



Summer

Office of Undergraduate Research at Mizzou

2009

Newsletter

Issue No: 6

July 9th, 2009

A Common Conundrum:



Chelydra serpentina

However, I vowed to learn more about Missouri's turtles and how I might be able to help them.

A quick visit to the Missouri Department of Conservation's website helped me to identify that what I had seen was a common snapping turtle, *Chelydra serpentina*. They are easily identified by their thick tails, shovel like legs, and slightly hooked mouth.

A less common snapping turtle is the Alligator Snapping Turtle, *Macrochelys temmincki*, which can be identified by its sharply hooked mouth and pronounced ridges on its carapace, or shell.

Both are powerful biters and best left alone unless you know what you are doing. The common snapping turtle is considered an economically important species and is hunted for its meat. In contrast the Alligator Snapping Turtle is considered rare and is not found in central Missouri. This species is protected and hunting or capturing it is prohibited.

Regardless when I drove back by the turtle's location there was no trace of it, at the time I presumed it made it safely across, but maybe someone took it home for dinner.

Missouri has a lot of turtles, 17 different species, so I knew it was only a matter of time before I came across one. This was an event that I looked forward to.

Unfortunately my first encounter with a turtle was in the road. This one was still alive, but I worried it might be killed by a car, so I pulled over and got out to see if I could expedite it's trip across the road.

As I approached, I noticed a thick bumpy alligator like tail. I was used to the cute little curved tails of box turtles and painted sliders. Something in me said this might be a snapping turtle, and that my fingers would be in danger if I decided to interfere.

After a little examination I decided there was a good chance that yes this was a snapping turtle and I had best let it work this one out on its own.

HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK

Monday, July 13th
no events

Tuesday, July 14th

Evening Seminar
Ray Semlitsch
Biological Sciences
Graduate School Applications
6-7 pm, Monsanto Aud

Wednesday, July 15th
no events

Thursday, July 16th

Evening Seminar
Catherine Peterson
Nutritional Sciences
Vitamin D and Your Health
6-7 pm, Monsanto Aud

Friday, July 17th

PGI Discussion
12 - 1 pm, Room 107 LSC

Other terrapin facts:

Of Missouri's 17 turtle species all but three are protected.

The common snapping turtle and two types of soft shell turtle may be hunted.

The Alligator Snapping Turtle has a worm like appendage on its tongue to lure fish within biting range.

You can see both kinds of snapping turtles on campus in Stewart 202 in the reptile room. Check it out.

Website to Watch

<http://www.ewg.org/>

Fred vom Saal mentioned this website during his seminar on plastics and for good reason. The mission of the Environmental Working Group (EWG) is to use the power of public information to protect public health and the environment. EWG is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, founded in 1993 by Ken Cook and Richard Wiles, according to the website. EWG specializes in providing useful resources (like Skin Deep and the Shoppers' Guide to Pesticides in Produce) to consumers while simultaneously pushing for national policy change.



**MAT KEARNEY - \$15
WITH ERIN MCCARLEY
AT THE BLUE NOTE
JULY 16TH
DOORS @ 7:30PM**

When you record the type of smart, catchy songs Mat Kearney cut for his 2006 album

Nothing Left to Lose, you end up spending a lot of time on the road. And after that album's title track throttled up the charts, that's exactly what Kearney did. Three years later, he returns with City of Black & White, an album informed by the traveling, performing and adventuring the Oregon-born, Nashville-based singer did while supporting his breakthrough album. An open-hearted album of self-discovery, City of Black & White is a chronicle of the people he met and missed during that journey. Musically, it's an upping of the ante, laced with hooks and rhythms that are meant to sneak up on you quietly and quickly, en route to winning your love.

www.matkearney.com
www.erinmccarley.com

KAT'S MEOOOW:

WHERE TO GO AND WHAT TO DO IN COLUMBIA



July 8 - 26, 2009

Book and lyrics by Joe Dipietro

Music by Jimmy Roberts

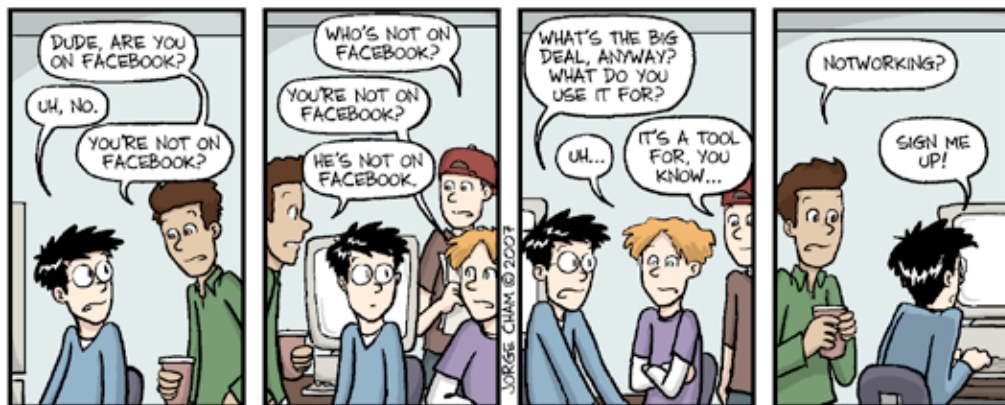
Directed by James M. Miller

Rhynsburger Theatre

July 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 17, 23, 25, 26 performances at 8 P.M.


Sunday matinees (July 12, 26) at 2 P.M.

"A delightful, funny look at the ups and downs of love, life, relationships, dating, kids, marriage, divorce and death. First performed in 1997, I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change is one of off-Broadway's longest running shows. The musical deals with the universal theme of love and pokes fun at the life experiences we've either gone through or will go through. The show, which is actually about 20 different sketches filled with music, singing and dancing, chronicles a lifetime of relationships, from first date to an older couple hooking up at a funeral home." --Jon Busdeker



WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

Roger Ebert, film critic, says...



"Doing research on the Web is like using a library assembled piecemeal by pack rats and vandalized nightly."

So you're smart...but are you Missouri smart?

What popular drink was popularized at the 1904 World's Fair?

Last Week's Answer: Harry Truman

Thinking about what to do after Graduation?

...Live with parents...
...Work old high school job...

...Mow lawns...or..

**Go to Graduate or
Professional School!**

Come to the
University of Missouri


Summer 2009

Undergraduate Research Programs

Career Fair

Tuesday July 14, 4-6 pm

in the Bond Life Sciences Center Atrium

Discuss your future options with representatives
from the following  programs:



Biochemistry
Biological Engineering
Biological Sciences
Biomedical Sciences
Trulaske College of Business--MBA program
Dalton Cardiovascular Center
Exercise Physiology and Nutritional Sciences
MU Fellowships Office
Food Science
Genetics Area Program
Graduate School
School of Health Professions
Interdisciplinary Plant Group
School of Law
MD-PhD Program
School of Medicine
Molecular Microbiology, Immunology and Veterinary Pathology
Pathology and Anatomical Sciences
Psychological Sciences
College of Veterinary Medicine

WHO DO I CONTACT?

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**Weekly Quick Tip:
Effective Poster Presentations**

Determine the most important message

Determine the single most important message of your poster by asking yourself: If my viewer carries away one idea, what do I want it to be? Or, what is the big, take home message that I want to convey? The answer will be the central theme that determines your entire poster design. It should be clearly expressed in the title (which should be the largest piece of text on the poster, readable from at least 5 feet away), and should be supported in every element that you decide to include in the poster design.

Source: Poster Design: Tips and Resources. Stanford University, www.stanford.edu/dept/undergrad.edu

German Expressionist Max Beckmann painted this still life and used color to convey visual priority while also unifying the central themes, which is just as important in poster presentations.



Let's Talk UMEB

Words from Aldo Leopold...



"One of the penalties of an ecological education is that one lives alone in a world of wounds. Much of the damage inflicted on land is quite invisible to laymen. An ecologist must either harden his shell and make believe that the consequences of science are none of his business, or he must be the doctor who sees the marks of death in a community that believes itself well and does not want to be told otherwise.

The government tells us we need flood control and comes to straighten the creek in our pasture. The engineer on the job tells us the creek is now able to carry off more flood water, but in the process we lost our old willows where the cows switched flies in the noon shade, and where the owl hooted on a winter night. We lost the little marshy spot where our fringed gentians bloomed.

Some engineers are beginning to have a feeling in their bones that the meanderings of a creek not only improve the landscape but are a necessary part of the hydrologic functioning. The ecologist sees clearly that for similar reasons we can get along with less channel improvement on Round River.

Source: <http://gargravarr.cc.utexas.edu/chrisj/leopold-quotes.html#extinction>

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