



Discover Life in America

ATBI Conference 2015

March 19-21, 2015

Park Vista Hotel, Gatlinburg, Tenn.

We are proud to issue this call for presentations for the 17th Anniversary of the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI) Conference, presented by Discover Life in America (DLIA). The purpose of this conference is to highlight the research, conservation and educational efforts being made to understand, manage and restore the unique biological diversity of Great Smoky Mountains National Park and beyond. In response to growing interest in the national ATBI movement, the scope of the meeting has been broadened to include representatives from across the region, continent and world.

Our theme this year is "Every Living Thing." Please consider presenting a paper, sharing your expertise in biodiversity, and/or being an active guest. We invite proposals for presentations, posters, and science, education and /or technology workshops on a broad array of topics pertinent to our professional community.

Again this year, we have been able to schedule a very sought-after keynote speaker for the conference. We are pleased to announce Dr. Rob Dunn, of North Carolina State University, author of the popular book on the study of the natural world, Every Living Thing, as the 2015 ATBI Conference keynote speaker.



Like Dr. E.O. Wilson, Dr. Dunn's research has centered on the world of ants. (photo by DLIA Intern Abby Gazica)

Great Smoky Mountains National Park is considered by many to be one of the most bio-diverse places in North America. It is here, in the midst of such species richness, that DLIA is conducting an ongoing project to inventory all species that exist in the Park. The ATBI seeks to inventory the estimated 60,000-80,000 species of living organisms in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The project continues to develop checklists, reports, maps, databases, GIS tools, and natural history profiles that describe the biology of this rich landscape to enhance park management, and to provide biodiversity information to a wide audience.



Dr. Rob Dunn

The species level of biological diversity is central to the ATBI, but the project also emphasizes exploration of this diversity in the context of broader ecological, conservation, and genetic relationships. 2015 conference participants are invited to present broadly on a variety of topics related to the goals of the ATBI. These may include:

- Studies of Great Smoky Mountains taxa
- Biodiversity studies of other National Parks and protected areas
- Role of biodiversity research in conservation and education
- Species inventory and climate change
- The human footprint and change to biodiversity and community composition
- Application of technology, communication, and education in general biodiversity research

We at DLIA anticipate and appreciate your participation in getting the word out about the importance and fascination of biodiversity. Please share this proposal invitation with your colleagues, partners, students—anyone actively involved in biodiversity science, education and conservation!

Abstracts (250 words) are due by March 1, 2015.

**Please submit your presentation proposal by emailing the DLIA office at todd@dlia.org
For further information, contact our office at 865-430-4756 or by email to Todd P. Witcher (todd@dlia.org).**