

---

University of Pennsylvania  
Institute for Environmental Studies

presents

**Roger Wood**

The Wetlands Institute  
Richard Stockton College of New Jersey



**Terrapins, Tires, and Traps:  
Conservation Biology at the Jersey Shore**

Diamondback terrapins (*Malaclemys terrapin*) occur only in salt marshes along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the United States. For more than a century, terrapin populations have been severely depleted throughout much of their range by various human activities (overhunting, loss of critical nesting habitat, road kills during the nesting season, and drowning as bycatch in commercial crab traps). Currently, terrapins are accorded various degrees of protection (endangered, threatened, or species of special concern in nine of the sixteen states rangewide). In New Jersey, the diamondback terrapin is listed as a species of special concern.

Scientists at the Wetlands Institute, located on the Cape May Peninsula of southernmost New Jersey, have undertaken a variety of initiatives to reduce human impacts upon terrapins. These include the development of "Terrapin Excluder Devices" for use on commercial crab traps, the placement of terrapin barrier fences along roads crossing salt marshes, a head-starting program for baby terrapins hatched from eggs retrieved from road-killed females during the nesting season, and the creation of new nesting habitat in salt marsh areas removed from most human activities.

**Date: October 29, 2008**

**Time: NOON - 1:30 pm**

**Place: Carolyn Hoff Lynch Auditorium**

On the Penn campus: Chemistry Building  
34 & Spruce Sts. (enter on 34 St)

**NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

Direct questions to: 215-573-3164

[ies\\_penn@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:ies_penn@sas.upenn.edu)

<http://www.sas.upenn.edu/earth/ies>

NO FOOD OR DRINK PERMITTED IN THE AUDITORIUM

---