



# Conservation and Biodiversity Genetics

## OTS SPECIALTY COURSE

This is an intensive, two-week course aimed at providing ecologists, biologists, geneticists and students from similar disciplines with an overview of conservation genetics and related issues in neotropical biodiversity. The course is supported by a grant from the American Genetics Association.

Course topics include: measurement of genetic diversity, phylogeography, application of molecular data to taxonomic questions, gene flow, mating systems and effective population size estimates, habitat fragmentation and restoration. We will also discuss the cost-effectiveness of different approaches, the underlying theory as it applies to conservation questions and the best ways to integrate experimental and field-based data with these analytical results. Local conservation experts will present invited lectures on conservation issues in Costa Rica.

Topics will be covered through lectures, discussions and readings in the primary literature. We will integrate a workshop component into each topic. In the workshop we will discuss and present pertinent computer software and will critique the advantages and disadvantages of the available software packages. Students will be given an opportunity to present and discuss their own conservation research projects.

### **WHEN:**

18-31 May 2008  
(arrive 17 May, depart 1 June)

### **WHERE:**

Costa Rica: Palo Verde Biological Station.  
Visit to Santa Rosa National Park and Guanacaste Conservation Area

### **PARTICIPANTS:**

Graduate students in the fields of biology, ecology, genetics and related disciplines.

### **APPLICATION DEADLINE:**

February 15, 2008 for priority consideration, followed by rolling admission until fully enrolled (22 students).

### **TUITION:**

\$1,500 OTS consortium applicants  
\$2,000 non-consortium applicants  
Partial scholarships of \$500 may be requested. Awards will be based on academic merit and proven financial need, with first priority given to students from consortium institutions.



## FACULTY

**Dr. James L. Hamrick**

University of Georgia

**Dr. John P. Wares**

University of Georgia

**Dr. Eric J. Fuchs**

University of Costa Rica



Applicants should check with their departments and advisors to arrange academic credit for this course.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** For registration contact Barbara Lewis [[blewis@ots.ac.cr](mailto:blewis@ots.ac.cr)] or the OTS website at [www.ots.duke.edu](http://www.ots.duke.edu) and for course content, Jim Hamrick [[hamrick@plantbio.uga.edu](mailto:hamrick@plantbio.uga.edu)]