



# BIOSPHERE

## The Weekly Bulletin of Biology

Biology Colloquium: Friday, 15 February 2013, 2:00 pm in CR 5125

**“From Silent Spring to Silent Night: A Tale of Toads and Men”**

Tyrone Hayes, Ph.D.  
UC Berkeley

### New Publication

**Darren Brown** and Dr. **Peter Edmunds** have a paper in *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology*: “Long-term changes in the population dynamics of the Caribbean hydrocoral *Millepora* species.”

### Did You Know...

Did you know that Dr. **Cheryl Van Buskirk** teaches an indoor cycling (*spinning*) class at the Student Recreation Center? “Matador Cycle with Cheryl” this semester is Thursdays at 5:30 pm. To reserve a bike, sign up [online](#) a day ahead.

Pick up your reserved bike pass and a free hand towel at the Total Training Zone desk by 5:20 pm and head upstairs to the Inspiration Studio. First-time Spinners are welcome. Bring a water bottle and be ready to sweat!



### California Moss eFlora

A [California Moss eFlora](#) was launched last week. This is a series of about 700 webpages that tell how to identify mosses and what is known of their distributions in California. It goes all the way down to the specimen level, dots on a Google map.

In the first 24 hours, 450 unique visitors accessed the site. Many were from distant parts of the world, where mosses are seriously catalogued components of terrestrial biodiversity.

Dr. **Paul Wilson** is the lead editor of the *eFlora*. Other editors are from UC Berkeley and the California Academy of Sciences. The current information originates from the life work of one of Wilson’s undergraduate professors, Daniel H. Norris, who taught at Humboldt State University before “retiring” to Berkeley to work on mosses full time, for the last 20 years.

CSUN students have already contributed to the *eFlora*, and frequent

improvement is expected for many years. Students can take photos, draw characters that distinguish species, write diagnoses, beta test identification keys, and (when they become experts on a group) annotate specimens.

Says Wilson, "Our goal is to eventually map out mosses with the ease of identification and level of confidence that vascular plants are documented in California." He adds slyly, "I hope this doesn't mean I have to work on it for as many years as Norris has. I'm looking for a student who will take over when I retire."

***Biosphere: The Weekly Bulletin of Biology***

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