

CURRICULUM VITAE

Joseph D. Schmitt

Oklahoma State University

Natural Resource Ecology and Management

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Education

Oklahoma State University; Stillwater, Oklahoma

*M.S. Candidate, Natural Resource Ecology & Management – Fisheries Option –
expected graduation date: 2012*

Christopher Newport University; Newport News, Virginia

*Bachelor of Science in Biology (Chemistry minor), summa cum laude – earned 5/2009;
GPA 3.90.*

Teaching Experience

In the fall of 2008, I served as a T. A. in the mammalogy labs taught by Dr. Rick Sherwin at Christopher Newport University. The position involved my assistance with general lab activities, including dissecting mammals, setting up remote monitoring systems, and teaching basic mammalian bone structure.

During my spring break in 2006, I volunteered with an after-school tutoring program at the Cabrini-Green housing project in Chicago. I specifically worked with 4th graders, assisting them with their math and science homework.

I assisted with Virginia Institute of Marine Science's "Summer Saturdays" program for two summers while in high school (2003 and 2004). The program taught elementary-age students about the biodiversity of the Chesapeake Bay through seine netting and other various outdoor activities.

Research Experience, Upcoming Publication, and Recent Poster Presentation

I spent a great portion of the summer of 2008 assisting Dr. Rick Sherwin (Christopher Newport University) with his bat research. My duties mostly consisted of putting together a remote monitoring system to survey bat activity in abandoned mines on government land in Nevada and Alaska. I also assisted with the write-up of the reports that were sent in to the Federal Bureau of Land Management, and made one trip to Nevada with Dr. Sherwin in October 2008. On this trip we surveyed mines on federal lands (most of which dated from the late 1800's) to determine how often, if at all, they were utilized as roosting or maternity sites for bats. Based on this information, the Bureau of Land Management could then decide whether or not to backfill these dangerous mines.

*From February 2003 to the fall of 2006 I assisted Todd Gedamke (Virginia Institute of Marine Science) with his doctoral research on the barndoor skate. I spent many hours processing barndoor skate vertebrae; from this I learned how to operate a jewel-grade wet saw and also learned several different dying techniques. I also spent several hundred hours processing some 273 barndoor skate stomach samples. This tedious work improved my attention to detail, since the digestion process rendered the majority of the prey items fairly difficult to identify by gross morphology. I spent many challenging hours on the microscope while simultaneously thumbing through various dichotomous keys. After processing the samples, I spent dozens of hours entering the data into excel and assisting with the various figures and tables. I have been named as a co-author on the paper entitled "Ontogenetic and Sex-specific Shifts in the Feeding Habits of the Barndoor Skate (*Dipturus laevis*) on Georges Bank" along with Jack A. Musick, William D. DuPaul, and Todd Gedamke. This paper is currently under review with the NOAA Fishery Bulletin and we hope to see it published during the coming months. My most recent work related to this project is the preparation of a poster summary of the above paper with Dr. Todd Gedamke, which he and I presented at the annual American Fisheries Society meeting in Ottawa in August of 2008.*

In 2002 and 2003, while in high school, I assisted Dr. Willy Reay (Virginia Institute of Marine Science) with the annual York River flounder surveys; this involved late-winter seine netting throughout the brackish portions of the York River. From this I learned basic fieldwork techniques such as proper seine netting, data recording, and how to operate a salinity/dissolved oxygen meter, as well as learning basic boating skills and gaining a

fundamental understanding of navigational laws. I also gained an extensive knowledge of York River estuarine flora and fauna.

Memberships in Professional Organizations

- *American Fisheries Society*
- *Oklahoma Chapter of the American Fisheries Society*
- *Student Subunit of the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Fisheries Society*

Awards, Honors, and Academic Merit Scholarships

- *Virginia Institute of Marine Science “Volunteer of the Year” Award (for 2003)*
- *Christopher Newport University President’s Leadership Program Merit Scholarship (2005-2006)*
- *The W.P. Greene Merit Scholarship (2006-2007)*
- *The Karl E. and Elizabeth H. Beamer Merit Scholarship (2007-2008)*
- *Christopher Newport University Honors Program Travel Award to attend and participate in a poster presentation at the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting, Ottawa, Ontario (2008)*
- *Dean’s List (for each semester enrolled at Christopher Newport University)*
- *Christopher Newport University Honors Program Scholar (2005-2009)*
- *Student-Athlete Award for maintaining a high GPA while on the Christopher Newport University sailing team (2006, 2007)*
- *Member, Alpha Chi National Honor Scholarship Society*
- *Member, Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society*

Extracurricular Activities

- *Volunteered for service projects to the underprivileged in Washington, D. C., Baltimore, Philadelphia, Atlanta, and New York City on several different occasions since 1999*
- *Volunteered at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science from 2002 to 2006*
- *PADI-certified scuba diver since 2004*
- *Volunteered with an after-school tutoring program in Chicago’s Cabrini-Green housing project during spring break in 2006*
- *Crew member on the CNU Sailing Team in 2006 and 2007*
- *Member, Christopher Newport University Chemistry Club*
- *Musician who sings and plays guitar, piano, and drums*
- *Fisherman with state citations*

Other Work Experience

- *Summer 2008, Fall Break of 2008, and Spring Semester 2009: research assistant for Dr. Rick Sherwin (bats - see Research Experience) (Newport News, Virginia, and various locations in Nevada)*
- *2005-2006 academic year: University tour guide for Christopher Newport University (Newport News, Virginia)*
- *11/2003-05/2007: server at Joe's Inn Italian Restaurant (Mechanicsville, Virginia)*
- *10/2002-11/2003: host at the Outback Steakhouse (Mechanicsville, Virginia)*
- *Summer 2001 & 2002: Green Pastures Lawn Care & Landscaping (Mechanicsville, Virginia)*