

Donald M. Waller
Professor, Botany Department

Academic and Professional History:

- PhD in Biology (Princeton University 1977) and a post-doc at Harvard University
- Started as an Assistant Professor at UW –Madison in 1978
- Visiting Fellow, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama in 1986 and a Humboldt Fellow – Technische Univ., Berlin in 1988
- Editor-in-Chief for the journal EVOLUTION

Research Focus – My research interests center on conservation biology, ecology, and evolutionary biology with special emphasis on: forest plant community dynamics; how trees and herbs respond to ungulate grazing and browsing; invasions of exotic species; and causes and consequences of community simplification. I also study the genetics and demography of rare plant populations, the use of genetic markers to assess effects of habitat fragmentation, and mechanisms of extinction in fragmented habitats.

Graduate and Undergraduate Training Focus: - I have trained 11 Ph.D. and over 20 MS students in a period of 22 years, including women (about half), American Indians (2), and international students (3). I helped found and actively advise students in UW's Conservation Biology and Sustainable Development MS program. I also resuscitated and chaired the Biological Aspects of Conservation major between 1989 and 1994. I teach courses in general ecology, field biology, evolutionary biology, and conservation biology.

Outreach and Public Service: I work intensively on issues related to biodiversity and forest and wildlife management. I have testified at public hearings, before the Wisconsin Assembly, and before U.S. House and Senate Committees. I co-chaired the "Scientific Roundtable on Biological Diversity" culminating in a Report for which I received a USFS 'Honor Award' in 1992. I continue to work closely with citizen groups and colleagues in professional resource agencies, often writing semi-technical publications (e.g., the 1994 book *Wild Forests: Conservation Biology and Public Policy*, Island Press).

Current Research Support:

- Patterns of species loss in forest understory plant communities. (NSF DEB 9974041, August, 1999 – Dec, 2002, \$150,000)

Select Publications:

- L. Keller & D.M. Waller. 2002. Inbreeding effects in wild populations. *Trends in Ecology & Evolution* 17: 230-241.
- Rooney, T. P., and D. M. Waller. 2001. Direct and indirect effects of white-tailed deer in forest ecosystems. *Forest Dynamics and Ungulate Herbivory meeting*, Davos, Switzerland.
- Barry, G.R., T.P. Rooney, S.J. Ventura, & D.M. Waller. 2001. Evaluation of biodiversity value based on wildness: a study of the western Northwoods, Upper Great Lakes, USA. *Nat. Areas J.* 21: 229-242.
- G.K. Meffe, P.D. Boersma, D.D. Murphy, B.R. Noon, H.R. Pulliam, M.E. Soulé, D.M. Waller. 1998. Independent Scientific Review in Natural Resource Management: A Statement by the Society for Conservation Biology. *Conservation Biology* 12:268-270.
- Waller, D.M., and W.S. Alverson. 1997. The white-tailed deer: A keystone herbivore. *Wildlife Soc. Bull.* 25: 217-226.