

NR 5884 Biodiversity Stewardship
Offered: Summer (12-week) Semester

INSTRUCTOR: James Egenrieder, Ph.D., jime@vt.edu

REQUIRED TEXT: Readings will be assigned to meet specific students interests and project focus.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course builds on the principles of biodiversity science across the many components of stewardship. Participants will each identify a study area (local site or area, a county, or a larger region) that provides the context for investigating, documenting, analyzing, and promoting biodiversity. Accordingly, students' projects and course products are highly variable and reflect a wide variety of professional, academic, and personal interests.

Skills developed in this course can be immediately applied to real-world needs, and some participants may design their projects and products based on existing need. Specific outcomes include:

- Experience in studying and documenting existing biodiversity
- Exploring and describing the challenges of climate change, water use, habitat loss, and invasive species
- Identifying relevant government agencies, advocacy groups, and prospective partnerships
- Participating in and/or creating events that facilitate community awareness, stewardship support, and opportunities for citizen science
- Documenting and publishing findings and resources that support others' research

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Students will be an active participant in setting course goals and assessment rubrics.