



Newsworthy Stuff

Dela attended the ACM conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (KDD) in San Francisco, California last month. KDD is a premier interdisciplinary conference bringing together researchers and practitioners from data science, data mining, knowledge discovery, large-scale data analytics, and big data.

Briana and **Emily** pitched in at the Annual **Ocmulgee National Monument** Butterfly Bioblitz on 19–20 August. They conducted butterfly surveys, led and educated school groups, and assisted with check-in for the event. An event highlight: **Briana** found a new species to add to the **OCMU** park butterfly species list—the Dion skipper! (A big thanks to Marc Minno for confirming the ID.)

Wadeable and non-wadeable stream channel monitoring has been implemented at the first park. This field work at **HOBE** included a videographic survey of the Tallapoosa River, a detailed survey of a wadeable stream reach, and an area of special interest survey. Results of this monitoring effort will be available in the coming months.

Briana spent a week in St. Mary's with Kevin Whelan, ecologist, and Rob Muxo, biological technician, both of the South Florida Caribbean Network (arranged by Mike Byrne). South Florida/ Caribbean Network is considering implementing a monitoring approach similar to that of the SECN anuran community monitoring protocol, and the group discussed SOPs associated with this protocol, maintenance and programming of ARDs, and using SongScope in data extraction and analysis. The collaboration was a successful one, and **Briana** left with ideas of how to improve the methodology currently in use.



Rob Muxo, Briana Smrekar, and Kevin Whelan brainstorm on anuran community monitoring.

Field Work

Completed in July/August

- Salt marsh data was collected at **CAHA**, **CALO**, **FOPU**, and at one **TIMU** site.
- ARDs have been collected at **FOSU** and **CUIS**.
- Vegetation community monitoring was completed at **CALO**.

Upcoming in September

- Fixed-station data will be collected at Georgia and Florida parks 13–15 September.
- Wetland water level data will be collected at **CUIS** 14–16 September.
- Fall shoreline monitoring will be performed at **CANA**, **FOMA**, **TIMU**, and **CUIS** 23–30 September.

Employee Spotlight



This month's employee spotlight is on Eric Starkey. Eric joined the Southeast Coast Network in June and has been a welcome addition to the team.

An aquatic ecologist, Eric last worked with the Upper Columbia Basin Network (UCBN) in Idaho as a bio-technician and aquatic biologist for eight years. There, he developed and implemented water quality and stream channel monitoring. Prior to Eric's work with the UCBN, he served as a research technician at the University of Idaho, Fort Hays State University, and with the Kansas Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Tourism. He also served as an editorial assistant for the South Western Association of Naturalists.

Eric earned his B.S. in Biology-Fisheries and M.S. in Biology from Fort Hays State University in Kansas. His graduate work focused on the seasonal movements of pistolgrip mussels and their spatial distribution within a freshwater mussel bed. His other research activities have included the assessment of the growth and recruitment of Fawnsfoot mussels.



A rough green snake hiding in plain sight at **CALO**.

In his spare time, Eric enjoys spending time with his wife and son, fishing, gardening, and anything else that takes him outdoors. He looks forward to exploring the diverse natural resources in the Southeast and is excited to visit each SECN park.

From the Editor

The editing department is plugging away at our backlog of data summaries and reports. Landbird data summary reports and resource briefs have been updated on IRMA. The last four landbird reports for 2014 (FOFR, CONG, CANA and MOCR) will be published later this month.

Landbird community monitoring at Ocmulgee National Monument: [2014 data summary](#).

Landbird community monitoring at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park: [2012 data summary](#).

Landbird community monitoring at Ocmulgee National Monument: [2011 data summary](#).

Landbird community monitoring at Fort Sumter National Monument: [2012 data summary](#).

Landbird community monitoring at Horseshoe Bend National Military Park: [2012 data summary](#).

Landbird community monitoring at Cape Lookout National Seashore: [2012 data summary](#).

Landbird community monitoring at Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area: [2011 data summary](#).

Landbird community monitoring at Horseshoe Bend National Military Park: [2011 data summary](#).

Landbird community monitoring at Cumberland Island National Seashore: [2012 data summary](#).



Photo by Emily Milbauer

Citizen Science: A sea turtle hatchling scurries toward the ocean to check out the water quality (left). A hatchling reaches the water on Cumberland Island National Seashore (right).

What does *THAT* do?

The sonde guard is mounted to a dock (here shown at Cape Hatteras NS) and protects the sonde. The sonde stays in the water and collects continuous water-quality data in 15 to 30 minute intervals. It gathers information on temperature, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, salinity, water levels, pH, and in some parks, chlorophyll *a*.



From the Program Manager



As the 2016 summer field season begins to wind down, I want to give everyone a quick, big-picture update to the SECN's fall focus areas. First, attention will begin to turn towards data entry and processing for our terrestrial data sets (vegetation, landbird, and anuran). Water and coastal monitoring will continue year round, and you will continue to see Lisa, Jason, and Pete into late fall. As we continue to catch up on reports and reduce the time between data collection and reporting, our editing staff will be pushing to get documents already in house published and into IRMA, as well as catch up on data summaries and briefs for all of the parks. Finally, this fall will be the time for all of us to meet in person. I will be attending the National Program Managers meeting in October and will report back to all that attend the steering committee and board meeting scheduled for November. This will be an excellent opportunity to discuss our findings and strategize a plan for future years' monitoring work. I hope to see all of our steering committee and board members at the meeting. Until then, I hope to see you in your park soon.

For More Information

SECN Home Page:
<http://go.nps.gov/secn>

SECN Reports & Publications:
<http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/SECN/publications.cfm>

About the NPS Inventory & Monitoring Program:
<http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/index.cfm>

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