

Russell Burke

Professor of Biology at Hofstra University

Hempstead, NY, US

Dr. Burke's current research involves diamondback terrapins at Jamaica Bay, wood turtles in northern NJ and the coyote invasion of LI

Biography

Dr. Burke is primarily interested in the ecology, evolution, and conservation biology of vertebrates and the ecology of Lyme Disease. Most of the species he has studied have either been introduced species or rare species, thus population control (both positive and negative) is usually involved. Currently, he has three major research projects: diamondback terrapins at nearby Jamaica Bay, the ecology of Lyme Disease on a continental scale, and the effects of coyotes on the ecosystems of Long Island. The terrapins face a number of interesting conservation issues, including decreasing salt marsh habitat, pollutants in the Bay, raccoon and plant predation on eggs, and rat predation on hatchlings. Lyme Disease is fairly well studied in the places where human cases are high, but its rarity in the rest of the U.S. is an enigma. Burke joined a team of researchers from numerous institutions to investigate the biogeography of Lyme Disease in North America. His courses at Hofstra include Ecology, Biostatistics, and Conservation Biology.

Industry Expertise

Education/Learning

Areas of Expertise

Urban Ecosystems, Urban Environments, Suburban Spaces and Development, Ecology, Evolution, Conservation Biology, Herpetology

Education

University of Michigan

Ph.D.

University of Florida

M.S.

Ohio State University

B.S.

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