

**SAMPLE ABSTRACT TO DEMONSTRATE FORMATTING for SEPARC meeting:
NOTE: ABSTRACT BODY: MAX 250 WORDS; SPEAKER BIO: MAX 75 WORDS.**

USING THE PAST TO PREDICT THE FUTURE: REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN CONSERVATION AND LAND-USE LEGACIES. Steven J. Price* and Michael E. Dorcas, Department of Biology, Davidson College, Davidson NC 28035

Many studies often relate the abundance or presence of amphibians and reptiles in a landscape to current land use and/or cover. From these studies, inferences are often made regarding species-habitat relationships, population ecology, and, ultimately, conservation and management. However, past land use and/or cover may be an equally or more important determinant of a species contemporary distribution across a landscape. In this presentation, we investigate the potential influence of land-use legacies on current abundance patterns of semi-aquatic reptile and amphibian species in the Charlotte Metropolitan area in North Carolina. Specifically, we use aerial imagery from the 1930s through the 2005 to quantify land use surrounding farm ponds and first-order streams and relate current herpetofaunal abundance patterns in these habitats to their various land-use histories. We also discuss the condition of the current landscape near Charlotte and throughout the Southeast, and demonstrate how knowledge gained through studies of land-use legacies can provide valuable insights into present-day and future reptile and amphibian conservation efforts.

Steven J. Price began working at Davidson College in May 2004 after receiving his M.S. degree in Environmental Science from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. His research interests center around reptile and amphibian conservation biology, landscape ecology and population biology. Currently, Steve is participating in several herp projects in the sprawling Charlotte Metropolitan area, including a landscape-scale experiment on the consequences of urbanization on streams salamanders.