

Mountain Studies Institute - Upcoming Events

Fall 2009

In This Issue

[Snow and Grad School](#)

[Dealing with Drought Workshop](#)

[Field Station Open House](#)

[San Juan Fen Partnership Meeting](#)

[2009 Air Quality Forum - Event Report](#)

Quick Links

[MSI Webpage](#)

[About Us](#)

[Facebook Page](#)

[What's New](#)

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[MSI](#) is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization and a State of Colorado Enterprise Zone Project. All donations are eligible for a federal tax deduction. Donations of \$200 or more are eligible for 25% Colorado State Tax Credit.

**SUPPORT
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**Upcoming
Moving
Mountains
Education
Series Events**

[Special Seminar Series - Snow and Grad School - Oct 21 in Durango, CO](#)

Dear Friend of MSI,

MSI would like to invite you to learn about and engage in science that is critical for our lives here in the San Juan region. There are several upcoming seminars, workshops, and a tour that you will find interesting and informative! Learn about climate change, wetlands, graduate school, and MSI's field station.

If you have not made a contribution recently, please remember to support MSI! Your gift allows us to offer educational programs, conduct scientific studies, host researchers and students, and contribute to our local economy.

We are half-way towards the purchase of the MSI field station. Your gift to the capital campaign will be doubled by a matching grant from an anonymous donor.

Happy Autumn,

Koren Nydick, Executive Director,
and the staff and board of directors at MSI

Special Seminar Series - Snow and Grad School

2 - 4 pm, Weds. Oct. 21, 2009
Senate Chambers, Student Union, Fort Lewis College, Durango, CO

The Disappearing Cryosphere: Save our Snow (2 pm)

Dr. Mark Williams
Fellow, Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research; Professor, Department of Geography
University of Colorado, Boulder

Mark will cover the effects of climate change on future snow conditions in ski areas, ecological effects, and changes in water resources from the Rockies to the Himalayas. He will discuss future skiing conditions for Aspen Mountain and Park City Mountain Resort, the occurrence of more wet snow avalanches, and how changes in the seasonal snowpack will affect water availability and influence surface/groundwater interactions in the Rockies. He will then cover glacial retreat in the Andes and Himalayas and talk about hydrological responses.

Applying to graduate schools: what you should know & what faculty look for (3 pm)

Dr. Jason Neff
Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies & Geological Sciences
University of Colorado, Boulder

Applying to graduate school requires exams and essays but in many cases it also requires close communication with potential faculty advisors. In this informal workshop, Jason will describe the application process and what faculty look for in potential grad students. We will talk about funding opportunities, what kinds of questions to ask potential advisors and how to improve your chances of finding a graduate program and advisor. Whether you're applying for grad school now or thinking about it for the future, this is an opportunity to ask questions and get advice about grad studies at research universities.

[For more information, click here.](#)

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[Dealing with Drought Workshop - Oct. 22nd in Durango, CO](#)

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[Field Station Open House and Tour - Oct 24th in Silverton, CO](#)

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[San Juan Fen Partnership Meeting and Tour - Oct. 30 in Mountain Village, CO](#)

[Full Moving Mountains Schedule](#)

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Thanks to all of our 2009 Members:

Beverly Rich
Thurman Wilson
Brian Fowler
Ira Nydick
Sander Nydick
Koren Nydick
Kenneth Wright
Mary Gillam
Ali Sabeti
Rob & Pat Blair
H. Creswell Fleming
Charlie Smith
Matt Janowiak
David Swanson
Robert Delves
Emily & Brandon Vogt



Dealing with Drought Workshop

Co-hosted by MSI along with the CO Water Conservation Board, CU-NOAA Western Water Assessment, and others.

Durango - Oct 22



One day workshops for people working in sectors directly affected by drought and climate, including water resources, public utilities, land management, agriculture, recreation, and tourism.

This workshop builds on themes and information from the October 2008 Governor's Conference on Managing Drought and Climate Risk, though attendance at that conference is not required to participate in the workshops.

Sorry, registration is full.

[More information and registration HERE.](#)

Thurman Wilson

Bruce & Sandy
Kowalski

Bill Borgers

Katrina Blair

Luann Andrew

Wendi & Rich
Weinstein

Dave Rich

Art Goodtimes

Dave Wood and the
Citizens State Bank of
Ouray

Ken Sulinski

John Bregar

Matt Lanning

Also thanks to:

Gates Family
Foundation - \$45,000
challenge grant
towards the purchase
of the MSI Field
Station

LPEA Round-Up
Foundation - \$2,000
towards the "My Water
Comes From the San
Juan Mountains"
Education project

MSI Field Station Open House and Tour



Join staff and board members for a tour and to review the master plan.

Everyone is invited to take a tour of MSI's Field Station this Saturday, the 24th of October. The facilities, located in Silverton, will be open from 1-4pm. Hot cider, hot chocolate, and light snacks will be served.

The Field Station will be the first of its kind in the San Juan Mountains. Six small cabins, a bunkhouse, and RV hookups will be available to researchers, educators, and students looking to study in the region. The facilities include a full kitchen, living area, classroom, and a lab area. The property also contains a fen wetland, great for research and restoration activities.

MSI staff will be there to provide tours and answer any questions about the property.

For more information on the Field Station, please visit [HERE](#). We hope to see you this weekend!

San Juan Fen Partnership Meeting



Join us for an update on the fen wetland project

Mountain Village Town Hall Council Room 455 Mountain Village Blvd, Suite A* Mountain Village, CO

The San Juan Fen Partnership will meet in Mountain Village on Friday October 30th to discuss recent progress and plans for the future. More information will be posted at www.mountainstudies.org under "What's New".

Fens are peat forming wetlands fed by springs that keep the soil saturated with water for most of the year. Plants decompose slowly and dead material accumulates to form organic-rich peat soils. Fens in the San Juan Mountains have accumulated up to three meters of peat and most are thousands of years old. These wetlands store carbon, filter pollutants from water, and support biodiversity, including rare species. Fens are abundant in the San Juans because the combination of snowmelt and late summer monsoon rains provide ample moisture.

[Learn more about the Fen Restoration Project here.](#)

MSI Publication Page

Check out the new Publication Page
(<http://www.mountainstudies.org/Research/Products.html>)
. The list is not yet complete. If you have any publications
or presentations that were completed in association with
MSI please send the citation and PDF
to nydick_k@fortlewis.edu

Mountain Studies Institute would also like to thank all of our new and renewing members and all of the recent donations towards the purchase of the Field Station.

As always, thank you for your continued interest and support for Mountain Studies Institute.

Sincerely,

Koren Nydick and the MSI Staff

Newsletter developed by: Kathryn Rende OSM/VISTA, Mountain Studies Institute