

Ecology for Nonscientists and Social Sciences/Liberal Studies

- a. **Convener(s)** – Jodee Hunt – *huntj@gvsu.edu*
- b. **Participants** – David Robles, Ron Reed, Robyn Reed, Jake Greenfield, Adam Lee, Russell Park, Andy Rice, Bianca Soares, Eleanor Sterling, Saarah Kuzay
- c. **Summary** –

Inquiries –

- Make science accessible to K-12 and general audience
- Schism between academics, museums, community, etc.
- Collaboration among faculty, students, community members, of different backgrounds can be challenging
- Focusing on decision making (in any class or setting) is critical
- General public/ community and our students across majors many struggle to understand science but need to!
- How do I fit in? What are my talents/ skills? How does background, cultural, passions contribute to solving environmental problems

Concerns –

- The languages used can be very different
- If individuals do not try and stay open minded and explore they may miss their individual calling
- How farmers make their decisions can be interdisciplinary or come from a diversity of perspectives
- Science may pay more than some other fields
- Barriers including preconceptions and prejudices (i.e. traditional gender roles)
- Memorization if linked to science education we can teach science based on ideas/ communication versus memorization

Info/Resources –

- Anthropologists and other social scientists can help connect communities and agriculture/ science
- Find a hook that helps individuals from one area/ discipline/ culture to connect to another
- Science for everybody, we need more effective science educators who will connect with students across the curriculum
- Grow your own food, learn science in the process.
- Make it a family-wide process: learn and do together

Options/Next steps –

- Connecting the dots
- Social sciences and humanities address why science is important. Without them, science is a vacuum and cannot be apply effectively to sustainability
- Sciences explain the how and why of natural and technical systems, passions and insights of social sciences and humanities cannot be addressed effectively in sustainability