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Defenders of Wildlife Representative Presents Information on Endangered Red Wolves

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Office of University
Communications

October 11, 2017

Christian Hunt Will Speak in Dr. Oyugyi's Ecology Class on Oct. 25

By Mallory Moore '18, Intern for Communications

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—Dr. Joseph Oyugi, Gardner-Webb University Associate Professor of Biology, invites the University community and the public to his ecology class on Oct. 25 at 11 a.m. for a special presentation by Christian Hunt, a representative from Defenders of Wildlife, a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection of all native animals and plants in their natural communities. The presentation will take place in Withrow 205, located on GWU's main campus.




Photo courtesy of
B. Bartel, U.S.
Fish and Wildlife
Service

Hunt will discuss the complex issues surrounding the red wolf, the world's most endangered mammal of the dog family. His presentation will focus on red wolf recovery efforts in North Carolina as well as this species' important environmental role. The red wolf is listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act and critically endangered by The International Union for Conservation of Nature, meaning that its chances of extinction over the next 10 years are above 50 percent. According to the Defenders of Wildlife website, the red wolf's population plummet was caused mainly by hunting. While a small population of red wolves are protected at special breeding facilities, Defenders of Wildlife estimates that as of 2007, only about 45 of these animals lived in the wild.

"Saving endangered species and their habitat is important for our health and for the future generation. We benefit through environmental services. That's why we have the Endangered Species Act," Oyugi shared. He has invited Hunt to his class for the past two years to speak about various species and their roles in the environment, which ties in with key topics in the ecology class. "I believe outside speakers bring different perspectives in my ecology course and provide an opportunity for students to connect with other professionals," he stated.

For more information about red wolves and Defenders of Wildlife, visit <http://www.defenders.org/red-wolf/basic-facts>.

Auxiliary aids will be made available to persons with disabilities upon request 48 hours prior to the event. Please call 704.406.4264 or email servicerequests@gardner-webb.edu with your request.

Located in the North Carolina foothills, Gardner-Webb University is a private, Christian, liberal arts university that prepares students to become critical thinkers, effective leaders and compassionate servants in the global community. Emphasizing a strong student-centered experience and rigorous academics, Gardner-Webb ignites learning and service opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students. Ignite your future at Gardner-Webb.edu.