

Graduate Student PowerPoint Presentation
Biology 5810, Biogeography
Fall 2010
Biological Corridors

General Information

Biological corridors, pathways used by organisms for dispersal from one area of suitable habitat to another, are instrumental in the distribution of species and ultimately their biogeography. Within the City of Valdosta, key biological corridors are One-mile Branch and Two-mile Branch creeks. During droughts when the waters of the Withlatchoochee River and surrounding wetlands get very low or dry out completely, alligators disperse from the main river channel and the associated wetlands and move up the creeks looking for sources of water. As a result of these activities, alligators have been found on the VSU campus and in housing areas near the headwaters of the creeks during droughts as well as at other times.

The graduate students will work as a team to develop a detailed power point presentation on what is a biological corridor and what are some of the key biological corridors in the Southeastern U.S.

Key Dates and Times—On the first and third Mondays of each month, the graduate students will meet with the instructor for a brief discussion session after class to assess the progress they are making on the development of the research project. By 25 October, all literature and data pertinent to the project should be completed. By 8 November, the rough outline of actual PowerPoint presentations should be ready for review prior to preparation for presentation.

Cooperative Efforts and Plagiarism—This is a team effort with the primary focus being the development of a professional quality PowerPoint presentations with the potential to develop it as a manuscript suitable for submission to a scientific journal such as the Southeastern Naturalist or the Georgia Academy of Science. Team efforts are becoming more and more important in the sciences as our body of knowledge and understanding of various subjects expands and the value of the interdisciplinary nature of scientific research becomes more and more important to solve key scientific issues. Therefore, coordination between the graduate students will be paramount. The development of your arguments on the biological corridors will depend on your working together as a team.

At all cost, do not engage in any form of plagiarism. You will be extracting varying amounts of data, written arguments and analyses from other peoples work and synthesizing it into a new and comprehensive work. Therefore, be sure to give credit where credit is due. As you accrue information, extract charts, tables and figures from the literature, take careful note on their sources and write down in your notes the full reference. If you have any doubts as to the correctness of your citations and understanding of the information you are gathering, discuss it with the lecturer. Finally, make or acquire a copy of every source you use so it can be saved for future reference if needed.