

EMILE DOMINICK DeVITO, Ph.D.

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Summary of Present Position:

Senior Manager of Science and Stewardship, New Jersey Conservation Foundation, Far Hills, NJ

Responsibilities: Oversee management of 26,000 acres of forest conservation lands.
Vertebrate / invertebrate species population surveys, especially birds and reptiles.
Endangered species surveys and research leading to Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) development.
Ecological restoration of forested wetlands and upland forest habitats 13,000+ acres.
Expert witness testimony regarding rare species, wetlands, and forest ecosystem processes on behalf of Federal, State, Local government agencies, and non-profits.
Conservation advocacy/education to government agencies, non-profit organizations, community groups.
Assist with land acquisition transactions for conservation purposes.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

Senior Manager of Science and Stewardship, Director of Conservation Biology, NJCF, July 1989 – present

Land Management:

- Develop and initiate ecological restoration on NJCF lands ~15,000 acres, especially within NJ Pine Barrens (Pinelands).
- Develop conservation management plans for NJCF properties ~26,000 a.
- Oversee Forest and Grassland bird population surveys on numerous NJ Div. of Fish and Wildlife lands, NJ State Parks and Forests, County (Passaic, Morris, and Ocean) Park System lands, and dozens of local and regional non-profit organization conservation preserves.
- Initiate land acquisition projects in NJ Pine Barrens and statewide.
- Oversee monitoring of conservation values on NJCF easement lands ~6,000 a.

Conservation Advocacy / Education Outreach:

- Expert Witness at New Jersey Office of Administrative Law hearings for NJDEP and NJ Deputy Attorney General, for Federal Justice Department regarding US Air Force lands in the NJ Pine Barrens, and at municipal, county, and state agency hearings and court proceedings regarding forest ecology, wetland ecology, rare species throughout New Jersey, and fire ecology of New Jersey Pinelands forest ecosystem.
- Conservation-oriented testimony at public hearings (NJDEP, Pinelands Commission, municipal meetings) regarding a variety of conservation issues.
- Educate local land trusts, community groups, and the public on land acquisition, conservation biology, and temperate & tropical forest ecology.
- Developed a series of "biodiversity workshops" on habitat selection & management of conservation lands for the Land Trust Alliance Rally from 1993-2001.
- Developed a NJ curriculum on neotropical migrant conservation, "*The Songbird Connection*," the basis for the international Smithsonian Migratory Bird Program.

Conservation Participation:

- Pinelands Preservation Alliance, Trustee, September 2001 - present.
- NJ DEP Endangered and Non-Game Species Committee, July 2000 – Nov 2024.

- NJ DEP Science Advisory Board, 2010-2012
- NJ Natural Lands Trust, Trustee, 1993-present.
- Smithsonian Migratory Bird Council, 1992-4.
- North American Migratory Songbird Curriculum Assessment Team, 1994-1997.

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES:

- Society for Ecological Restoration
- Natural Areas Association
- Land Trust Alliance.

EDUCATION:

1982-88 Ph.D., Ecology. University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI.

-Thesis: *"The scale of habitat selection by birds in the NJ Pine Barrens: effects of fine-grained vegetation heterogeneity within a forest ecosystem."*

This landscape ecology approach predicted distribution and abundance of bird species, based on vegetation patterns and foraging behaviors at different levels of scale.

-Awarded: Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation Fellowship; Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund from the American Museum of Natural History (field research grant); Dean's Assigned Fellowship, University of Wisconsin Graduate School.

1976-81 B.A., Zoology. Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.

-Graduated: Highest Honors class of 1981; Highest Departmental Distinction, Zoology.

-Awarded: Phi Beta Kappa, Garden State (NJ) Fellowship.

PINE SNAKE RESEARCH – PUBLISHED Co-Authorships on next page

REFERENCES: provided upon request.

PINE SNAKE RESEARCH - PUBLISHED LITERATURE

Co-Authorships by Emile DeVito, Ph.D.

Manager of Science and Stewardship, New Jersey Conservation Foundation emile@njconservation.org

Burger, J., Zappalorti, R.T., Gochfeld, M., and DeVito, E. 2007. Effects of off-road vehicles on reproductive success of pine snakes (*Pituophis melanoleucus*) in the New Jersey pinelands. *Urban Ecosystems*, 10, 275-284.

Burger J., M. Gochfeld, R.T. Zappalorti, E. DeVito, C. Jeitner, T. Pittfield, D. Schneider, and M. McCort: 2017. Stakeholder contributions to conservation and protection of threatened species: Pine Snakes (*Pituophis melanoleucus*) in the New Jersey Pine Barrens as a case study. *Amphibian and Reptile Conservation*. 11(2), e142.

Burger, J., M. Gochfeld, C. Jeitner, R. Zappalorti, T. Pittfield, and E. DeVito, 2017. Arsenic, Cadmium, Chromium, Lead, Mercury and Selenium concentrations in Pine Snakes (*Pituophis melanoleucus*) from the New Jersey Pine Barrens. *Arch Environ Contam Toxicol*. 72:586-595.

Burger, J., Zappalorti, R.T., Gochfeld, M., Jeitner, C., DeVito, E. and Howell, J. 2019. A paradigm for information needed to protect at-risk species: northern pine snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus*) in the Pine Barrens as a case study. *Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health, Part A*, pp.1-14.

Burger, J., R. Zappalorti, M. Gochfeld, E. DeVito and C. Jeitner. 2021. Trade-offs and vulnerability of Northern Pine Snakes (*Pituophis m. melanoleucus*): A comparison of nest site selection in the early 1980s and 2020. *Herpetologica*. 77:249-258.

Burger, J., R. T. Zappalorti, M. Gochfeld, and E. DeVito. 2021. The importance of nesting habitat in Northern Pine Snakes (*Pituophis m. melanoleucus*): Risk from off-road vehicles in the New Jersey Pine Barrens. *Urban Ecosystems*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11252-021-01161>.

Burger, J., Gochfeld, M., Zappalorti, R., Bunnell, J., Jeitner, C., Schneider, D., Ng, K., DeVito, E., & Lorch, J. M. 2023. Prevalence of *Ophidiomyces ophidiicola* and epizootiology of snake fungal disease in free-ranging Northern Pine Snakes (*Pituophis melanoleucus melanoleucus*) in New Jersey. *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment*, 195(6), 662. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10661-023-11259-w>

Burger, J., Jeitner, C., Zappalorti, R. T., Bunnell, J. F., Ng, K., DeVito, E., Schneider, D., & Gochfeld, M. 2024. Snake Fungal Disease in Free-Ranging Northern Pine Snakes (*Pituophis melanoleucus melanoleucus*) in New Jersey: Lesions, Severity of Sores and Investigator's Perceptions. *Journal of Fungi*, 10(2), Article 2. <https://doi.org/10.3390/jof10020125>