

SATURDAY MAY 30,2009

Title: Orangutan Outreach: Saving the Red Apes

Richard Zimmerman founded Orangutan Outreach in 2007 with two primary goals: 1) to bring attention to the crisis facing orangutans in the wild due to forest devastation and palm oil, and 2) to raise funds for projects on the ground operated by the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation. Thanks to its strong relationship with Animal Planet and the series Orangutan Island, Orangutan Outreach has been able to successfully build a grassroots network across the United States and help foster awareness of the plight of orangutans among people from every walk of life. This awareness has led to a steady growth in charitable donations-- with nearly 1500 virtual orangutan adoptions to date. By offering people the chance to get involved and do their part to help protect orangutans, there is renewed hope that together we can save the red apes.

Richard will also be offering a workshop on either sat or Sunday. He will have displays available also.

If you have not already done so, please visit the Orangutan Outreach website: <http://redapes.org>

FRIDAY night May 29,2009

"Insect Invaders!" - Follow the speaker's adventures in Costa Rica and China, and discover the roles insects play in biodiversity from the rainforests of Costa Rica to the complicated threats some species pose as non-native invasive forest pests in New York, such as China's Emerald Ash Borer and Asian Longhorned Beetle. These insects are the main reason why moving firewood in Allegany State Park is prohibited. Find out what you can do to protect your forest, slow the spread, and even have your family participate in the monitoring program as "concerned citizen" naturalists.

Jacob D. Wickham is has been a leader for the Allegany Nature Pilgrimage for 20 years (since age 13). He received his BS and MS degrees at SUNY Fredonia and examined how to estimate insect biodiversity using Sphinx moths in Costa Rica. He recently completed his PhD (on May 10th!!) in Entomology and Chemical Ecology at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, in Syracuse, examining the pheromone communication system of the Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB). Jake is currently being considered for two positions: (1) as a postdoc for the National Science Foundation's International Research Fellowship Program to continue his work on ALB in Beijing, China, and (2) as a postdoc at Michigan State University to work on deciphering the Emerald Ash Borer's pheromone communication system.

Jake is an avid naturalist and still enjoys leading nature pilgrimage programs and is very excited to start a professional career in entomology.