**URBAN NATURES WORKSHOP – OCTOBER 5-6, 2012**  
Department of Geography, School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University  
US Forest Service, New York City Urban Field Station

**Overview**

The Department of Geography at Rutgers University and the New York City Urban Field Station of the US Forest Service are pleased to invite you to attend the 2012 “Urban Natures” Workshop. The workshop is the third in a series of collaborative interdisciplinary symposia involving the Geography faculty and students from Rutgers, Penn State, Syracuse and Clark Universities. This year’s theme reflects growing scholarly interest in urban areas as sites of primary production, conservation/protection of biodiversity, ecological reclamation and restoration, and the formation of distinctive “urban nature” political constituencies and subjectivities. Panel discussions and a day long fieldtrip to New York coordinated by Urban Field Station staff will afford participants the opportunity to exchange ideas and explore a range of critical perspectives on these and related issues.

The Friday afternoon workshop will feature panels devoted to emerging concepts and research approaches, as well as a presentation and discussion about the many programs run by the US Forest Service in New York City. As in years past, the panels will be run as informal discussions with brief interventions offered by panelists as a means of fostering further discussion. The intention is that the discussions on Friday will prepare participants for the Saturday fieldtrip, which will feature stops at the Freshkills landfill site, a prominent reclamation/conversion project on Staten Island; the waterfront green space at Brooklyn Bridge Park; and an urban rooftop farm run by the Brooklyn Grange.

To participate in this unique event, please complete the attached registration form and return it by September 17th to Kelly Bernstein (kellbern@rci.rutgers.edu). Be sure to indicate meal preferences and whether you plan to drive and will need parking permits on campus. Meals and transportation costs for the fieldtrip will be covered by Rutgers; costs of transportation to and from the event and lodging are the responsibility of participants. As in years past, there may be some opportunities for visiting students to lodge with Rutgers students. The workshop schedule, directions to workshop venues and local hotels, and a list of relevant websites for the fieldtrip venues are all enclosed for your reference. As we get closer to the event, we will provide additional details on panel presentations and a list of suggested readings to orient our discussion.

We look forward to seeing you in a few weeks!

Rick Schroeder  
Chair, Department of Geography
Workshop Schedule

**Friday, October 5th**

**Rutgers University Inn & Conference Center (RUICC)** 178 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ, 08901

- 12:00  Luncheon buffet – RUICC dining Room
- 1:00  Welcome, Rick Schroeder, Associate Professor, Rutgers

Panel discussion I:
- Asher Ghertner, Assistant Professor, Rutgers – urban infrastructure and citizenship claims in India
- Matt Huber, Assistant Professor, Syracuse – suburbanization and oil consumption in the US
- Erika Svendsen, Research Social Scientist, USDA Forest Service, NYC Urban Field Station - stewardship mapping in NYC
- Nate Gabriel, PhD, Rutgers– governance, subjectivities and volunteerism in Philadelphia

- 2:30  Coffee break
- 3:00  Panel discussion II:
  - Tom Perreault, Associate Professor, Syracuse – conceptualizing waterscapes in Syracuse
  - Tania López-Marrero, Assistant Professor, Rutgers – ecosystem services, social learning and conservation in Puerto Rico
  - Amy Lerner, Post-doctoral fellow, Rutgers – rural-urban gradients in Mexico
  - Luke Drake, PhD candidate, Rutgers – national community garden survey and NJ case studies
  - Nancy Falxa-Raymond, Research Technician, USDA Forest Service, NYC Urban Field Station – longitudinal community gardens research, NYC

- 4:45  New York City Urban Field Station presentation and field trip preview
  - Lindsay Campbell, Research Social Scientist, USDA Forest Service, NYC Urban Field Station –Urban Field Station briefing; field trip orientation

**Woodlawn Mansion** 191 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ, 08901

- 6:00  Reception and buffet dinner

**Saturday, October 6th**

**Rutgers University Inn & Conference Center (RUICC)** 178 Ryders Lane New Brunswick, NJ, 08901

- 8:00  Continental breakfast – Lobby RUICC
- 8:45  Bus departure from RUICC
- 9:30  Freshkills Park, Staten Island (Muldoon Entrance)
- 11:30  Depart Freshkills
- 12:30  Lunch and tour of Brooklyn Bridge Park, Furman Street and Old Fulton Street, Brooklyn
- 3:00  Depart Brooklyn Bridge Park
- 4:00  Brooklyn Grange Farm, Rooftop Farm, Brooklyn
- 5:30  Depart from Brooklyn Grange Farm
- 7:00  Estimated arrival, RUICC

**Woodlawn Mansion** 191 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ, 08901

- 7:00  Drinks/dinner
Websites for fieldtrip venues:

Freshkills
http://www.nycgovparks.org/park-features/freshkills-park/

Brooklyn Bridge Park
http://www.brooklynbridgepark.org/

Brooklyn Grange urban rooftop farm
http://www.brooklyngrangefarm.com/

US Forest Service, New York City Urban Field Station
http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/nyc/