



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
WHITEWATER

COLLEGE of LETTERS AND SCIENCES

Biological Sciences

Dr. Joshua M. Kapfer

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Education:

B.S. Biology, Univ. of Wisconsin-La Crosse
M.S. Biology: Aquatic Sciences, Univ. of
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Ph.D. Ecology and Evolution, Univ. of
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ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS & INTERESTS I am a Certified Wildlife Biologist ® and most of my research projects are focused primarily on the rigorous collection of data in the great outdoors. Although I am broadly interested in vertebrate ecology and conservation, I am particularly interested in wildlife habitat selection, spatial ecology, population biology and behavioral ecology. My research projects are often conducted under less than ideal conditions and only students interested in getting their hands dirty should seek me out as a faculty advisor. In addition, during any research with me, you'll likely come into contact with snakes, rodents and bugs. You will also, at some point, be hot, sweaty, and/or covered with dirt. Be forewarned! **I also generally prefer that students have taken BIO 257 (Introduction to Ecology) and BIO 258 (Field Experience) before I take them on as research students.**

As examples of what I do, here is a list of currently ongoing research projects

- Habitat Selection, Spatial Ecology and Survival of Head-Started Blanding's Turtles (*Emydoidea blandingii*) in southern Wisconsin.
- The Response of Wolves (*Canis lupus*) to Simulated Territorial Intrusions in High vs. Low Territory Density Locations
- Variation in Preferred Distance from Stream Banks Selected by Riparian Snake Species
- The Response of Sympatric Canids, *Vulpes vulpes* and *Canis latrans*, to Experimentally Applied Conspecific Urine.

If you are interested in learning more, please visit my faculty webpage:

<http://facstaff.uww.edu/kapferj/index.htm>

See student testimonials below.



Student Testimonials

Katie Hausmann (2013): “The research project I am currently working on with Dr. Kapfer is on Blanding’s turtles. We track the turtles’ movement patterns and record the habitat we find them in. This research is very different from other projects that I have been part of before. Being outside and having to think on your feet is challenging and fun. It is an experience that any biologist should have. University of Wisconsin-Whitewater provides more research opportunities and hands on experience than other large universities. Having the opportunity to work with the Undergraduate Research Program and Dr. Kapfer has been one of the best adventures of my life!”



Ryan Jacques (2013): “I conducted an experiment of “Using trail cameras to observe the responses of mink (Neovison vison) and other riparian mammals to predator and prey olfactory stimuli.” This project would not have been possible without the help of my advisors, Dr. Josh Kapfer and Dr. Bruce Eshelman. Dr. Kapfer was my primary advisor and he kept me on track so I could get the project done in time to present at NCUR 2013. He was also readily available if I had any question about the research, any field techniques, statistics, and practical lab methods. The experience that I have gained from this project cannot be measured. I now have a taste of what it takes to carry out a sound research project, present a research project (orally and by poster presentation), and have a grasp on writing a scientific paper in the hopes of a publication. UW-Whitewater has provided its students with numerous opportunities in undergraduate research by providing programs like the Undergraduate Research Program (URP). URP has helped me with the expenses that come with presenting research at large conferences and with the preparation for those conferences. Research is something I now love to do and believe it is something that everyone should at least try.”