

Benjamin Charles Colteaux, PhD

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Curriculum Vitae

Education

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| 2011 - Virginia Commonwealth University | Richmond, VA |
| 2017 Ph.D. Integrative Life Sciences | Derek Johnson Laboratory |
| G.P.A. – 4.0 | |
| 2012 - Virginia Commonwealth University | Richmond, VA |
| 2015 Post-baccalaureate Graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) | |
| Urban and Regional Studies Department | |
| G.P.A. – 4.0 | |
| 2010 - University of Louisiana at Lafayette | Lafayette, Louisiana |
| 2011 Ph.D. Environmental and Evolutionary Ecology | Derek Johnson Laboratory |
| Louisiana Board of Regents Fellow | |
| G.P.A – 4.0 | |
| 2007 - Dominican University of California | San Rafael, California |
| 2010 B.A. Biology with emphasis on Ecology | |
| G.P.A – 3.8, Magna Cum Laude | |

Career Focus

To use my extensive experience and education to benefit an organization or agency seeking to improve wildlife conservation and natural resource and recreation management.

Research and Professional Experience

2022- Tetra Tech Inc.

Senior Wildlife Biologist

Responsible for multiple facets of the permitting and reporting process for clean energy projects. Responsibilities include preparation of bird and bat conservation strategies, post construction fatality modeling, evidence of absence and indirect take estimation and modeling, leading field teams and preparing field reports pertaining to species of conservation concern, wildlife surveys, sensitive plant surveys, GIS desktop analyses of known occurrences of T&E species, eagle fatality modeling, and post construction mitigation analysis. Each of these items has research, data preparation, scientific writing, client integration, and reporting aspects. Current workflow includes task-leading research teams across multiple projects, statistical analysis of field collected data within the EoA, CRM, and GenEst environments, and establishing a program focused on increasing habitat for native pollinators throughout the Pacific Northwest.

2018 - Hancock Forest Management/Hancock Natural Resource Group

2020 *Wildlife Biologist*

Responsible for the management of natural resources on roughly 600,000 acres of licensable hunting ground in Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. Managed species included white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), Eastern wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*), bobwhite quail (*Colinus virginianus*), multiple species of duck (*Anas spp.*) and sensitive plant and animal species including Texas trailing phlox (*Phlox nivalis* ssp. *texensis*), Texas screwstem (*Bartonia texana*), and the red-cockaded woodpecker (*Leuconotopicus borealis*). Established collaborations with state and federal wildlife agencies, regional universities, forestry associations, and botanical societies to ensure harvested populations are being properly monitored for the long-term health of each species. Created and implemented measures aimed at controlling populations of introduced feral hogs (*Sus scrofa*) to limit destruction to forestlands and native plant and animal species. Established or expanded programs and revenue streams related to apiary leases, wetland mitigation, and other value-added services. Exceeded recreational income goal by roughly 2 million dollars in the 2019-2020 fiscal period.

2012 - Dr. Derek Johnson, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

2017 *Ph.D. Candidate/Primary Investigator*

Doctoral research focused on assessing the sustainability of snapping turtles (*Chelydra serpentina*) under current and increasing commercial harvest pressure within Virginia waterways. Research included mark/recapture of both common snapping turtles and by-catch turtle species in three Virginia waterways representing a range of historic commercial harvest intensity. Telemetry data collected from 23 snapping turtles was used to infer movement patterns, habitat usage, conspecific interactions, and population density. Nail samples were taken from turtles collected to study mercury loads across size classes of snapping turtles and to examine ontogenetic shifts in feeding. This was a four-year project funded through the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

2008 - Dr. Mietek Kolipinski, Senior Scientist, National Park Service, Pacific West Regional Office, Oakland, CA

2009 *Primary Investigator*

Developed and executed research project cataloguing the bee and wasp species present in Marin County, California. Research involved collecting and preserving bee, wasp and plant samples at 15 sites within Marin County, including sites at the Point Reyes National Seashore and Golden Gate National Recreation Areas. Laboratory research included preserving specimens, species identification, working with local professional botanists and biologists, cataloguing data and management of 5 research assistants.

2009 Dr. Lindsay Sullivan, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA

Research Assistant

Quantified feeding and growth of larval and juvenile planktivorous fish in the San Francisco Estuary. Research performed at The Romberg-Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies, Tiburon, CA using a Costeca Elemental Combustion System (Model ECS410, EAS Clarity Software), Sartorius De-Ionizer, Sartorius Micro-Balance (Model SE2), compound and dissecting microscopes.

- 2008 Ecology and Conservation Field Study, Galapagos Islands, Ecuador
Field Researcher
Research emphasis was on interaction amongst tortoise species native to the Galapagos Islands including variation in shell morphologies, home ranges, reproduction habits and human impact on life cycles. Duties included overseeing research groups, collecting and analyzing data, and working with residents and agencies.
- 2007 - Wildcare, Wildlife Rehabilitation Center and Hospital, San Rafael, CA
2010 *Hospital Intern*
Duties included managing volunteer staff, performing intake examinations, dictating treatment and rehabilitation schedules for patients, performing tests and x-rays, preparing and administering medications, treatment and suturing of wounds, and disaster response related to oil spills, examinations and treatments. Patient intake included species from greater Northern California, including pelagic seabirds, raptors, songbirds, geese and ducks, rodents, and large mammals including rabies vector species.

Continuing Education and Certifications

- 2022 Penn State University – Organic Honeybee Colony Management
- 2020 Penn State University – Beekeeping 101. Grade: A
- 2020 University of Florida – Ecology and Restoration of the Long Leaf Pine Ecosystem (FOR5159) Grade: A
- 2020 California Department of Justice – Firearms Safety Certification (PASS)
- 2019 Montevallo Driving School – Safe Driver Certification
- 2019 Red Cross – CPR and First Aid Certified
- 2019 The Wildlife Society - California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) 101 for Biologists
- 2018 NRA Hunter Education Course (PASS)

Publications

- 2024 Colteaux, Benjamin C., Signer, Johannes, and Johnson, Derek M.
Snapping Turtle (Chelydra serpentina) Home Range Analysis Within a Lotic Environment: Effects of Sex, Season, and Body Size. (In Revision)
- 2024 Colteaux, Benjamin C., and Johnson, Derek M.
The Status of Snapping Turtles (Chelydra serpentina) in Virginia: Modelling the Effects of Commercial Harvest Regulations on Population Growth Rates in a Turtle Fishery. (In Prep)
- 2024 Jones, Landon M., Colteaux, Benjamin C., Leberg, Paul, and Duke-Sylvester, Scott M.
A Geometric Estimator to Calculate Triangulations from Radio Telemetry Data. (In Revision)
- 2017 Colteaux, Benjamin C.
The Status of Snapping Turtles (Chelydra serpentina) in Virginia: Population Viability, Demography, Regulatory Analysis, and Conservation. Doctoral Dissertation, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, USA.
- 2017 Colteaux, Benjamin C., and Johnson, Derek M. *Commercial harvest and export of snapping turtles (Chelydra serpentina) in the United States: trends and the efficacy of size limits at reducing harvest.* Journal for Nature Conservation 35 (2017): 13-19.

- 2012 Colteaux, Benjamin C., McDonald, Circe, Kolipinski, Mietek, Cunningham, James B., and Ghosh, Sibdas. *Survey of pollinator and plant interactions in meadow and grassland habitats of Marin County, California*. BIOS, 84(1):1-7.

Select Teaching Experience

- 2015 - 2016 Vertebrate Natural History (BIOZ 313), Instructor, Virginia Commonwealth University
- 2014 Guest Lecturer: Herpetology (BIOL 435), Virginia Commonwealth University
- 2014 Guest Lecturer: Vertebrate Natural History (BIOL 313), Virginia Commonwealth University
- 2013 Research Methodology and Ethical Conduct of Research (LFSC301), Recitation Leader, Virginia Commonwealth University

Select Presentation Experience

- 2017 University of Yangon, Yangon, Myanmar
Oral Presentation
“The Status of Snapping Turtles (Chelydra serpentina) in Virginia: Population Viability, Demography, Regulatory Analysis, and Conservation” as presented by Derek M. Johnson, PhD
- 2017 102nd Ecological Society of America Conference, Portland, OR
Poster Presentation
“The Status of Snapping Turtles (Chelydra serpentina) in Virginia: Population Viability, Regulatory Analyses, and Conservation”
Presentation focused on the status of snapping turtle populations within the Commonwealth of Virginia and the effect of harvest regulations.
- 2015 International Congress for Conservation Biology, Montpellier, France
Poster Presentation
“Snapping Turtle (Chelydra serpentina) Home Range Analysis in an Open River System: Implications for Conservation and Harvest Regulations”
Presentation focused on the home range of snapping turtles in an open river environment for the first time and addressed possible associated conservation implications.
- 2014 Natural Areas Association, Dayton, OH
Poster Presentation
“Commercial Harvest Pressure and Regulation Strategies to Manage Snapping Turtles (Chelydra serpentina) among US States”
Presentation examined the commercial harvest regulations in the 33 states that make up the natural range of the snapping turtle in the US as well as the efficacy of size limit regulations.
- 2014 99th Ecological Society of America Conference, Sacramento, CA
Oral Presentation
“Commercial Harvest of Snapping Turtles (Chelydra Serpentina) in the United States: International Export, Harvest Pressure, and Regulatory Strategies”
Presentation outlined the status of the snapping turtle, as it pertains to commercial harvest, within the United States and as a globally traded commodity.
- 2011 George Wright Society Biennial Conference on Parks, Protected Areas, and Cultural Sites, New Orleans, LA
Oral Presentation
“Pollinator Biodiversity in Marin County, California”

Presentation outlined the findings of a two-year study on the biodiversity of bees and wasps in Marin County, California, including Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Point Reyes National Seashore.

Fellowships and Grants

- 2015 Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Research Grant (\$27,000)
- 2014 Virginia Sea Grant (\$3,000)
- 2013 The Rice Center for Environmental Sciences Research Grant (\$5,000)
- 2013 Sigma Xi Aid-in-Research Grant (\$500)
- 2011 Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Research Grant (\$63,720)
- 2010 Louisiana Board of Regents Graduate Fellowship (\$192,000)

Professional Associations and Memberships

American Society of Naturalists
Ecological Society of America
Sierra Club
Society for Conservation Biology
The Wildlife Society

References

Lee Wise
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Hancock Forest Management North America
Voice: (409) 790-4130
Email: lwise@hnrp.com

Derek M. Johnson, Ph.D.
Department of Biology, Virginia Commonwealth University
Voice: (804) 928-2772
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James D. Nichols, Ph.D.
Emeritus Scientist
U.S. Geological Survey
Voice: (301) 497-5660
Email: jnichols@usgs.gov

John (J.D.) Kleopfer
State Herpetologist, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
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Email: john.kleopfer@dgif.virginia.gov