledding, and it's certainly something I can write passionately about. In a last-ditch flurry of activity, I engrossed myself in information about the Iditarod trail, and began to form the ideas for my paper. As far as I could find out, nothing much has been written about Iditarod conservation, and even the government websites describing the legal aspects of the preservation of the 2,000 mile route seemed distinctly outdated. Long before the serum run (the dogsled relay which brought diphtheria serum from Anchorage to Nome, and for which lead dog Balto is famous), the trail was in use to bring supplies and mail to isolated communities. Today, tourists flock to the trail for the Iditarod race and a variety of other sporting events (like the Iron Dog snowmobile relay, for which Sarah Palin's husband is famous) and provide valuable economic benefits for those same towns. The money spent on conservation has been returned many times over by the rewards the trail provides--wait, doesn't that sound a little like conservation finance?

It did to me, and apparently it did to the judges of the contest, too... I found out yesterday that I won the trip to Chile!!

From the Library

Resources from the Conservation Finance Forum Library

Here are a few resources on ecosystem services that can be found on the Conservation Finance Forum Website:

- [Payment for Ecosystem Services: Getting Started, a Primer](#). The Katoomba Group's Ecosystem Marketplace.

- [Forest Carbon in the United States: Opportunities and Options for Private Lands.](#) The Pacific Forest Trust. 2000/2007.
- [The Federal Context for Wetland Mitigation Banking.](#) The Environmental Law Institute.
- ["Climate Change and Forestry: a REDD Prime,"](#) by Erin C Myers. The Katoomba Group's Ecosystem Marketplace, 2008.

For more resources on conservation finance, please visit the [Resource Page](#) of the [Conservation Finance Forum](#).

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