



## AIBS News

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# AIBS *news*

JULY/AUGUST 2009/VOLUME 59 NUMBER 7

## **BESC/CoFARM Visit Capitol Hill**

More than 30 scientists and graduate students were in Washington, DC, in April to participate in the annual congressional visits event cosponsored by the Biological and Ecological Sciences Coalition (BESC) and the Coalition on Funding Agricultural Research Missions (CoFARM). The scientists met with members of Congress to discuss the importance of a predictable, sustained federal investment in biological, agricultural, and environmental science.

The two-day event began with a briefing by senior members of the science policy community. Following the briefing, event participants attended a BESC/CoFARM Capitol Hill reception to recognize Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) for their support of biological and agricultural research. Senator Durbin, the Senate Majority Whip, was recognized for his leadership on behalf of agricultural and environmental research. Representative Hinchey has long supported investments in biological, environmental, and agricultural research from his position on the House Appropriations Committee.

“Through their actions, Senator Durbin and Representative Hinchey have demonstrated that they understand the best investment for the nation is one that funds all fields of scientific research,” said Robert Gropp, cochair of BESC and AIBS director of public policy. “Answering the grand scientific questions and global challenges we must address in the coming decades requires a comprehensive approach—no one discipline will inform our actions.”

Participating in this year’s congressional visits were the winners of the 2009 AIBS Emerging Public Policy Leader Award, Adam Roddy, of the University of California, Berkeley, and Anna Stewart, of

the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. The Organization of Biological Field Stations—an AIBS member organization and participant-level contributor to the Public Policy Office—sent six participants. The Association of Ecosystem Research Centers and Long Term Ecological Research Network also had scientists participating in this year’s event.

## **AIBS to Cosponsor 6th Annual Evolution Symposium: “Evolution in Extreme Environments”**

AIBS and the National Evolutionary Synthesis Center (NESCent) are cosponsoring the sixth annual evolution symposium on 13 November 2009 at the National Association of Biology Teachers professional development conference in Denver, Colorado.

This year’s symposium, “Evolution in Extreme Environments,” will feature four speakers: Cynthia Beall, of Case Western Reserve University; William R. Jeffery, of the University of Maryland; Jody W. Deming, of the University of Washington; and Steven Haddock, of the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute. These scientists will give updates on research in high altitudes, caves, Arctic ice, and the deep sea. They will provide insights into how evolutionary processes differ in these environments and how their discoveries connect to a greater understanding of evolutionary processes.

In addition to the symposium, NESCent is organizing an education workshop that will take place on the same afternoon to provide instructors with tools to teach about evolution in extreme environments.

NABT conference registration is required to attend the symposium and workshop. To register, visit the NABT Web site at [www.nabt2009.org](http://www.nabt2009.org). For details about the symposium and workshop

schedule, visit the AIBS Web site at [www.aibs.org/special-symposia](http://www.aibs.org/special-symposia).

## **Recent Executive Director’s Blog Entries Online at <http://blogs.aibs.org/richardograpy>**

- Did I hear that AIBS is changing its annual meeting format?

## **Recent Education Reports Online at [www.aibs.org](http://www.aibs.org)**

- “Evolution in Extreme Environments” cosponsored by AIBS and NESCent
- Get involved in the Year of Science!
- Teaching about emerging infectious diseases
- National Association of Biology Teachers’ BioBlog: Talking about biology teaching
- National Evolutionary Synthesis Center’s evolution speaker series

## **I N S I D E**

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Recent Executive Director’s Blog Entries Online at <http://blogs.aibs.org/richardograpy>

Recent Education Reports Online at [www.aibs.org](http://www.aibs.org)

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- National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis calls for proposals
- EarthTrek research projects going live
- ChloroFilms' plant life video contest results
- Science prize for online resources in education (SPORE)
- New in *BioScience*: "The Creationist Down the Hall"

**Recent Articles Online at [www.actionbioscience.org](http://www.actionbioscience.org)**

**Original article in English**

- "Tackling Climate Change Issues in the Classroom," by Michael J. Dougherty, Director of Education at the American Society of Human Genetics

**"Technology: An Educational Issue?" blog posts**

- Ocean gazing
- Science images

**Spanish translations of previously posted articles**

- "Microbios en la Corte: El Campo Emergente de la Medicina Forense Microbiana" [Microbes in Court: The Emerging Field of Microbial Forensics], by Abigail A. Salyers, professor of microbiology in the Department of Microbiology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- "Conejos Pigmeos en Peligro en Los Estados Unidos" [Pygmy Rabbits in Peril in the U.S.A.], by Lisa Shipley, associate professor in the Department of Natural Resource Sciences at Washington State University

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**Recent Public Policy Reports Online at [www.aibs.org](http://www.aibs.org)**

**AIBS Public Policy Report for 8 June 2009**

- House subcommittee approves budgets for the National Science Foundation, NOAA
- President calls for science diplomacy
- National Climate Service bill passes committee vote
- More US visas on the way for scientists, graduate students
- AIBS comments on Louisiana science education rule
- Controversy in New Jersey
- New Recovery Act funding opportunities
- From the *Federal Register*
- New in *BioScience*: "Will Congress Include Ecosystem Monitoring in Climate Legislation?"
- Become an advocate for science: Join the AIBS Legislative Action Center

**AIBS Public Policy Report for 26 May 2009**

- FY 2010 National Science Foundation budget details released
- National Science Foundation Webinar to discuss infrastructure funding opportunities
- House committee moves climate change legislation forward
- Holdren testifies before Congress about research budgets
- Obama nominates green chemist to lead Environmental Protection Agency research division

- Become an advocate for science: Join the AIBS Legislative Action Center

**AIBS Public Policy Report for 11 May 2009**

- Administration finally releases proposed FY 2010 budget
- Congress considers new climate service

- US Department of Agriculture requests comments on agriculture research plan

- Budget cuts forcing some zoos to downsize
- Congress looks at international science
- Endangered species rule rescinded

- New in *BioScience*: “Great Lakes: Sailing to the Forefront of National Water Policy?”

- Become an advocate for science: Join the AIBS Legislative Action Center



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