

From: George Wright Society dharmon@georgewright.org
Subject: GWS News+Notes: In-person workshops postponed ... but Virtual Student Summit is on!
Date: March 16, 2020 at 4:35 pm
To: dharmon@georgewright.org



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News + Notes

Coronavirus concerns postpone two GWS workshops ...

The spread of the coronavirus has led to the postponement of two workshops the George Wright Society had scheduled for the next couple of months. “Fire Management 24/7/365,” a training workshop on restoring the role of wildfire in California’s mixed-conifer ecosystems, was scheduled for the third week of April in Fresno. We have moved that to November 16–19, 2020. “Conservation of Fragile Karst Resources,” which GWS was co-organizing with Western Kentucky University and others, and which was scheduled for mid-May, will now be held August 17–21, 2020. In both cases the meeting venues remain the same.





The disruption involved in postponing Fire Management 24/7/365 is relatively minor: most of the attendees are from California so there is not a lot of air travel for people to reschedule. The disruption to the karst meeting is greater: a small but significant number of international attendees are registered. The karst planning committee is working on ways to address the complexities of rescheduling international attendance.

The coronavirus has put much of the world into uncharted territory. Through it all, our aim at GWS is to keep on doing what we do: championing stewardship of parks, protected areas, and cultural sites by connecting people, places, knowledge and ideas.

... but GWS Virtual Student Summit is on

On a brighter note, the first-ever virtual edition of the GWS Student Summit will be held as scheduled on April 25. GWS Student Summits are annual gatherings where a small number of graduate students (many from campuses with GWS Student Chapters) meet to explore an important issue.

The theme of the 2020 Summit is “Systemic Threats to Parks and Protected Areas,” and the plan is to have a series of student papers derived from the Summit in a future issue of *Parks Stewardship Forum*.

All previous Summits

have been in-person; we had long planned the 2020 edition to be a virtual event so the coronavirus outbreak is having less of an impact on preparations (though closures of campuses is a challenge). Invitations have gone out to 10



George Wright Society Presents:
2020 Virtual Student Summit
SYSTEMIC THREATS TO PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS

PURPOSE

- 1) Bring future leaders together to expand professional networks
- 2) Discuss systemic challenges that influence parks and protected areas
- 3) Catalyze interdisciplinary and systems-oriented thinking
- 4) Publish several “New Perspectives” articles in the *Park Stewardship Forum*

WHERE: ZOOM VIDEO COMMUNICATIONS
WHEN: SATURDAY APRIL 25, 2020
12-5 PM EASTERN TIME

Questions? Email: bpeter6@clemson.edu



(through closures of campuses is a challenge). Invitations have gone out to 10 universities asking for delegate nominations. Board Member Brian Peterson is organizing the event.

Work progressing on strategic directions

The GWS Board has been working to revise the Society's Strategic Directions document: a concise statement of our priorities and plans for the next three years. We're close to completing the update. Four priority areas are in focus:

1. Connecting people to nature and to cultural heritage
2. Knowledge creation: GWS as innovator, convenor, and knowledge broker
3. Financial sustainability
4. *Parks Stewardship Forum* as flagship product/activity

A draft of the document will be sent soon to members of the George Meléndez Wright Circle, our advisory group, for their feedback before we finalize. We'll share a link to the document in a future *GWS News+Notes* digital newsletter.



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