

**VIRGINIA NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> General Meeting**  
**23 September 2023**  
**Radford University, Radford, Virginia**

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**REFRESHMENTS AND REGISTRATION, SET UP POSTERS**  
**9:15 am – 10:00 am**

**ORAL PRESENTATION SESSION I (\*Student author)**  
**10:05 am – 11:45 pm**  
**M73 Center for the Sciences**

- 10:05     **Welcome and opening remarks**  
Karen E. Powers  
President, VNHS and conference host, Radford University
- 10:15     **Manganese effects on polyethylene decomposition in soil is dynamic**  
Jamison Reddy\*, Steven McBride  
Radford University
- 10:30     **Escaping a glass trap – Treated glass surface can provide a solution for shrew mortality**  
Rachel A. Morse\*, Madeline Alt, Robert J. Bush, and M. Kevin Hamed  
Virginia Tech
- 10:45     **Scavenger behavior at bird-window collision carcasses on Radford University campus**  
Hunter W. Greer\*, Gabe W. Tieskotter\*, Karen E. Powers  
Radford University
- 11:00     **Tracking local gray bat movement in southwest Virginia and northeast Tennessee using Motus**  
Hila Taylor\*, Wil Orndorff, Karen E. Powers, Rick J. Reynolds, W. Mark Ford  
Virginia Tech (HT), Virginia Dept. of Conservation & Recreation (WO), Radford University (KEP), Virginia Dept. of Wildlife Resources (RJR), U.S. Geological Survey (WMF)
- 11:15     **Movements and habitat selection of elk in Virginia**  
Braidan A. Quinlan\*, Brett R. Jesmer, Heather N. Abernathy, Jacalyn P. Rosenberger, Dave M. Kalb, Emily D. Thorne, W. Mark Ford, Michael J. Cherry  
Virginia Tech (BAQ, BRJ, HNA, EDT), Virginia Dept. of Wildlife Resources (JPR), Rhode Island Dept. of Wildlife Resources (DMK), U.S. Geological Survey (WMF), Texas A&M University (MJC)
- 11:30     **Recent discoveries of invertebrate fauna in caves and springs of Virginia**  
Wil Orndorff  
Natural Heritage Program, Virginia Dept. of Conservation & Recreation

**11:45-12:45 LUNCH (RU Museum of Earth Sciences will be open)**

**12:45 – 1:30 POSTER SESSION**  
**M Floor, Center for the Sciences (RU Museum of Earth Sciences will be open)**

**ORAL PRESENTATION SESSION II (\*Student author)**

**1:30 pm – 3:45 pm**

**M73 Center for the Sciences**

1:30 **Don't go changin': Expectations in the Mill Creek ecosystem pre-pipeline construction, Roanoke County, Virginia**  
Jamie K. Lau, Caleb Smith\*, Andrea Beverly\*, Kristina R. Stefaniak, Tara A. Pelletier  
Radford University

1:45 **The use of molecular techniques to identify salamanders**  
Paul Sattler  
Liberty University

2:00 **The state of centipede knowledge in the Commonwealth of Virginia**  
Derek A. Hennen  
Virginia Museum of Natural History

2:15 **The soil and leaf litter biodiversity of Stuart, Virginia**  
Kaloyan Ivanov, Liberty Hightower, Jackson Means  
Virginia Museum of Natural History

**COFFEE BREAK**

**2:30 – 3:00**

3:00 **Finding a silver lining in the American robin (*Turdus migratorius*) mass mortality event at Radford University: Collaborations, connections, and student scholarship**  
Karen E. Powers, Sara O'Brien, Jamie Lau, Matt Close, E. Haley Olson Hodges  
Radford University (most), Southwest Virginia Wildlife Center of Roanoke (EHOH)

3:15 **Silver linings II: Exploring the presence of microplastics pollution in American robins**  
Sara O'Brien, Katie Wheeler\*, Victoria Fisk\*, Karen E. Powers, Matthew Close, Jamie Lau, E. Haley Olsen-Hodges, Jack Crofton\*, Brian G. Walker  
Radford University (SO, KW, VF, KEP, MC, JL), Southwest Virginia Wildlife Center of Roanoke (EHOH), Fairfield University (JC, BGW)

3:30 **Wildlife rehabilitation: The forgotten wing of natural history**  
E. Haley Olson Hodges  
Southwest Virginia Wildlife Center of Roanoke

3:45 **Conclusion of conference/Final announcements**

**PLANETARIUM SHOWING (optional): 4:00 – 4:30**

**POSTER SESSION (\*Student author)**  
**12:45 pm – 1:30pm**  
**M Floor, Center for the Sciences**

**Allegheny woodrat surveys in western Virginia, 2023**

Brianna G. Aldridge\*, Karen E. Powers  
Radford University

**Forests that Heal: Appalachian biodiversity, sustainability, and medicinal herbs**

Lucas Biscan-White\*, Patrick McKenney\*, Evelyn Kepley\*, Matthew Sullivan\*, Annelise Britton\*, Tessa Harmon\*, Jaris Hernandez\*, Elias Vance\*, Shannon Joyce, Kaitlyn Tracy\*, and Christine Small  
Radford University (LBW, PM, TH, JH, KT, EV, CJS, AB), University of Virginia's College at Wise (EK, MS), Appalachian Sustainable Development (SJ)

**Nitrogen reduces polyethylene terephthalate decomposition in soil**

Elizabeth Burrell, Steven McBride  
Radford University

**Experimental warming effects on myrmecochory: A case study of an ant-dispersed plant, *Sanguinaria canadensis* and its seed disperser, *Aphaenogaster rudi***

Melissa A. Burt\*, Annika S. Nelson, Charles Kwit, Susan R. Whitehead  
Virginia Tech (MAB, ASN, SRW), University of California Irvine (ASN), University of Tennessee (CK)

**The terrestrial isopod fauna (Isopoda: Oniscidea) of Virginia**

Kaloyan Ivanov, Liberty Hightower, Jackson Means, Nathan Jones  
Virginia Museum of Natural History

**The absence of nosemosis in eastern bumblebees (*Bombus impatiens* Cresson) on parks of Roanoke and New River Valley**

Kathleen Linsenman\*, Thomas Ausburne\*, Christopher Blankenship, Binuk Samarasinghe, Chet Bhatta  
Radford University

**Monitoring wildlife habitat use of forest mammals at Ferrum College using camera trapping**

Wylie Martin\*, Todd Fredericksen  
Ferrum College

**Using museum specimens to study geographic expansion of Lyme disease in the southeastern United States**

Nancy D. Moncrief, Meghan Leber, Lisa J. Gatens, R. Jory Brinkerhoff  
Virginia Museum of Natural History (NDM), University of Richmond (ML, RJB), North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences (LJG)

**Use of cattle trails by wildlife**

Kaitlyn M. Tracy\*, Sarah L. Foltz  
Radford University

**Disappearing voles - Does least weasel presence decrease vole observations in *Mustela* boxes?**

Caroline Watts, Annie K. Webster, Kyle Tanner, Trevor W. Moore, Eliza J. Rothenburger, Austin Holloway, M. Kevin Hamed, W. Mark Ford  
Virginia Tech (CW, AKW, KT, TWM, ELR, AH, MKH), U.S. Geological Survey (WMF)

**Partnerships & plastics: Using wildlife carcasses to ID microplastics**

Katie Wheeler\*, E. Haley Olsen-Hodges, Sara O'Brien, Karen E. Powers, Brian G. Walker  
Radford University (KW, SO, KEP), Fairfield University (BGW), Southwest Virginia Wildlife Center of Roanoke (EHOH)