

Joe E. Meisel, Ph.D.

Ceiba Foundation for Tropical Conservation
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Education

Ph.D., Zoology, University of Wisconsin, December 2004
M.Sc., Wildlife Ecology & Conservation, University of Florida, August 1995
Santa Fe Institute of Complex Systems, June 1995
BA., Biology, University of Virginia, May 1988

Publications

Meisel, J.E. 2014. *Orchids of Tropical America: An Introduction and Guide*. Cornell University Press.
Meisel, J.E., et al. A gap analysis of orchid conservation in Ecuador. In prep.
Rogers, D., and Meisel, J.E. 2009. Supervivencia y diversidad de aves en un paisaje agrícola tropical (Survival and diversity of birds in a tropical agricultural landscape). *Zeledonia* 13(2): 10-22.
Meisel, J.E. 2006. Thermal ecology of the Neotropical army ant *Eciton burchellii*. *Ecological Applications* 16(3): 913-922.
Meisel, J.E. and C.L. Woodward. 2005. Andean orchid conservation and the role of private lands: a case study from Ecuador. Proc. of the 2nd Int'l Orchid Conservation Congress. *Selbyana* 26 (1,2): 49-57.
Meisel, J.E. 2001. Tropical Environments and Ecological Concepts: A Review. *EcoScience* 8(4): 530-531.
Meisel, J.E., and M.G. Turner. 1998. Application of semivariograms to real and artificial landscapes. *Landscape Ecology* 13: 347-62.

Professional Experience

September 2015 - December 2016

Fulbright US Scholar. Colciencias award (in collaboration with Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogota, and National Herbarium of Colombia) for spatial analysis of Colombian orchid diversity, prioritization of orchid conservation sites, and training seminars in advanced GIS techniques.

December 1997 - present

Vice-President (2003-05, 2009-present), President (1997-2002, 2006-09), and founding director, Ceiba Foundation for Tropical Conservation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to habitat conservation, scientific research, local capacity building, community development and environmental education. Established two forest reserves in Ecuador, one through South America's first conservation easement between an NGO and private landowner. Implemented community development, conservation, and education programs in rural Ecuador. Created, instructed, and obtained accreditation for study-abroad programs, semester and summer length, in partnership with University of Wisconsin Madison.

September - December 2014

Part-time Faculty, Madison College. Environmental Science, lecture and laboratory sections.

January 2013 - 2017

Member, Orchid Specialist Group of the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature).

January 2009 - present

Instructor and coordinator, "Tropical Conservation Semester," a 5-course, 16-credit study-abroad program in Ecuador focusing on tropical ecology (terrestrial and marine), applied conservation biology, and Spanish language and cultural immersion; a collaboration between the Ceiba Foundation, Universidad San Francisco de Quito, and University of Wisconsin Madison (honors accreditation).

January 2007 - 2009

Adjunct Professor, Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Ecuador. Instructor for the Tropical Conservation Semester study-abroad program (accredited by University of Wisconsin).

July 1999 - present

Instructor & coordinator, "Tropical Ecosystems: Andes, Amazon, Pacific Coast," a 4-credit study-abroad summer course in Ecuador; a collaboration between the Ceiba Foundation and University of Wisconsin Madison (honors accreditation).

September - December 2008, 2009

Associate Lecturer, University of Wisconsin - Richland. Undergraduate General Botany, lecture and laboratory sections.

January 2008 - August 2008

Preceptor, Center for Global Health, University of Wisconsin's School of Medicine and Public Health. Advisor for M.Sc. students conducting rural health and water quality research in coastal Ecuador.

July 1999 - present

Instructor & coordinator, tropical ecology summer field course in Ecuador, Ceiba Foundation. Responsible for all aspects of course development, lectures, logistics, field activities, and grading.

January - June 2005

Instructor, Boston University Tropical Ecology Program, Ecuador. Taught lectures on a range of topics (mammals, insects, birds), lead field activities, advised students, wrote exams, and set grades.

August - December 2004

Co-developer, Tropical Ecology and Conservation online course, University of Wisconsin - Madison. Responsible for course design, syllabus creation, lecture writing and narration, and web programming.

September 1997 - December 2004

Doctoral student, Department of Zoology, University of Wisconsin - Madison. Examined the effects of forest fragmentation on the foraging and thermal ecology of the tropical army ant *Eciton burchellii*, and on the foraging behavior of ant-following birds. Broader interests include enhancement of biodiversity in intensively managed or fragmented landscapes.

July 2003

Mentor, Organization of Tropical Studies Research Education for Teachers program, Costa Rica. Advised visiting high-school teachers conducting independent research projects.

June - August 1999

Field study of the influence of powerline clearings on the movement of forest interior birds in fragmented landscapes in Panama. Research supported by a LAIS/Tinker Foundation award.

April 1998

Co-instructor, Tropical Ecology course, Save The Rainforest and ANCON, Panama. Led high school students in diverse tropical habitats, visited indigenous villages, and gave classroom and field lectures.

November 1997 - April 1998

Crew member, Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center project on Neotropical migrant use of forest patches, Panama. Netted and banded birds, and created GIS database of land uses near field sites.

August - September 1997

Administrator (interim), Tiputini Biodiversity Station, Amazonian Ecuador, a field research and education facility operated by the Universidad San Francisco de Quito.

June - July 1997

Teaching Assistant, Institute of Tropical Ecology and Conservation (ITEC) Coral Reef Ecology field course, Bocas del Toro, Panama.

September 1995 - January 1996

Doctoral student, investigated geostatistical tools such as semivariograms commonly used in landscape ecology, with Dr. Monica Turner. Results published in *Landscape Ecology*, 1998.

July - August 1996

Conducted field research in Costa Rica on the influence of land uses on birds in neighboring forest patches. Research supported by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County.

June 1995

Supported participant, Santa Fe Institute's Complex Systems Summer School, New Mexico.

September 1992 - May 1995

Tropical Conservation and Development Research Fellow, University of Florida. Drs. Lyn Branch and C.S. Holling, advisors. Investigated the relationship between body masses of tropical avian communities and landscape structural diversity, through development of individual-based computer models and novel remote sensing techniques.

Grants and Awards

Fulbright US Scholar, Colciencias Award, Colombia, 2015-2016.

America Orchid Society Conservation Award, 2015

Crowder Messersmith Foundation Grant, 2012

Orchid Conservation Alliance Grant, 2008

San Diego County Orchid Society Orchid Conservation Grants, 1999, 2002, 2004, 2005-2007, 2008

University of Wisconsin Zoology Department Graduate Research Awards, 1999-2002

University of Wisconsin Vilas Travel Awards, 2001, 2002, 2004

American Orchid Society Conservation Award, 1999

Fauna & Flora International 100% Fund Award, 1999

University of Wisconsin LAIS/Tinker Foundation Field Research Grant, 1996, 1999

Zoological Society of Milwaukee Conservation Research Grant, summer 1996

Best student presentation (runner-up), International Landscape Ecology Conference, 1996

Santa Fe Institute Complex Systems Summer School supported participant, 1995

University of Florida Tropical Conservation and Development Research Fellow, 1992-1994

University of Virginia Biology Student of the Year (runner-up), 1987

Technical Skills & Languages

Geographic Information Systems: advanced GIS techniques (ArcGIS, Spatial Analyst, QGIS) for mapping, data visualization, spatial analysis, range estimation, satellite image processing.

Computer skills: statistics (SAS, JMP), programming (Visual Basic, Excel macros), web design (html, css, php), graphic arts (Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign), video editing (Vegas Movie), audio recording and editing (ProTools, Ableton), MS Office.

Field experience: bird mistnetting and banding, point counts; insect collection, Berlese funnels, identification, mounting; GPS & GIS mapping and surveying; advanced GIS spatial analysis.

Spanish fluency (written & spoken); near fluency in French.